



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

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Subject : The future of relations between the European Union and the Republic of Cape Verde

- Conclusions of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council

At their meeting on 19 November 2007, the General Affairs and External Relations Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, adopted the Conclusions set out in the Annex to this note.

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL**

on

The future of relations between the European Union and the Republic of Cape Verde

1. The Council welcomes the Commission Communication on the future of relations between the European Union and the Republic of Cape Verde which, within the context of the Cotonou Agreement, sets out a framework for strengthening and deepening the Union's relations with the Republic of Cape Verde. The Communication acknowledges the special and strong historical relations existing between the two parties, based on close human and cultural links and shared socio-political values. The "Special Partnership" referred to in the Communication aims at strengthening dialogue and policy convergence between the two parties, going beyond the traditional donor-beneficiary relationship with a framework of mutual interests.

2. The Council welcomes the deepening of relations between the European Union and Cape Verde, in the context of the Cotonou agreement, through the implementation of an Action Plan for the development of a "special partnership" between the two parties. The priorities of this Plan will be political cooperation, cooperation in the field of good governance, security and stability including cooperation in tackling illegal trafficking of people and drugs, co-operation aimed at sustainable development, and the fight against poverty; trade liberalization and regional integration; cooperation in the field of education, information, research, science and culture, thus promoting a knowledge-based society. Particular attention will be given to environmental aspects; cooperation in this sector with the EU and particularly with its outermost regions will be promoted, within existing frameworks.

3. The Council underlines that the Action Plan will be open to the active participation of the Non-State Actors of Cape Verde and all EU Member States, with particular attention being given to the role that civil society and the private sector, as well as the Capeverdean diaspora, can play in strengthening the “special partnership” and in poverty alleviation and development. The Union will consider cooperation in support of the Action Plan from a range of instruments in accordance with their agreed legislative frameworks and allocation processes. Cooperation with the outermost regions of the European Union in the North Atlantic will be a constant theme in all components of the Action Plan.
4. The Council recalls the common values and principles regarding democracy, good governance, respect for human rights, and the rule of law that represent the foundation for the further development of relations between the European Union and the Republic of Cape Verde.
5. The Council welcomes the willingness of the government of Cape Verde to promote collective security through close cooperation with the European Union in sectors such as the control of illegal trafficking (drugs, illegal immigration, arms, etc.), the fight against terrorism, etc.; these sectors are of paramount importance for both Cape Verde and the European Union.
6. The Council recognises the aspiration of the Capeverdean government and people to promote closer ties, in accordance with internal market provisions, with the European Union and its Member States, in particular with the outermost regions of the European Union in the North Atlantic such as the Canary Islands, the Azores and Madeira, with which Cape Verde shares longstanding historical, cultural, linguistic and economic ties that still characterise their relations and cooperation to this very day.

7. The Council underlines the commitment of the government of Cape Verde, shared and supported by the European Union, to pursue reforms aimed at further improvements of the country's governance standards and performance, as well as at continuing the ongoing programmes aimed at reducing poverty.
8. The Council congratulates Cape Verde on its graduation from the group of the least developed countries that will become effective on 1 January 2008 and recognises the challenges faced by the country in order to ensure continued sustainable economic growth.
9. The Council stresses the importance of promoting the continuation of the political, economic and commercial integration of Cape Verde with the rest of the Western African region which shall in no way suffer from or be delayed by progress towards establishment of the “Special Partnership” and calls upon Cape Verde to play a constructive role within ECOWAS, using its own experience as a model of peaceful development.
10. The Council recognises the commitment of the Cape Verde government to promote progressive convergence towards European Union norms and standards as a means of facilitating the gradual forging of closer ties with the European Union.
11. The Council stresses the importance of an adequate follow-up to the process involving the development of a Special Partnership between the European Union and the Republic of Cape Verde and welcomes the proposed monitoring to be carried out periodically by the troika of the European Union, at political and technical level.
