



**COUNCIL OF
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"I"/"A" ITEM NOTE

from : Working Party on Latin America
to : Coreper/Council

Subject : **Establishment of the EU position on the action programme on political cooperation between the EU and Mercosur/Chile/Bolivia**

1. The Working Party on Latin America has on several occasions examined the above draft action programme presented by Mercosur/Chile/Bolivia. At its meeting on 16 July 2001 the Working Party agreed to an amended version of the text.
2. The Political and Security Committee (PSC) confirmed the agreement at its meeting on 14 September 2001.
3. With a view to approving the action programme at the Ministerial meeting between the EU Troika and Mercosur/Chile/Bolivia to be held in New York on 25 September 2001, and subject to confirmation by the Permanent Representatives Committee, the Council is invited to establish the Union's position on the basis of the draft in the Annex to this note.

Political Co-operation Action Programme

Preamble

The States Party to Mercosur, the Republic of Chile and the Republic of Bolivia, of the one part, and the European Union, of the other part (hereafter referred to as the Parties),

Taking into account the Framework Co-operation Agreements and the Joint Declarations on Political Dialogue, signed by Mercosur and the European Union and by the Republic of Chile and the European Union,

Reaffirming their commitment to progressing towards the establishment of an interregional political and economic association,

Have decided to set up an action programme to further political co-operation.

1. Objectives

Political co-operation will have the objective of attaining closer consultation on bi-regional and multilateral questions, especially by co-ordination of the positions of both Parties in the relevant fora.

2. Areas for political co-operation

Political co-operation shall be developed, in principle, in the following areas:

- (a) Peace and stability, conflict prevention, enhancement of trust and security, strengthening the UN's crisis management capacity;
- (b) Promotion and protection of Human Rights, democracy and the rule of law;
- (c) Sustainable development which takes account of economic, social and environmental dimensions;
- (d) Combating of drug trafficking, money laundering and other related crimes, illegal arms trading, organised crime and terrorism;
- (e) Strengthening multilateral co-operation, especially in the UN fora;
- (f) Other issues agreed upon by the Parties.

3. *Co-operation actions*

Political co-operation will be implemented primarily by the following actions:

- (a) Exchange of information and consultation on subjects of common interest;
- (b) Analysis of the political situation in geographical areas and sectors of interest to the Parties;
- (c) Consultation with a view to the possible co-ordination of actions in international fora and meetings attended by the Parties;
- (d) Meetings and seminars to study issues of common interest in greater detail; and
- (e) Other initiatives, in the various areas of international politics, which reflect positions shared by the Parties.

4. *Other provisions*

Regular political co-operation meetings, at times and locations mutually agreed by the Parties, shall be held by high-ranking officials. Such meetings shall be attended by representatives of the Republic of Bolivia, as associate member of Mercosur, regarding agenda-related matters of common interest.

The Missions of the States Party to Mercosur, of Bolivia and of Chile to the European Union shall maintain contacts with the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union and the European Commission so as to facilitate the implementation of political co-operation. Communication between the Parties shall be carried out through the *pro tempore* Presidency of Mercosur and the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Diplomatic channels shall be used for conducting political co-operation activities.

All decisions on political co-operation, and on the incorporation of new participants shall be taken by common accord between the Parties.
