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**NOTE**

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From : Political and Security Committee  
To : COREPER / Council  
Subject : **Action Plan for ESDP support to Peace and Security in Africa**

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The contents of this Action Plan for ESDP support to Peace and Security in Africa have been agreed by the Political and Security Committee on 16 November 2004.

COREPER is invited to recommend that the Council approves this document at its meeting on 22nd November 2004.

## ACTION PLAN FOR ESDP SUPPORT TO PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA

### I. INTRODUCTION.

The EU Common Position on the prevention, management and resolution of violent conflicts in Africa (doc. 2004/85/CFSP dated 26 January 2004) states that:

*"- the EU shall support, over the long term, the enhancement of African peace support operations capabilities, at regional, sub-regional and bilateral levels as well as the capacity of the African States to contribute to regional integration, peace, security and development<sup>1</sup>."*

*"- Member States and the Commission shall exchange information on all action taken to support African peace support operations capabilities with a view to improving co-ordination and developing synergies<sup>2</sup>."*

Following the adoption of this Common Position, the Political and Security Committee undertook to explore practical ways for implementing the support to African organisations in building autonomous conflict prevention and management capacities, with a special attention to the African Union (AU).

Based on the discussions in the different EU bodies, an Action Plan for ESDP support to Peace and Security in Africa was developed. This Action Plan focuses on a number of practical actions that may take place immediately. It addresses mainly issues of capacity building, planning support, Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) of combatants, Security Sector Reform (SSR), and EU internal and external co-ordination.

ESDP support to peace and security in Africa should not be seen as limited to these actions. Based upon requests by the African partners, the EU stands ready to consider other forms of support that fall within the realm of ESDP. These may include training, the provision of equipment, operational support, and possibly even ESDP advisory or executive missions in the framework of African-led operations or United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations. Experience so far has shown that a swift implementation of ESDP actions requires clear guidelines on the institutional, legal and

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<sup>1</sup> Art 6-1 Common position 2004/85/CFSP dated 26 January 2004, JO L21/25 dated 28 January 2004

<sup>2</sup> Art 6-2 Common position 2004/85/CFSP dated 26 January 2004, , JO L21/25 dated 28 January 2004

budgetary aspects. Therefore, the Action Plan includes a request to RELEX to develop these guidelines.

EU work should be based on the following principles:

- full respect of African ownership, that should be facilitated by support to strengthening African peace support capacities, in line with African requirements;
- ESDP actions should be in response to specific and well documented requests from the UN, the AU, African sub-regional organisations or African states. While fully respecting African ownership, proposals can be initiated by EU Member States. The EU shall, in response to requests from sub-regional organisations, consult with the African Union;
- full co-ordination with other actors in this field, i.e. the UN, the AU, sub-regional organisations, in order to ensure coherence and complementarity with bilateral initiatives and initiatives by for example G8;
- actions under ESDP should be closely co-ordinated with Community activities and actions undertaken under article 11 of the Cotonou agreement, in order to ensure a comprehensive and integrated approach, both during the crisis and in conflict prevention and post-conflict stabilisation;
- close civil-military co-ordination should be promoted;
- relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions, in particular UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security and UNSCR 1539 on children in armed conflicts;
- EU engagement in supporting African peace support capabilities should be envisaged as a long-term process.

Talks with the African Union will continue as needed to identify together principles and possible modalities for co-operation.

## **II. AGREED ACTIONS.**

### **A.) Technical Advice**

The Council Secretariat, including the EUMS, will provide technical advice to the African Union (AU) and/or sub-regional organisations (SROs), upon their request and after PSC agreement on a case by case basis, on concepts under development and on improving their planning and management capabilities (in particular Early Warning structures, planning staff Standing Operating Procedures, Information Technology systems). The European Commission is invited to associate itself fully to this work.

### **B.) Provision of a list of relevant EU documents**

A list of relevant EU documents that could be used by African organisations as a basis for developing their own documents will be established by the Secretariat, including the EUMS, and submitted to EUMC and CIVCOM for advice to the PSC on appropriateness. The list will be updated periodically in the light of recognised needs. Council procedures for release will be followed according to the security classification of documents. The list of documents that could be made available will then be given to the African Union and to the African Sub-regional organisations in charge of contributing to the African Stand-by Force. Documents will be delivered by the Secretariat through the local Presidency or the Liaison officers where they exist, upon request of the receiving organisation or in the context of provision of technical advice. The Secretary-general/High Representative may propose to these organisations an interim security agreement, limited to the RESTREINT UE level, in the form of an exchange of letters.

### **C.) PMG to provide a forum for co-ordination**

The Political-Military Group (PMG), staffed as Member States deem appropriate by civilian and military and, if need be, Africa experts, will provide a forum for co-ordination of the EU, its Member States and Community contributions on the basis of African requests for capacity building, in full respect of existing decision making procedures, taking into account existing bilateral and multilateral support. PMG will draft its own mandate accordingly.

### **D.) Appointment of EU Liaison Officers**

The EU will seek agreement with the African Union and relevant African sub-regional organisations, such as the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS), on the appointment of additional EU Liaison Officers. Further consideration should be given to the possible re-hatting as EU liaison officers of officers nationally detached at ECOWAS, including with regard to the development of appropriate Terms of Reference (TORs). Member States are invited to provide further contributions for future rotation of existing military Liaison officer as well as civilian experts as appropriate, or appointment to other SROs as situation requires. These personnel will follow a comprehensive ESDP induction course prior to taking their positions.

### **E.) Database of African officers educated or trained by EU Member States**

EU Member States are invited, depending on their national regulations, to communicate information on African officers who were given in the last five years appropriate professional education and training by EU Member States (in Europe or in Africa), to the African Union (AU) and/or relevant

sub-regional organisations (SROs).

EU Member States will inform all future African trainees of the intention to store the information relative to them in a database and to make it available to the United Nations, the African Union and relevant sub-regional organisation. This should be done in writing, against receipt, and having regard to article 6 TEU and to the right for protection of personal data, include all relevant information in particular on their rights, including the right to object. The creation of this database will be notified to the Data Protection Officer of the Council of the EU.

The African Union and African sub-regional organisations will then be informed that the information relevant to officers from their respective Member States will be made available to them upon official request, via an exchange of letters setting the conditions for the transfer of information.

#### **F.) Teams of experts for support to planning or DDR/SSR activities**

The Secretariat, including the EUMS, will establish plans for gathering and training teams of military and civilian experts made available by Member States on a voluntary basis. These teams would not be on a permanent standby but should be able to be gathered upon EU decision in order to provide:

- planning support to African organisations for African-led operations ,
- planning and conduct of Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) and Security Sector Reform (SSR) actions, in an EU framework or in support of other organisations.

This task should be taken forward, based on the Civilian Headline Goal as well as on work already carried out by the EUMC.

The European Commission is invited to fully participate to this work.

#### **G.) EU training course for civilian and military participants to DDR actions**

CIVCOM will explore further EU training for civilian and military participants to DDR actions, including the identification of possible elements for an EU training course, also covering aspects specific to Child Soldiers. The EUMC will contribute with appropriate military expertise. The findings of the workshop organised by the Commission together with the UN in Italy will be taken into account in the design of future DDR training courses. In future, any such course will be encompassed in the EU Training Programme in ESDP.

## **H.) Tailored Information Strategy**

The Info Strategy Team will develop a tailored information strategy, covering all aspects of the EU support to African Peace and Security, targeted at the UN, the African organisations, African States and the public in EU and Africa. It will build on and be complementary to the existing public information strategy including publications. Emphasising the African ownership principle, it will aim at expressing the objectives of EU actions and the means for their implementation, raising realistic expectations in the public of what such actions can achieve, and improving EU visibility where the EU is active. The communication products should ensure clear understanding by the public of EU messages. Proposals will be submitted to the Political and Security Committee (PSC).

## **I.) Political Dialogue with African Organisations and African States**

Peace and security matters are a permanent agenda item in the political dialogue with African organisations and African States. In particular, the Africa Working Group (COAFR) will include in the Terms of Reference for political dialogue with the AU and SROs matters pertaining to ESDP support to Peace and Security in Africa, including the donors' co-ordination aspects.

## **J.) Co-ordination with relevant third parties, notably UN and G8**

The Secretary General / High Representative is invited to ensure to the extent possible staff to staff co-ordination on the compatibility and co-ordination of the agreed and proposed measures with the UN policy and actions in support of African capabilities. Member States that participate in the G8 action plan are invited to ensure compatibility and co-ordination with actions undertaken in the framework of the EU. Envisaged EU actions in the area of SSR may take advantage where appropriate of the conceptual work that has been done by the OECD in this field.

## **K.) Guidelines for institutional, legal and budgetary aspects of ESDP support**

The Group of Counsellors for external relations (RELEX) will develop guidelines on the relevant institutional, legal and budgetary aspects of ESDP support to peace and security in Africa, including financial arrangements for the possible provision of equipment and training, as well as criteria for an appropriate control mechanism on storage and use of military equipment.