



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 9 February 2018
(OR. en)

12463/02
DCL 1

PVD 61
ASIE 42

DECLASSIFICATION

of document:	ST12463/02 RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED
dated:	27 September 2002
new status:	Public
Subject:	Report of the Asia Oceania Working Group of 26 September 2002

Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.

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TRANSMISSION OF TEXT

from : Secretariat

Subject : Report of the Asia Oceania Working Group of 26 September 2002

Please find annexed the report of the Asia Oceania Working Group of 26 September 2002.

1. Report of EU-China Summit

The Presidency recalled that the negotiating mandate for an ADS agreement had been adopted by written procedure, but that negotiations had not been launched at the Summit as China had not yet completed the necessary internal procedures. The Presidency and the Commission reported extensively on the Summit discussion of 1.pillar issues and on the previous bilateral talks between Commissioner Lamy and his Chinese homologue.

The Group noted the Secretariat's report of the Summit and the final version of the Summit declaration (DS 166/2002).

The Commission also informed delegations on the intended further handling of ADS and readmission issue, and confirmed that she will continue to seek a solution to the various trade problems raised by delegations, including cosmetics and geographic denominations, during the forthcoming technical and high-level contacts with China.

2. Preparation of the forthcoming EC-Macao JCC

The Commission presented the annotated agenda (DS 168/02) for the forthcoming JCC meeting with Macao, which will be held in Brussels, and invited delegations' possible comments to be transmitted to the Commission, the Presidency and the Council Secretariat before 4 October 2002.

3. First meeting of the EC-ASEAN Sub-Committee on Narcotics

The Group noted the draft agenda for the meeting which will be held in Kuala Lumpur on 16.10.2002. The Commission recalled that the agenda had already been presented to the horizontal "Drugs" Working Group, and that the matters to be discussed in Kuala Lumpur were within EC competence. The Commission set out the expected outcome of the meeting, and invited the participation of Member States' experts.

4. INDIA

- *Preparation of the EU-India Summit: Pillar I aspects*

The Presidency informed that preparations had started at the Senior Officials meeting on 16 September in Copenhagen. Both parties have subsequently met, and will meet again, to negotiate the agenda and the Joint Press Statement. The Presidency intends to inform Coreper of the state of negotiations as soon as possible.

The Commission representative briefed delegations on the preparations of the EU-India Business Summit that will take place on 9 October in Copenhagen. In the framework of the EU-India Initiative on Enhancing Trade and Investment, the Business Summit will present to the EU Presidency and the Indian Prime Minister a package of industry recommendations on the sectors of textiles, financial services, biotechnology and energy, identifying opportunities for enhancement of bilateral trade and investment. The Commission representatives also informed on the implementation of previous recommendations in the sectors of food processing, mechanical engineering, telecommunications and information technology.

A number of delegations raised questions related to trade. Whilst indicating that the Summit will not concentrate on detailed trade issues, but rather on political questions, the Presidency indicated its willingness to tackle these trade issues at a forthcoming meeting of the Article 133 Committee.

5. ASEM

- *Report from the ASEM EMM 18-19 September 2002 and follow up, including an initial exchange of views on the future direction of the ASEM Economic Pillar*

The Commission Services gave an extensive briefing on the EMM, noting in particular the arrangements for the Senior Officials meetings on the WTO, two meetings are foreseen before the Cancun meeting. As regards the review of the current priorities and activities carried out with the ASEM Economic pillar, the Economic Coordinators will endeavour to get input from both sides and also try to involve the business community.

The Commission noted the need to avoid confusion and duplication in this work.

The Group will consider these items further at a later meeting.

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The Presidency also took note of remarks by some delegations regarding the Leaders' decision at ASEM 4 to set up a Taskforce to consider trade, investment, and finance matters, some delegations drew attention to the need for coherence with other ongoing work in these areas.

- *Final (10th) AEETC PPGG, 23-26 October 2001*

The Presidency and the Commission indicated that the meeting of the PPGG in Hunan was essentially a technical one, in particular to wind up the AEETC. However, this should not change the EU's interest in environmental cooperation in the ASEM context, including in the context of the next Environmental Ministers' Meeting in Italy in 2003.

6. JAPAN

- *Report of the first meeting of the informal EU-Japan Action Plan Steering Group, 25 September 2002 and follow-up*

The Commission Services briefed on the results of the above meeting, circulating a paper from the Japanese side on the Symposium on people-to-people contacts to be organized in Tokyo on 11 November. The Japanese side hoped for high-level participation from the EU side at this meeting. The Commission intended to organise an audio/video conference in late October to discuss further the Action Plan with Japan. Another meeting of the Steering Group itself was envisaged in early 2003.

7. PAKISTAN

- *election observation*

The Commission representative elaborated on the state of the EU Election Observation Mission to Pakistan. He also informed delegations about the security arrangements offered by the Pakistani authorities.

The Working Party endorsed the Mr Cushnahan's proposal to deploy 30 Short Term Observers, 20 of which are to be recruited in Europe and 10 in Pakistan, amongst EU-nationals. The Presidency invited delegations to communicate the agreement of the Working Party to their HOMs in Islamabad, who are due to take reflect on this matter at a meeting on 27 September.

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8. AOB

EU-Korea Summit, Copenhagen, 24 September 2002

The Presidency and the Commission briefed on the results of the Summit, which had treated in particular the question of EU concerns on Korean shipbuilding subsidies. No progress had been made on that occasion, the technical discussions in Brussels had been prolonged for an additional day.

The 133 Committee will also be briefed on the situation.

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