**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 6 June 2006

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LIMITE

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PESC 505**

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From :	General Secretariat of the Council
To :	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject :	Draft Council Conclusions on a Policy Framework for Security Sector Reform

1. On 6 June, the <u>Political and Security Committee</u> agreed the attached draft Council Conclusions.

2. The <u>Permanent Representatives Committee</u> is invited to endorse the attached draft Council Conclusions and to submit them to the Council for adoption.

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DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON A POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR SECURITY SECTOR REFORM

1. The Council welcomes the release of the European Commission Communication "A Concept for European Community Support for Security Sector Reform". This concept complements the Concept for ESDP support to Security Sector Reform, adopted in November 2005. Together the two concepts constitute a policy framework for EU engagement in Security Sector Reform, stressing the importance for the EU to take a comprehensive and cross-pillar approach to SSR recognizing the fact that SSR is a holistic, multi-sector, and long-term process encompassing the overall functioning of the security system as part of governance reforms.

2. This EU policy framework for SSR is an important contribution to EU's external action. Preventing and resolving violent conflict and addressing fragile states are part of the EU's efforts to reduce insecurity and eradicate poverty through strengthening good governance and the rule of law in third countries; finding solutions to existing problems; thus helping to achieve the commitments of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, sustainable development and global security and to implement the EU's Development Policy Statement *"The European Consensus on Development"*, including the security objectives of the EU as set out in the European Security Strategy.

3. The EU action on SSR should be based on the following principles, drawing on the OECD-DAC definition on SSR:

    - nationally/regionally owned participatory reform processes designed to strengthen good governance, democratic norms, the rule of law and the respect and promotion of human rights, in line with internationally agreed norms;

    - addressing the core requirements of a well functioning security system, including the development of a nationally owned concept of security, well defined policies and good governance of security institutions;

- addressing diverse security challenges facing states and their populations, based on a gender-sensitive multi-sector approach to the provision of security and access to justice, and targeting reform needs in different key sectors. This includes separating tasks between different services and institutions and taking into account the role of civil society and other non-state structures of governance;

- accountability and transparency standards should be the same that apply across the public sector, in particular improved governance through greater civilian and parliamentary oversight of security processes;

- political dialogue with each partner country, addressing human rights, development and security concerns, and be carried out in synergy with other instruments.

4. The EU has a broad range of civilian and military instruments which are able to support SSR activities. A case-by-case analysis based on a situation specific approach is always needed to assess whether any proposed activities are most appropriately carried out through ESDP or Community action or a combination of both with the objective of ensuring effective and coherent EU external action in this area. The Council and the Commission will ensure consistency between their activities in accordance with Article 3 of the TEU.

5. The Council agrees to take forward work during the Finnish Presidency with the Commission to develop an EU approach to contribute to Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) as part of broader SSR support and consistent with the EU policy framework for SSR.

6. The Council invites future Presidencies and the Commission to progressively translate this policy framework for EU engagement in SSR into operational actions by the European Community and in the framework of ESDP, in order to provide effective, coherent and sustainable support to EU partner countries and regions.

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