



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 22 April 2004**

**8412/04**

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**FIN        191**  
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**I/A ITEM NOTE**

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from :            Secretariat  
to :                COREPER/COUNCIL

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No. prev. doc. : 7038/03 PESC 111 FIN 92 PE 57

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Subject :        Annual report from the Council to the European Parliament on the main aspects and basic choices of CFSP, including the financial implications for the general budget of the European Communities (point H, paragraph 40, of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999)  
- 2003

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1. The Interinstitutional Agreement (IIA) of 6 May 1999 on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure, provides under point H, paragraph 40, that "once a year the Council Presidency will consult the European Parliament on a Council document setting out the main aspects and basic choices of the CFSP, including the financial implications for the general budget of the European Communities".
2. The "Foreign Relations Counsellors" Working Group at its meeting on 21 April 2004 examined a draft report presented by the General Secretariat of the Council, and agreed to submit to COREPER/Council the text set out in the Annex.

3. The document follows the following criteria:

- its scope is limited to a description of CFSP activities, e.g. common positions, joint actions and implementing decisions <sup>1</sup> (where appropriate, and necessary in order to provide a comprehensive view of the activities, reference is made to actions falling outside Title V of the TEU);
- it is complementary to the chapter on external relations of the annual report on the progress of the European Union presented to the Parliament in application of Article 4 of the TEU;
- the broad priorities of the Union's external relations, as expressed for example in European Council conclusions, are included in the "Article 4" report.

4. The Committee is invited:

- to confirm agreement on the text of the draft document set out in the ANNEX;
- to recommend to the Council that it approve as an "A" item the document on the main aspects and basic choices of CFSP, including the financial implications for the general budget of the Communities, for presentation to the European Parliament in application of point H, paragraph 40, of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999.

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<sup>1</sup> The complete recapitulative lists of CFSP instruments (declarations, démarches, reports of Heads of Mission and political dialogue meetings) will, as from 2004, be published in a separate document, to be issued twice a year. The information covering 2003 is contained in document 5752/04 PESC 74 FIN 32.



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 28 April 2004**

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COR 1**

**PESC      245  
FIN        191  
PE         88**

**CORRIGENDUM TO "I/A" ITEM NOTE**

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from :            Secretariat

to :                COREPER/COUNCIL

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Subject :        Annual report from the Council to the European Parliament on the main aspects and basic choices of CFSP, including the financial implications for the general budget of the European Communities (point H, paragraph 40, of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999)  
- 2003

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**Page 7:**

Footnote 1 should be deleted.

**Page 72, point 23) South Africa:**

The text should read as follows:

"The EU continued its important political dialogue with South Africa. This dialogue covered areas of national and bilateral issues, regional matters and African Union (where South Africa held the Presidency until mid-2003) and NEPAD. Other issues discussed included peace and security in Africa, specifically the Peace and Security Council. South Africa's contribution to peace keeping efforts in various African countries was recognised by the EU."

**Page 90, end of 3rd paragraph:**

The text should read as follows:

"Yet another side of this equation will be to work on the development of rapid response, enabling the EU to intervene quickly where needed. This is the kind of capability the UN is looking for and one which would consequently be particularly useful to support this organisation."

**COUNCIL DOCUMENT ON THE MAIN ASPECTS AND BASIC CHOICES OF THE  
COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY (CFSP), INCLUDING THE FINANCIAL  
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,  
PRESENTED TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN APPLICATION OF POINT H  
(PARAGRAPH 40) OF  
THE INTERINSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT OF 6 MAY 1999**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

		<b>Page</b>
<b>PREFACE</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>REPORT</b>	<b>MAIN ASPECTS AND BASIC CHOICES OF THE COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY (CFSP)</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>ANNEX I</b>	<b>GLOBAL AND HORIZONTAL ITEMS</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>1. EU'S EXTERNAL ACTION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>2. FIGHT AGAINST PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>3. EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY (ESDP)</b>	<b>18</b>
	<b>4. EUROPEAN UNION SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES</b>	<b>21</b>
	<b>5. CONFLICT PREVENTION</b>	<b>22</b>
	<b>6. HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	<b>22</b>
	<b>7. RESTRICTIVE MEASURES (SANCTIONS)</b>	<b>25</b>
	<b>8. ARMS EXPORTS</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>ANNEX II</b>	<b>PRIORITIES IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS</b>	<b>27</b>
	<b>1. WESTERN BALKANS</b>	<b>27</b>
	<b>2. EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA</b>	<b>35</b>
	<b>3. CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE</b>	<b>39</b>
	<b>4. SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE</b>	<b>40</b>
	<b>5. MIDDLE-EAST PEACE PROCESS (MEPP)</b>	<b>42</b>
	<b>6. MEDITERRANEAN REGION</b>	<b>44</b>
	<b>7. MASHREK / MAGHREB</b>	<b>45</b>
	<b>8. MIDDLE EAST / GULF</b>	<b>49</b>

	<b>9. ASIA-OCEANIA</b>	<b>52</b>
	<b>10. AFRICA</b>	<b>59</b>
	<b>11. LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>75</b>
	<b>12. TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>ANNEX III</b>	<b>MULTILATERAL FORA</b>	<b>83</b>
	<b>1. UNITED NATIONS</b>	<b>83</b>
	<b>2. INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)</b>	<b>84</b>
	<b>3. ORGANISATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE)</b>	<b>85</b>
	<b>4. COUNCIL OF EUROPE (CoE)</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>ANNEX IV</b>	<b>PERSPECTIVES FOR FUTURE ACTION</b>	<b>86</b>
	<b>1. FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM</b>	<b>86</b>
	<b>2. NON-PROLIFERATION</b>	<b>87</b>
	<b>3. EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY</b>	<b>88</b>
	<b>4. CONFLICT PREVENTION</b>	<b>91</b>
	<b>5. CFSP GEOGRAPHICAL PRIORITIES</b>	<b>91</b>
	<b>6. MULTILATERAL AND GLOBAL QUESTIONS</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>ANNEX V</b>	<b>LEGAL ACTS INVOLVING FINANCING FROM THE CFSP LINES OF THE COMMUNITY BUDGET</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>ANNEX VI</b>	<b>LEGAL ACTS WITHOUT FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CFSP LINES OF THE COMMUNITY BUDGET</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>ANNEX VII</b>	<b>LIST OF CFSP LEGAL ACTS</b>	<b>123</b>

**COUNCIL DOCUMENT ON THE MAIN ASPECTS AND BASIC CHOICES OF THE  
COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY (CFSP), INCLUDING THE FINANCIAL  
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,  
PRESENTED TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN APPLICATION OF POINT H  
(PARAGRAPH 40) OF  
THE INTERINSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT OF 6 MAY 1999**

**PREFACE**

The Inter-Institutional Agreement (IIA) of 6 May 1999 provides that "once a year the Council Presidency will consult the European Parliament on a Council document setting out the main aspects and basic choices of the CFSP, including the financial implications for the general budget of the European Communities".

The Council adopted the first such report on 30 March 1998<sup>1</sup> and has been reporting annually each year since then.[...]The present report covers the year 2003 and also looks at perspectives for future action in accordance with the practice followed since the 1999 report.

The 2003 report follows the following criteria:

- its scope is limited to the description of CFSP activities, e.g. common positions, joint actions and implementing decisions (where appropriate, and necessary in order to provide a comprehensive view of the activities, reference is made to actions falling outside Title V of the TEU);
- it is complementary to the chapter on external relations of the annual report on the progress of the European Union presented to the Parliament in application of Article 4 of the TEU;
- the broad priorities of the Union's external relations, as expressed for example in European Council conclusions, are included in the "Article 4" report.

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<sup>1</sup> 7087/98 PESC 66 PE 23.

The recapitulative lists of CFSP instruments (declarations, démarches, reports of Heads of Mission and political dialogue meetings) will, as from 2004, be published in a separate document, to be issued twice a year. The information covering 2003 is contained in document 5752/04 PESC 74 FIN 32.

The following items relating to CFSP matters are available on the Internet web site of the Council (<http://ue.eu.int>): list of CFSP legislative acts, declarations, information on EU Special Representatives and the European Union Monitor Mission (EUMM), the calendar of CFSP activities, including political dialogue meetings with third countries, as well as basic texts on the EU military structures.

The financial statements related to CFSP Joint Actions, which are normally annexed to the "I/A" item notes to Coreper/Council, are transmitted by the Council Secretariat to the European Parliament on a systematic basis. The documents in question can be accessed through the Public Register of Council documents on the Council website, immediately after adoption of the Joint Action by the Council.

Finally, attention is drawn to the new website on CFSP financing launched in December 2003 by the European Commission ([http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/cfsp/fin/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/cfsp/fin/index.htm))<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> A first section of the website focuses on the institutional framework and budgetary procedure for the financing of Joint Actions adopted by Council under the Common Foreign and Security Policy. It explains how the Commission's involvement differs from the financing and implementation of 1st pillar programs.  
The second section addresses a number of questions regarding the CFSP budget.  
The third and largest section presents an overview of ongoing Joint Actions financed from the CFSP budget.  
The website endeavours to provide an answer to the European Parliament's demand for transparency in the field of CFSP.

# MAIN ASPECTS AND BASIC CHOICES OF THE COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY (CFSP)

## A. KEY POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN 2003

The CFSP during 2003 was dominated by the new European Security Strategy, the fight against the proliferation of weapons of mass-destruction and adoption of a WMD Strategy, and the European Security and Defence policy. ESDP developments notably included EU crisis management operations in the form of Police Missions in Bosnia and fYROM, and Operations Artemis and Concordia in the Democratic Republic of Congo and fYROM respectively. The following pages chart the developments and achievements, with the aim of placing these key areas of the CFSP in their political context.

More detailed information about the activities in some of these areas can be found under the respective geographical and horizontal headings below.

*"A Secure Europe in A Better World. A European Security Strategy"* was adopted by the European Council on 12 December 2003. The Presidency and the Secretary General/High Representative, in coordination with the Commission, are currently working on proposals for implementation of the Security Strategy. As the European Council stipulated, the focus is on effective multilateralism with the UN at its core, the fight against terrorism, and the development of a strategy towards the region of the Middle East and a comprehensive policy towards Bosnia Herzegovina<sup>1</sup>. The Security Strategy is a living document, subject to public debate and to review as necessary.

Following an examination of the global security environment, the European Security Strategy identifies five key threats to Europe's security:

- Terrorism;
- The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- Regional conflicts;
- State failure;
- Organised crime.

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<sup>1</sup> See also chapter II "Perspectives for future action".



The Security Strategy sets three strategic objectives for the EU:

- To address the identified threats;
- To build security in the neighbourhood;
- To work for the development of an international order founded on effective multilateralism.

The inclusion of the fight against terrorism in the Security Strategy reflects its importance. Effective multilateralism is emphasised here by the EU's support for the universal adoption of international instruments against terrorism and for the protection of populations against chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear terrorist (CBRN) threats. Further progress in implementation of other major areas of UNSCR 1373, with particular regard to improving the co-ordination and effectiveness of counter terrorism technical assistance, also remains a priority.

Alongside its adoption of the European Security Strategy, the Thessaloniki European Council adopted a Strategy against the proliferation of WMD. The theme of effective multilateralism arises here also. This strategy provides a clear roadmap for immediate and future action. The EU is focusing on:

- Strengthening the international system of non-proliferation;
- Pursuing the universalisation of multilateral agreements;
- Reinforcing strict implementation and compliance with these agreements;
- Assisting third countries;
- Cooperating with key partners.

The proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) was another of the five key threats to the EU identified in the Security Strategy.

Ms Annalisa Giannella was appointed as the Secretary General/High Representative's Personal Representative for non-proliferation of WMD in October 2003. Ms Giannella will coordinate and assist in the implementation and further development of the EU Action Plan, endorsed by the European Council in Thessaloniki.

Also at the Thessaloniki European Council a set of proposals were put forward by the Commission and SG/HR aimed at fostering political and economic reform through a more coherent and effective use of existing instruments in relation to the Arab countries of the Mediterranean, combined with the possible development of a strategy for the countries of the in the Mediterranean and the Middle East, including possibly Iran. The resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict is explicitly singled out as a strategic priority which must be addressed before the EU can hope to make progress on the other problems of the region. The Council welcomed this work and invited the GAERC, in consultation with the SG/HR and the Commission, to pursue its work on the basis of a joint report, within the implementation of the European Security Strategy and taking into account existing policies and programmes, notably the Barcelona Process and the New Neighbours Initiative.

2003 was a pivotal year with regard to the development of the military capabilities needed for EU crisis management. The Helsinki Headline Goal was met and the EU's operational capability across the full range of Petersberg tasks was confirmed, albeit limited by recognised shortfalls. Good progress was also achieved through the European Capability Action Plan (ECAP).

Work has continued to develop the rapid response capabilities of the EU. A military concept was developed and agreed and a report presented to the May General Affairs Council. The Council requested the PSC to continue guiding the necessary development in this field. In that framework the need for exchanges of information between the EU and NATO on EU Military Rapid Response and NRF has been stressed.

An Agency in the field of Defence capabilities development, research acquisition and armaments was created, under the authority of the Council. The Agency will be launched in the course of 2004. This Agency will support Member States in their efforts to improve European defence capabilities in support of the ESDP. The Agency aims at developing defence capabilities in the field of crisis management, promoting and enhancing European armaments cooperation, strengthening the European defence industrial and technological base and supporting an internationally competitive European defence market as well as promoting research to fulfil future requirements.

2003 also saw the EU successfully launch two civilian ESDP operations and its first two military operations. Operation Concordia in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia made use of NATO assets and capabilities. It enhanced the stable and secure environment needed for

implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement. Operation Artemis in the DRC was launched following a request from the United Nations Secretary General. The EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUPM) which began operations on 1 January 2003 aims to establish sustainable policing arrangements, under BiH ownership, in accordance with best European and international practice. It is a non-executive mission and achieves its objectives through mentoring, advising and monitoring the BiH police forces. The EU Police Mission in FYROM (EUPOL Proxima) was launched on 15 December 2003 with the objective of monitoring, mentoring, and advising the local police at all levels.

Conducting operations implied cooperation with other international organisations. Following cooperation in Bosnia and in DRC, the EU and the UN agreed a joint declaration on EU/UN co-operation in crisis management on 24 September 2003. A joint consultative mechanism has been established at the working level to examine ways and means to enhance mutual co-ordination and compatibility. The EU and NATO agreed on a comprehensive framework for permanent relations that provides the basis for developing the strategic partnership between the EU and NATO. The first joint EU/NATO crisis management exercise (CME/CMX 03) took place in November 2003. The framework for relations between the EU and the OSCE has been further enhanced with the approval of the Council Conclusions on EU-OSCE co-operation in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation adopted on 17 November 2003. Attention is also being given to developing cooperation with the Council of Europe.

## **B. PERSPECTIVES FOR DEVELOPMENTS IN 2004**

As outlined in the Operational Programme of the Council for 2004 submitted by the Irish Presidency and incoming Dutch Presidency, a key challenge for the coming year is to bring forward vigorous, coherent, effective and credible external relations policies which promote the Union's interests in the wider world supporting peace, democracy, prosperity and the rule of law. The further development of the CFSP in 2004 is crucial if we are to meet this challenge. The implementation of the EU Security Strategy, which situates the CFSP and the ESDP in a broad perspective, will bring a renewed focus to the development of the CFSP and direction to the ongoing progression of the ESDP.

Implementation of the EU Security Strategy will focus on the four areas for initial actions as agreed at the European Council in 2003. These are: terrorism, effective multilateralism, a strategy towards the region of the Middle East and a comprehensive policy for Bosnia-Herzegovina. The tragic terrorist attacks in Madrid has brought added urgency to the implementation of the Security Strategy in the area of terrorism and clearly the EU's fight against terrorism through full use of its internal and external instruments will be a key priority in the coming period.

Building up international multilateral cooperation will also be a key objective for 2004 with the goal of upholding and enhancing an effective multilateral system based on international law and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. In this context, there is a need to further strengthen EU –UN cooperation, particularly in the field of conflict prevention and crisis management, which also areas of central importance to the development of the ESDP. Human rights, development, an effective multilateral trade policy and non-proliferation and disarmament are also important issues in this area.

The Union will also work on extending the area of peace and security. The EU will continue support the countries of the Western Balkans in their endeavours to promote and consolidate stability, security and prosperity. Also, enlargement of the Union on 1 May 2004 brings increased focus to the Union's relationship with neighbouring states, and, in particular to its strategic partnership with Russia. In addition to developing EU – Russia relations, the Union will also work to implement the Thessaloniki European Council Conclusions on Wider Europe/New Neighbours policies. In extending the area of peace and security, an issue of the highest priority will be to continue, in cooperation with key partners, the Union's efforts to support the Middle East Peace Process. Related to this is the aim of adopting a Strategy towards the region of the Middle East which looks to promote democracy, peace, stability and development in the entire region.

An important element of the success of any of the Union's external relations policies is the deepening of cooperation with key partners. To this end, the Union is committed to developing and enhancing its relations with its transatlantic partners as well as partners in Africa, Latin America

and Asia. In particular, the EU will continue to support Africa-Wide and regional initiatives on development and conflict prevention as well as strengthening its relationship with Latin America and the Caribbean through bi-regional strategic partnership. The Union will also continue its fruitful political dialogue with key Asian actors and through the ASEM process as well as giving priority to the stabilisation and reconstruction process in Afghanistan.

### **C. INSTITUTIONAL PERSPECTIVES FOR 2004**

The outcome of the Convention on the future of the European Union provides a relevant backdrop to the CFSP activities in 2004.

The Convention highlighted the need for improved coherence in its discussions on the Union's external action. It recommended in particular the creation of the post of Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, which would merge the existing functions of the External Relations Commissioner and those of the High Representative for CFSP. The draft Constitutional treaty provides for the Minister to make proposals to develop CFSP, and to chair a Foreign Affairs Council. At the same time he will, in his role as a Member, and Vice-President, of the Commission, have access to the instruments and resources of the Commission.

The draft Constitutional Treaty also foresees, in a separate declaration, the creation of an external action service to assist the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs in his tasks. It proposes that the service be composed of officials from relevant departments of the General Secretariat and Commission and staff seconded from national diplomatic services.

The Irish Presidency has reported to the Spring European Council that the potential for agreement on a new Constitutional Treaty exists. On the basis of this report, the European Council has requested the Presidency to continue its consultations and to arrange for the resumption of formal negotiations in the IGC. It has also decided that agreement on the new Constitution should be reached no later than the June European Council.

GLOBAL AND HORIZONTAL ITEMS

**1. EU'S EXTERNAL ACTION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM**

Political clout and action streamlining were best highlighted in the conclusions of the Thessaloniki European Council and by way of the two Reports on the status of the European Union's activities in the fight against terrorism which were presented to the Council, building on the results during the Greek and Italian Presidencies. These reports, which summarised progress achieved as well as the new initiatives taken, contained recommendations for further action. Such recommendations covered the following three main areas of work: EU's external action in the fight against terrorism; enhancing justice, security and protection of citizen; and the fight against the financing of terrorism.

External Action in the Fight against Terrorism focused on two main aspects. First, supporting the universal adoption of the international instruments against terrorism and on protection of the populations against the chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear terrorist (CBRN) threats. Second, an outreach programme for the Working Party on Terrorism (COTER), geared towards UN bodies and other fora, such as the G8 Counter Terrorism Action Group (CTAG), that play a major role in the international co-operation against terrorism. In addition, the following policies and programmes were undertaken: political dialogue with Third Countries and regional and sub-regional organisations or fora; technical assistance to third countries; co-operation with international organisations and regional fora.

The advocacy for the global accession to universal implementation of the international Conventions on terrorism is now a constant. Further progress in other major areas of UNSCR 1373, with particular regard to improving co-ordination and effectiveness of counter terrorism technical assistance also remained a priority. The EU is pursuing co-operation with the UN, other international organisations and Regional Fora in the fight against terrorism. Operational links are being established with representatives of the UN and other international fora, namely through the possibility of holding regular meetings between the UN Counter-Terrorism Commission (CTC) and COTER, possibly at troika level. The EU is also paying a close attention to implement counter terrorism co-operation commitments with third countries and will review, as appropriate, existing agreements to consider, if necessary, the inclusion of counter-terrorism elements.

Technical assistance to Third Countries is gradually becoming another cornerstone of EU policies in this field. Further work was undertaken to implement EU pilot projects in line with UNSCR 1373. Avenues for co-operation with the OSCE and ASEAN will continue to be addressed. Work will continue with and within the CTAG to support the work of the UN CTC and to co-ordinate, where necessary, the building of technical assistance. An inventory of bilateral technical assistance projects of Member States is gradually developing.

Within the EU, priority was given to further strengthening cross-pillar co-operation that has been regarded as crucial for an effective fight against terrorism. Co-operation between EU instruments and bodies will be pursued. Modalities for the review and implementation of the EU Action Plan will be discussed. Measures concerning the enhancement of Justice, Security and Protection of the EU Citizens were also addressed.

With regard to the fight against the financing of terrorism, close attention was paid to the review and updating of the lists of persons, groups and entities whose funds and economic resources should be frozen pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001. There is the clear objective to make freezing measures more effective. Systematic exchange of information on national measures and experiences, best practices and the implementation by Member States of the obligations stemming from UNSCR 1373 was also required. The fight against the financing of terrorism was also pursued, namely through a workshop on the financing of terrorism to foster dialogue with members of the Gulf Co-operation Council.

## **2. FIGHT AGAINST PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION**

The Basic Principles for an EU strategy and the Action Plan against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) were adopted by the Council on 16 June 2003 and then endorsed by the European Council. They were followed by the joint EU-US declaration on non-proliferation issued at the June 2003 Summit.

In October 2003 the Secretary General/High Representative, Javier Solana, appointed Ms Annalisa Giannella as his Personal Representative for non-proliferation of WMD. Her mission is to coordinate, help implement and further develop the EU Action Plan against the proliferation of WMD, and to give sharper focus to these issues in dialogue with third countries.

On the same day in which it adopted the European Security Strategy «A Secure Europe in a Better World » which identifies a number of threats for the next decade, the European Council adopted a fully fledged Strategy against the proliferation of WMD, which provides a clear roadmap for immediate and future action. The main areas where the EU is concentrating its efforts are:

- Strengthening the international system of non-proliferation,
- Pursuing universalisation of multilateral agreements,
- Reinforcing strict implementation and compliance with these agreements,
- Assisting third countries, and
- Cooperating with key partners.

In 2003 the EU has actively started the implementation of the Action Plan against Proliferation of WMD.

The EU has already completed or is in the process of carrying out the following action:

- Adoption of a firm engagement for the promotion of the universalisation and reinforcement of multilateral agreements: A Council Common Position covering the NPT, the IAEA Additional Protocol, the CWC, the BTWC, the CTBT and the HCOG was adopted by the Council in November 2003. On the universalisation of CTBT, the Presidency made demarches in all non-signatories and non-ratifying Countries to promote accession and ratification to the Treaty on the basis of the Council Common Position adopted on 21 July 2003.
- Peer Review of Member States' and Acceding Countries export control systems: The EU is has started to organise a Peer Review of Member States' and Acceding Countries export control systems in order to strengthen the EU's implementation of the export control regimes' guidelines.



- Promoting a catch-all clause in the export control regimes: The EU Member States and Acceding Countries agreed that a catchall mechanism should be included in the NSG and MTCR guidelines. The same approach has been adopted for the Wassenaar Arrangement. This proposal was tabled by the EU at the MTCR Plenary (Buenos-Aires, 22-26 September), became a joint EU-US-Russian Federation-Japan proposal and was adopted by consensus. On the basis of an EU proposal, the NSG Consultative Group (Vienna, 15-17 October 2003) agreed in principle to recommend that the May 2004 Plenary (Gothenburg) should agree to include a catch-all mechanism in the NSG part 2 guidelines. At the Wassenaar Arrangement Plenary in Vienna (December 2003) a catchall mechanism has been included in the WA “initial elements”.
  
- Mainstreaming non-proliferation policies into the EU's wider relations with third countries: following a council decision adopted in November 2003, a non-proliferation clause will be inserted in all our future mixed agreements (covering economic and political issues) and a similar clause will accompany, in a separate instrument, the Community only agreements. We have started to implement this approach.
  
- Prolongation of the EU co-operation programme on disarmament and non-proliferation in the Russian Federation: The Council Decision 2003/874/CFSP of 8 December 2003 includes three new projects under the Council Joint Action on the EU co-operation programme for non-proliferation and disarmament in the Russian Federation. “Provision of equipment required to support the building of the chemical weapons destruction facility in Kambarka”; “Support of the programme of ex-weapons plutonium disposition in Russia” and “Support to the department for export control of the Russian Federation to improve the enforcement of the Russian dual use export control regulation”.
  
- Providing the IAEA with adequate budget increase for implementing its safeguards tasks: An adequate budget increase was agreed by the IAEA Board of Directors and validated at the IAEA General Conference on 16-19 September 2003 in Vienna.

- Ratification and implementation of the IAEA Additional protocols: All EU Member States have signed and ratified the Additional Protocols. Demarches will be carried out in order to encourage third countries to conclude such protocols
- Improve the control of high activity radioactive sources: The EU has made at the IAEA General Conference (Vienna, 15-19 September) a statement urging all Countries to strengthen regulatory controls of high-risk sources, within their territories and to observe the principles contained in the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. At the EU level, the Council adopted in December 2003 a Directive on the control of high activity sealed radioactive sources which aims to harmonise and strengthen control in place in the Member States. Traceability of sources will reduce the risk of misuse, e.g. for criminal purposes. Demarches will be carried out in order to invite third countries to adopt similar provisions.

### **Cooperation with key partners**

The magnitude of the issue of WMD proliferation requires common efforts. The EU strategy contains a whole section on cooperation of the EU with key partners: US, but also Russia, Japan and Canada are specifically mentioned. We have started to enhance our contacts with these countries in order to identify possible areas of cooperation and synergy. We have already achieved positive results by cooperating in the framework of the export control regimes.

Cooperation with international organisations is also crucial. The UN has a central role in our security strategy as well as in our WMD strategy. We will strengthen our support to IAEA. We will also enhance cooperation with OPCW.

### **3. EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY (ESDP)**

#### **Military aspects**

Regarding military capabilities needed for EU crisis management, 2003 was a pivotal year that marked the achievement of the Helsinki Headline Goal and confirmed that the EU has operational capability across the full range of Petersberg tasks, limited and constrained by recognised shortfalls. New catalogues setting out requirements, forces and progress were presented to Council. Analysis of Member States' voluntary commitments for EU-led operations confirmed progress in dealing with specific shortcomings. Good progress was achieved also through the European Capability Action Plan (ECAP), which entered another more challenging phase that focuses on concrete projects to tackle specific shortcomings. Council recognised the need to give political impetus to the ECAP's "bottom-up" (experts) approach by devising an ECAP roadmap setting out objectives, timelines and reporting procedures for capabilities projects. Finally, the Capability Development Mechanism (CDM), which specifies the details of the mechanism defined by the European Council in Nice for the development of the EU military capabilities, is now well established, including the link with NATO. The EU-NATO Capability Group, composed by senior policy/force planners of the EU and NATO, meets regularly to discuss and exchange views in this framework.

The Council agreed to create, under its authority, an Agency in the field of Defence capabilities development, research acquisition and armaments, whose overall aim is to support Member States in their effort to improve European defence capabilities in support of the ESDP. The Agency will have four main specific aims. First, developing defence capabilities in the field of crisis management. Second, promoting and enhancing European armaments cooperation. Third, strengthening the European defence industrial and technological base and supporting an internationally competitive European defence market. Fourth, promoting research to fulfil future requirements. The Agency will be launched in the course of 2004.

The EU conducted successfully its two first military operations. Operation Concordia in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, making use of NATO assets and capabilities, was launched in January and terminated in December. It enhanced the stable and secure environment needed to allow the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to implement the Ohrid Framework Agreement. Operation Artemis was launched in June, following a request from the United Nations Secretary General, and was terminated in August. By contributing to stabilising the security and humanitarian situation in Bunia, the EU-led force gave impetus to EU and UN efforts to keep the overall peace process in the DRC on track. In Concordia as in Artemis, a large number of third States were very keen to be part of the operation and they successfully joined the EU-led force.

Work has continued to develop the rapid response capabilities of the European Union. A military concept was developed and agreed and a report has been presented to the May GAERC. On that basis Council requested the PSC to continue guiding the necessary development in this field. In that framework the need for exchanges of information between the EU and NATO on EU Military Rapid Response and NRF has been underlined.

### **Civilian crisis management under ESDP**

The EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUPM) which began operations on 1 January 2003 was recently affected by the sudden death of its Head of Mission, Sven Frederiksen. EUPM aims to establish sustainable policing arrangements under BiH ownership in accordance with best European and international practice, thereby raising current BiH police standards. It is a non-executive mission and achieves its objectives through mentoring, advising and monitoring the BiH police forces. As of 31 December 2003 EUPM numbered 861 personnel of whom 471 are seconded police officers, 58 international civilians and 332 BiH national staff. All 15 EU Member States participate in EUPM (384 police officers) together with 18 non-EU contributing states (87 police officers). In the coming months, EUPM will continue the implementation of its core programmes through the local ownership of the BiH Police Steering Board. The mission priorities will remain, with especial emphasis on the effective establishment of SIPA and the fight against organised crime

The EU Police Mission in fYROM (EUPOL Proxima), which was launched on 15 December 2003, is the European Union's fourth ever crisis management operation. Proxima police officers will monitor, mentor, and advise the local police on all levels. The mission will thus assist in transforming the police forces of the host country into an organisation living up to best international standards of policing. The police mission is fully integrated into existing international co-ordination structures established by the EUSR in fYROM and will maintain close co-operation with other relevant International Organisations and bilateral Missions, in particular with the OSCE, in order to ensure synergy and complementarity.

### **Co-operation with international organisations within the framework of ESDP**

The EU and the UN agreed a joint declaration on EU/UN co-operation in crisis management. It aims at taking further practical steps to build on the momentum of the positive co-operation between the two organisations on the ground in Bosnia and in DRC. A joint consultative mechanism has been established at the working level to examine ways and means to enhance mutual co-ordination and compatibility in different areas such as planning, training, communications and "best practices" processes.

The EU and NATO agreed on a comprehensive framework for permanent relations that provides the basis for developing the strategic partnership between the EU and NATO. It consists of a political declaration on ESDP and several technical texts to implement the different aspects of EU-NATO relations. This framework, which paved the way for the first EU-led military operation to start while the ESDP continued developing strongly, covers inter alia a crucial element, the so-called "Berlin Plus arrangements". "Berlin Plus" enables the EU, when a certain crisis arises that may give rise to an EU-led operation making use of NATO assets and capabilities, to have guaranteed access to NATO planning, to use NATO European command options (with Deputy SACEUR as the primary candidate for EU Operation Commander) and/or to use NATO assets and capabilities. Mutual crisis consultation arrangements (to facilitate an efficient and rapid decision-making in each organisation) and an agreement on the security of information are also part of this EU-NATO framework.

The first joint EU/NATO crisis management exercise (CME/CMX 03) took place in November 2003. This was based on a fictitious crisis scenario developed in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, with inter-ethnic tensions on bordering countries on fictitious Atlantia island. As part of the exercise, the EU had to consider the options for a possible EU crisis management operation making use of NATO assets and capabilities, while also testing the standing arrangements on consultation and cooperation between the EU and NATO. Actively testing EU civilian instruments, including Community instruments and planning at the strategic politico-military level for the use of civilian and military instruments, including their co-ordination, were also the focus of this successful game play.

As the EU's civilian crisis management capacity develops, the scope for interaction between EU and international organisations such as the UN, the OSCE and the Council of Europe will grow. On the broader issue of crisis management operations as a whole, the signing of a Joint Declaration on UN-EU Co-operation in Crisis Management on 24 September 2003 was an important step to be followed by further progress in this field.

The framework for relations between the EU and the OSCE has been further enhanced with the approval of the Council Conclusions on EU-OSCE co-operation in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation adopted on 17 November 2003. The EU will now concentrate in the implementation of these conclusions and will work to identify further potential co-operation areas and priorities for EU-OSCE co-operation. With the same objective, cooperation between the EU and the Council of Europe will be developed.

#### **4. EU SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES – GUIDELINES ON THE APPOINTING PROCEDURE, MANDATE AND FINANCING**

On 20 June 2003, the Secretary General/High Representative and the Commissioner for External Relations issued a joint letter announcing an agreement in particular to move to the integral funding of EUSRs from the CFSP budget as from 1 January 2004. The objective of this agreement was to create a solid basis for funding while allowing optimal flexibility and a high degree of responsiveness to evolving needs on the ground.

This agreement required adapting the March 2000 Guidelines on EUSRs and on 17 November 2003, the Council adopted the revised guidelines on the appointing procedure, mandate and financing for EU Special Representatives. The new Guidelines foresee in the integral financing of costs related to the EUSR mandates from the CFSP budget. They also contain standard wording for EUSR mandates and the procedure for extending EUSR mandates, as agreed by the Council on 10 December 2002.

The activities of the EUSRs in FYROM, for the Middle East Peace Process, for the South Caucasus, for the African Great Lakes Region and in Afghanistan are described under the respective geographical sections above.

## **5. CONFLICT PREVENTION**

The EU is firmly committed to carrying forward an active conflict prevention policy. In this regard, the development of an effective CFSP and ESDP is relevant for contributing to the EU's conflict prevention objectives as set out in the "EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts", endorsed by the European Council in Gothenburg in June 2001. Prevention plays also a relevant role in the European Security Strategy adopted by the European Council in December 2003.

The EU action is mainly focussed on the implementation of the action plan and the Presidency reported on this point in the Thessaloniki European Council in June 2003.

The EU will continue to work together with the United Nations and other relevant international organisations. In this regard, it should be recalled the fifth high-level meeting between the United Nations and other Regional Organisations on 29-30 July 2003 which focused mainly on the inter-related field of conflict prevention and peace-building with a particular focus on "new challenges to international peace and security including international terrorism".

## **6. HUMAN RIGHTS**

The protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms is one of the founding principles of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, and this principle was constantly stressed in the EU's bilateral relations as well as in its activities in multilateral fora. In addition to continuing to address human rights violations around the world, the EU played an active role in the promotion of respect for human rights.

In confronting human rights violations in countries in all regions of the world, the EU called on the governments concerned to redress the situation through a variety of instruments, including statements, démarches and declarations. It continued to conduct the dialogue with China on human rights, two meetings of which took place in 2003. Moreover, two meetings were held in Brussels of the EU human rights dialogue with Iran, comprising a roundtable composed of civil society participants on both sides, and meetings of government officials.

The EU was again one of the main actors in the UN Commission on Human Rights (CHR), the 59th session of which took place in Geneva from 17 March to 25 April 2003. There the EU succeeded in getting resolutions adopted on the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Iraq, Burma/Myanmar, the Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories and, for the first time, on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Turkmenistan. It also put forward Chairperson's statements on Colombia and East Timor and successfully tabled thematic resolutions on the question of the death penalty, and on the rights of the child (together with the Latin American Group). However, and despite heavy lobbying the EU's initiatives on Sudan and Chechnya were defeated, and the resolution on Zimbabwe was again blocked by means of a no-action motion. A process of reflection on how to increase effectiveness of the EU's role at CHR, which started in the summer of 2002, was continued in 2003.

The EU played an active role in the UN Ad Hoc Committee established to consider proposals for an International Convention on the Protection of the Rights and Dignity of People with Disabilities during its second session in New York on 16-27 June 2003. The EU contributed by submitting elements for a convention, which were later elaborated to an EU draft proposal for a convention, aimed at ensuring a "rights-based" approach. The EU was also very much involved in the 47th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). To the EU's deep disappointment, the CSW failed to adopt the draft agreed conclusions on women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls.



At the Third Committee of the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly, the EU presented a general statement, concentrating last like year in particular on the issues of the death penalty and the eradication and prevention of torture. The EU also succeeded in securing the adoption of resolutions on DRC, Burma, and Turkmenistan and worked jointly with the group of Latin American countries on obtaining the adoption of an omnibus resolution on the rights of the child.

Following the adoption of the EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict, in December 2003, the Annual Human Rights Discussion Forum held in Rome on 10-11 December focused on child rights issues. It was attended as usual by representatives from NGOs, academics, MEPs and officials from Member States' governments and the EU institutions.

As regards pursuit of its priorities in promoting respect for human rights, the EU continued to press its policy of seeking global abolition of the death penalty with all countries concerned, in accordance with the 1998 guidelines on this issue. Furthermore, the EU continued its efforts to ensure the comprehensive implementation of the 2001 EU guidelines on policy aimed at the prevention and eradication of torture on the basis of reports by heads of missions. Finally, the Working Group on Human Rights (COHOM) sought to follow up on a wide range of steps indicated in the Council Conclusions of December 2002 to ensure coherence and consistency, mainstreaming, openness, and regular review of priorities, in the EU's human rights and democratisation policy.

More detailed information on the implementation of the EU's human rights policy is set out in the EU Annual Report on Human Rights 2003, which was published in October 2003.

## **7. IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF EU RESTRICTIVE MEASURES (SANCTIONS)**

The European Union's extensive experience in designing, implementing, enforcing and monitoring restrictive measures (sanctions) in the framework of the CFSP<sup>1</sup> has shown that there is a need to improve a number of aspects so as to allow expeditious and effective action. To that end, the Council in December 2003 adopted guidelines to standardise implementation and to strengthen methods of implementation<sup>2</sup>. These guidelines address a number of general issues and present standard wording and common definitions for use in the legal instruments used to implement restrictive measures. The guidelines also identified some further work to be done, notably in the fields of monitoring and evaluation of implementation and enforcement once the Council has decided on those restrictive measures. The guidelines will provide basis for work in this area under the forthcoming presidencies.

## **8. ARMS EXPORTS**

In 2003 the EU has continued the implementation of the **Code of Conduct on Arms Exports**.

During its fifth year of operation the European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports further consolidated its position as the most comprehensive international arms export control regime, providing a high degree of internal and external transparency, dialogue, respect for denial notifications and dynamism.

The table annexed to the Fifth annual report provides statistics on the number of export licences granted by each Member State and (where available) the value of the licences and the value of the actual exports. Statistics on denials and the criteria invoked are also provided. Member States hope to achieve further harmonisation of figures provided in the Sixth Annual Report.

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<sup>1</sup> Notably arms embargoes, financial restrictions and restrictions on admission, *cfr* "Liste Des mesures negatives appliquées par l'Union Européenne à l'égard de pays tiers", EU Council website – CFSP section.

<sup>2</sup> Doc. 15579/03, adopted by GAERC on 8 December 2003.

The Fifth Annual Report also contains an updated Compendium of Agreed Practices listing in a systematic way all decisions by Member States relating to the Code of Conduct and its application. Together with the Code itself the Compendium gives a comprehensive view of the Code and the way it is applied by Member States.

In November COARM reached agreement on a "User's Guide" which clarifies Member States' responsibilities in the area of sharing information on denials (as set out in the operative provisions of the Code). The User's Guide is intended to unify Member States' practices and lead to an enhanced exchange of information. As from 1 January 2004, Accessing States participate fully in information sharing and consultations on denials, and the Council Secretariat will record information all denial notifications in a secure database.

An updated version of the Common Military List of equipment covered by the Code of Conduct was adopted by the Council on 17 November. The list will be further updated as the need arises.

**Common Position on the control of arms brokering:** Further to agreement reached during discussions in the COARM Working Party, on 23 June 2003 the Council adopted a Common Position on the Control of Arms brokering, aimed at regulating arms brokering in order to avoid the circumvention of UN, EU or OSCE embargoes on arms exports. The Common position establishes a set of provisions to be implemented through national legislation, requiring Member States to take all the necessary measures to control brokering activities on their territory or carried out by brokers of their nationality.

## PRIORITIES IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

The following chapter gives an overview of the main developments in the broad spectrum of the European Union's relations with third countries within the area of the CFSP, covering the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (including the Wider Europe - Neighbourhood Initiative), Central and Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe, Middle East Peace Process, Mediterranean region, Mashrek-Maghreb, Middle East/Gulf, Asia-OCEANIA, Africa, Transatlantic relations and Latin America and the Caribbean.

### 1. WESTERN BALKANS

#### (a) Horizontal aspects

At the EU-Western Balkans Summit, meeting in Thessaloniki on 21 June 2003, the EU reiterated its unequivocal support to the European perspective of the Western Balkan countries and emphasised that the future of the Balkans was within the European Union. The Summit acknowledged that the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP) would remain the framework for the European course of the Western Balkan countries, all the way to their future accession. Progress of each country would depend on its own merits in meeting the Copenhagen criteria and the conditions set for the SAP and confirmed in the final declaration of the November 2000 Zagreb Summit. The endorsement, on 20 June, of "*The Thessaloniki agenda for the Western Balkans: Moving towards European Integration*" by the European Council represented a new, important step in the privileged relationship between the EU and the Western Balkans. At the 21 June Summit, it was decided that its content should be considered a shared agenda. The Western Balkan countries also welcomed the decisions by the EU to strengthen its Stabilisation and Association policy towards the region and to enrich it with elements from the experience of enlargement.

The EU-Western Balkans Summit also agreed to meet periodically within the framework of a EU-Western Balkan Forum in order to discuss issues of common concern, to review progress of the countries of the region in their road to Europe, and to exchange views on major developments in the EU. The first annual meeting of Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Ministers within the EU-Western Balkans Forum took place on 28 November to discuss JHA issues, in particular the situation related to organised crime in the Western Balkans and its impact on the EU, to evaluate the necessary measures to cope with it, as well as to improve the co-operation on migration and border management. The first Foreign Ministers' meeting on 09 December took stock of developments since the Thessaloniki Summit. At this occasion, the countries of the region committed themselves to redouble their reform efforts in line with their EU aspirations.

The Council also continued to closely follow horizontal issues affecting the area as a whole:

Full co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) figured high on the Council's agenda throughout 2003. On 14 April, the Council decided to adopt a Common Position with which measures to prevent the entry into or transit through the EU would be applied against individuals who assist ICTY indictees. On 16 June, the Council instructed its competent bodies to examine in the shortest possible time an extension of the list annexed to the Common Position. The Council also supported the unambiguous message of UN Security Council Resolution 1503 to the countries and parties in the region on the need to improve and intensify co-operation with the ICTY – in particular efforts to bring Karadzic, Mladic and Gotovina to the ICTY. On 13 October, the Council took note of a presentation by ICTY Chief Prosecutor, Mrs Carla Del Ponte and of her report to the UN Security Council and recalled that failure to co-operate fully with ICTY would seriously jeopardise further movement towards the EU.

On 24 February, the Council recalled the fundamental right of all refugees and IDPs to return to their place of origin and insisted that those who want to return be given a realistic possibility to do so. On 21 July, the Council welcomed the appeal for the return of displaced persons signed by the Kosovan leaders and called upon the latter to translate their commitment into concrete actions.

The Council reiterated the political importance of the Stability Pact in promoting regional co-operation and thus supporting SouthEast Europe on its path towards further European integration on 09 December. It considered the new EC legal framework for financial support to the Stability Pact as a positive signal in that regard, in particular as it will provide the Pact with greater planning security. It invited the Stability Pact to continue its important role in complementing the regional co-operation element of the SAP in accordance with the Thessaloniki Agenda.

The Council continued to attach great importance to regional co-operation, which constitutes one of the main elements of the SAP. In this respect, it welcomed the outcome of the South Eastern Europe Co-operation Process (SEECP) Summit in Belgrade on 09 April and commended the SEECP members' commitment to further enhance regional co-operation with concrete initiatives.

The Council recalled that regional co-operation and good neighbourly relations form an essential part of the process of moving towards the EU. On 13 October, the Council noted with regret that the Croatian Parliament had decided to declare a protected ecological and fishing zone in the Adriatic Sea without appropriate dialogue and co-ordination with the other countries concerned. It called on Croatia to urgently pursue a constructive dialogue with its neighbours meant to meet the concerns of all the parties involved.

On 21 July, following a proposal of SG/HR Solana, the Council endorsed Mrs Maryse DAVIET as the new European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) Head of Mission.

## **(b) Albania**

Political stability and progress on reforms allowed for the negotiations for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) to be officially launched on 31 January.

In its conclusions on the Annual Review of the SAP, the Council recalled that the continuation and consolidation of a good political climate and a sustainable policy of reforms remain a prerequisite for further progress to the EU. Focus should be on effective implementation of the reforms. The Council urged the Albanian authorities to redouble their efforts, thus allowing for the SAA negotiations to advance without delays.

The Council, on 09 December, expressed concern about the slow pace of reforms. It called upon the Albanian government to intensify its efforts, particularly in the fight against organised crime and corruption, the functioning of democratic institutions and of the administration, and the proper implementation of legislation. Regarding the shortcomings in the local elections of 12 October and 16 November, the Council recalled that the orderly conduct of fair local elections was part of the process of bringing Albania closer to the EU.

**(c) Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)**

On 27 January, the Council welcomed the formation of governments at the State and Republika Srpska levels and urged the BiH authorities to proceed rapidly with the implementation of the reforms necessary for progress in the SAP.

On 14 April, the Council supported the actions taken by the High Representative Lord Ashdown concerning the ORAO affair on the illegal export of weapons to Iraq and its aftermath. The Council also expressed support for the preparation by the Commission of a Feasibility Study on the opening of negotiations for a SAA with BiH.

In its conclusions on the Annual Review of the SAP, the Council remained concerned at the fragility of the state institutions and the lack of sufficient support by the entities, which are vital in order for BiH to move closer to the EU. It called upon the BiH authorities to resolutely engage into reforms in order to move towards the EU.

The Council welcomed the Commission's report on the preparedness of BiH to negotiate a SAA on 09 December and endorsed its assessment that BiH had made important progress in stabilisation, but still suffered from significant weaknesses. The government of BiH was called upon to make significant progress by summer 2004 in the areas identified by the Commission as priorities for action. Any possible decision in the latter part of 2004 towards the opening of SAA negotiations would depend on BiH's own efforts and the progress achieved.

The EU's first ESDP operation, the European Union Police Mission (EUPM) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, started on 1 January 2003. The mission has been established for a duration of three years. EUPM follows on from the UN's International Police Task Force in BiH, and is part of a broad approach followed by the EU and other actors, with activities addressing the whole range of Rule of Law aspects. EUPM seeks to establish sustainable policing arrangements under BiH ownership in accordance with best European and international practice, in particular through monitoring, mentoring and inspection activities. Some 500 police officers from more than thirty countries make up the mission: the fifteen EU Member States as well as eighteen other countries. Since 1 March 2004, the Mission has been headed by Assistant Commissioner Kevin Carty, who was appointed by the Council on 23 February 2004. He succeeded the late Sven Frederiksen, who died on 26 January 2004.

**(d) Croatia**

On 20 February, the President and the Prime Minister presented the application of Croatia for accession to the European Union. On 14 April, the Council decided to implement the procedure laid down in Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union and accordingly requested the Commission to submit to the Council its Opinion on this application.

In its conclusions on the Annual Review of the SAP, the Council recalled that despite some progress on the relevant legislation, the judiciary remained an area of particular concern. The Council also expected more progress regarding the implementation of the recently adopted media legislation and Constitutional law on minorities. Progress was also required on refugee return.

The Council welcomed the fact that the Croatian parliamentary elections on 23 November 2003 were conducted in an orderly fashion in line with international standards. In view of the presentation of the Commission's Opinion, it called upon the new Croatian government, once formed, to make all efforts towards compliance with the Copenhagen criteria and SAP conditionality, and in particular full co-operation with ICTY, return of refugees and minority rights.



**(e) Serbia and Montenegro (SaM)**

The Council welcomed the adoption and proclamation of the Constitutional Charter and the Implementing Law on 24 February. It called on the authorities in Belgrade and Podgorica to build up the new institutions within the fixed deadlines and to finalise the Internal Market and Trade Action Plans, which would allow further progress within the SAP.

The Council, on 14 April, welcomed the accession of Serbia and Montenegro to the Council of Europe and expressed its expectation that the country would honour fully the commitments and obligations undertaken upon accession. The Council welcomed the proposals by the High Representative and the Commission on ways to provide further EU support to Serbia and Montenegro in implementing the reforms allowing for further progress towards the EU.

On 16 June, the Council, the Council welcomed the presentation by Serbia and Montenegro of their Internal Market and Trade Action Plan, but noted that while substantial progress had been made, there were still some outstanding problems to be resolved. In its conclusions on the Annual Review of the SAP, the Council reiterated its strong support for the State union, the full functionality of which remained a key element for further rapprochement towards the EU. The Council expected the authorities to increase the pace of reforms and their implementation. On 29 September, the Council reiterated the importance of a rapid and full implementation of the recently adopted Internal Market and Trade Action Plan and of addressing the other issues identified by the Commission with the aim of contributing to a positive conclusion of the Feasibility Study on the opening of negotiations for a SAA.

**(i) SaM/Serbia**

On 18 March, the Council expressed its deep shock by the assassination of the Serbian Prime Minister, Dr. Zoran Djindjic. It strongly supported the determination of the new Prime Minister of Serbia, Mr. Zoran Zivkovic, to vigorously pursue the policies promoted by Zoran Djindjic; in particular the relentless fight against organised crime and corruption, the comprehensive democratisation of state structures and the full co-operation with ICTY.

On 9 December, the Council recalled that the parliamentary elections on 28 December 2003 would give the Serbian people a chance to demonstrate their willingness to move irreversibly on the path towards the EU and concluded that it was up to them to seize this opportunity.

**(ii) SaM/Montenegro**

The Council, on 19 May, welcomed the orderly conduct of the presidential elections in Montenegro. It looked forward to President-elect Filip Vujanovic playing a constructive role in promoting reforms in Montenegro and contributing to the full functionality of the new State Union of Serbia and Montenegro.

**(iii) SaM/Kosovo**

On 24 February, the Council noted that the transformation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia into Serbia and Montenegro had not affected the issue of Kosovo and recalled that UNSCR 1244 remained the basis of the EU policy towards Kosovo. The Council also reiterated its full support to the SRSG and UNMIK's "standards before status" policy and called on Belgrade and Pristina to initiate a dialogue on practical issues of mutual concern.

The Council, on 14 April, called on all concerned, particularly the Kosovo Assembly, to refocus their attention on the "standards before status" policy and urged all parties to refrain from unilateral acts jeopardising the objective of a multi-ethnic and democratic Kosovo. The Council regretted the Kosovo Assembly Resolution on "War Values", adopted on 15 May, for its divisive nature and its disrespect for the ongoing process of reconciliation.

The Council welcomed the intention of Belgrade and Pristina to enter, shortly after the Thessaloniki Summit, into a direct dialogue on practical issues of mutual concern. The launch of the dialogue in Vienna on 14 October was welcomed, but disappointment was expressed that some of the key interlocutors chose not to attend. On 17 November, the Council urged all the parties concerned to ensure an early and constructive start of the working groups in follow-up to the Vienna meeting. It welcomed the intention of the SRSG to operationalise the

"standards before status" policy, took note that a first opportunity for an overall review could occur around mid-2005 and asked the SG/HR to explore ways and means of further enhancing the EU's contribution to the implementation of UNSCR 1244.

**(f) Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYROM)**

On 24 February, the Council welcomed the adoption by the Government of the Action Plan for further implementation of the Framework Agreement (FA), as well as the support they received at the Party leader meeting on 14 February 2003. The Council encouraged the Government and all the Signatories of the FA to ensure timely realisation of the Action Plans. On 19 May, the Council, welcoming the progress made, encouraged the fYROM Government to continue to vigorously implement the remaining Ohrid agenda. The Council also called on all political parties to honour their commitment to fully respect the Agreement and its principles.

In its conclusions on the Annual Review of the SAP, the Council, while welcoming initial progress, also noted the need to accelerate the pace of reforms, including administrative, economic and security sector reform. The Council also called on fYROM to comply fully with the obligations arising from the Interim Agreement and to continue building up the necessary capacities to implement the SAA.

On 29 September, the Council adopted Joint Action 2003/681/CFSP setting up a EU Police Mission in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia "EUPOL PROXIMA", to be launched on 15 December. On the same day the Council decided to appoint Chief Commissioner Bart D'Hooge as Head of Mission/Police Commissioner of EUPOL PROXIMA.

On 17 November the Council agreed to appoint Mr. Soren Jessen-Petersen as EU Special Representative in Skopje, as from 1 February 2004, replacing the previous EUSR, Mr Alexis Brouhns.

The Council took note of the census results on 09 December and welcomed the fact that they were established in accordance with international and European standards. The Council recalled that the Census is an important part of the implementation of the FA.

## **2. EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA**

### **(a) Russia**

The Saint Petersburg Summit on 31 May agreed to reinforce the co-operation with a view to creating in the long term a common economic space, a common space of freedom, security and justice, a space of co-operation in the field of external security, as well as space of research and education, including cultural aspects. The Summit identified ways of enhancing the efficiency of EU-Russia co-operation. To this end it decided to strengthen the existing Co-operation Council as a "Permanent Partnership Council".

In the second part of the year, the Rome Summit on 6 November 2003 endorsed the work of the Common European Economic Space (CEES) High Level Group and welcomed the concept paper of the CEES, with a view to achieving tangible results as early as possible.

The EU continued to support the economic and democratic reform process in Russia, and encouraged Russia to facilitate the extension of the Partnership and Co-operation Agreement to the states acceding to the European Union on 1 May 2004. It also raised its concerns regarding the situation in Chechnya and encouraged Russia to find a political solution to the conflict.

### **(b) Ukraine**

The 7 October 2003 Yalta Summit was a good opportunity to take stock of progress achieved so far and to give new impetus to EU-Ukraine relations, reinforcing our strategic partnership on the basis of shared values. The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) remains the cornerstone of the EU relations with Ukraine.

In 2003, the EU continued to support the democratic and economic transition process in Ukraine, underlined the need for free media in the country and strengthened cooperation in the fields of environment, energy and nuclear safety and cooperation in foreign policy and crisis management

(participation in EU's Police Mission in Bosnia Herzegovina). In the areas of justice and home affairs (a JHA Scoreboard was established). The EU has also encouraged Ukraine to facilitate the extension of the Partnership and Co-operation Agreement to the states acceding to the European Union on 1 May 2004.

In 2003 the EU started working on the definition of the Action Plan in the context of the "Neighbourhood Policy". The aim of this Action Plan is to boost relations with Ukraine which is a key partner bordering the EU.

### **(c) Belarus**

Events confirmed the deterioration of the political situation. The repression of participants in peaceful demonstrations, the situation of political prisoners as well as the suspension of the main opposition newspaper and the threat of closure for other media are considered as a part of an orchestrated campaign to oppress civil society in Belarus.

The EU reiterated the call on the Belarusian authorities to stop the harassment of opposition politicians, journalists and intellectuals as well as to improve the media situation in Belarus and to co-operate with international organisations in accordance with their international commitments.

On 14 April, the Council took note of the intention of fourteen Member States to take the necessary national measures in order to lift the ban on entry into their territories of relevant members of the Belarusian leadership, decided in November 2002. These visa measures were lifted as a response to the positive assessment by the Head of Mission of the OSCE office in Minsk of the effective functioning of the office and the recommendation of the Netherlands, as Chairmanship in Office of the OSCE.

In view of the forthcoming enlargement, the EU has made clear its desire to enhance its relations with its Eastern European neighbours on the basis of shared interests and common values in the framework of the Wider Europe-New Neighbourhood Initiative, which also includes Belarus. But the development of closer relations between the EU and Belarus will depend on Belarus' effective implementation of further reforms, its willingness to respect its international commitments and to adopt European standards of democracy and human rights.

#### **(d) Moldova**

The EU considered that the European Neighbourhood Initiative will allow Moldova to benefit fully from the new opportunities emerging from enlargement. In preparing the Action Plan, the EU will take full account of the current economic and political situation in Moldova, its European aspirations and its specific relationship with the EU.

The EU reiterated its deep concern on the situation regarding the Transnistrian conflict in Moldova and underlined its commitment to contribute to efforts in an Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) framework to reach a peaceful solution to the conflict in full respect of Moldova's territorial integrity.

Consequently and in support of the EU's more active involvement in the political process, the Council decided on 27 February to implement targeted sanctions in the form of a travel ban for a renewable twelve-month period aimed solely at those members of the Transnistrian leadership considered to be primarily responsible for the lack of cooperation to promote a political settlement of the conflict.

The European Union urged the Russian Federation and Ukraine to discharge, together with the OSCE, their role as mediators. With regard to the completion of the withdrawal of the Russian forces, the European Union urged the Russian Federation to take all the necessary steps to comply with the Istanbul/Oporto commitment by the end of the year.

#### **(e) Wider Europe - New Neighbours Initiative**

The 16 June Council conclusions launched the neighbourhood policies in a concrete manner.

The overall goal of the new policies is to work with the partners to reduce poverty and create an area of shared prosperity and values as well as to anchor the EU's offer of concrete benefits and preferential relations within a differentiated framework which responds to progress made by the partner countries in defined areas. In this respect, the Council conclusions established a differentiated approach to each country concerned, based on a range of possible incentives and on the use of political and economic benchmarks to assess progress towards established objectives.

The new neighbourhood policies will be implemented by Actions Plans which will become key policy instruments. The Council invited the Commission to present proposals for Action Plans from 2004 onwards for all countries concerned.

On 16/17 October, the European Council welcomed progress made on the Commission's Wider Europe–New Neighbourhood Initiative. It urged the Council and the Commission to take forward work in implementing this initiative with a view to ensuring a comprehensive, balanced and proportionate approach, including a financial instrument, responding to the need to promote cross-border and regional/transnational co-operation on the external borders of the enlarged Union.

**(f) Northern Dimension**

The European Council endorsed the Second Northern Dimension Action Plan 2004-2006 in order to pursue the Northern Dimension policies beyond 2003. It underlined that the Northern Dimension will assume enhanced importance in the context of EU enlargement and will have an important contribution to make in carrying forward the Union's New Neighbourhood policy in the entire region.

**(g) South Caucasus**

2003 witnessed a substantial development of relations between the EU and countries of the South Caucasus. On 7 July 2003 the Council appointed Ambassador Heikki Talvitie as EU Special Representative for the region and took the opportunity to set out a number of its policy objectives as well as the mandate of Ambassador Talvitie (published in OJ L169, pages 74-75).

The Special Representative began work straight away, accompanying the Ministerial Troika that visited Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia between 7 and 10 July 2003. This visit signalled the start of regular visits by the Special Representative to the South Caucasus, which have transformed the quality and quantity of the EU's political dialogue. Ambassador Talvitie also took part in the Cooperation Councils with these countries, which were held on 30 September 2003.

As 2004 began, a new President was inaugurated in Georgia. As a new administration comes to power, the EU is confronted with questions over the direction of its assistance to that country. A more general choice on the agenda for the EU in 2004 concerns what relationship Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia should have to the European Neighbourhood Policy.

#### **(h) Central Asia**

2003 saw continued efforts by the EU to give form to the Council's decision to develop more active relations with the countries of Central Asia. In March 2003 the EU called a meeting in Brussels for all EU Heads of Mission accredited in Central Asia. This was the first time that such a coordination meeting had been held for any region world-wide and it stimulated a debate on the direction of EU policy which is still going on in the working bodies of the Council.

The annual Cooperation Councils with Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan noted the growing range of dialogue between the EU and these three countries. And as 2003 closed, a new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement was initialled with Tajikistan. The official signing of the Agreement will take place in mid-2004, after EU enlargement.

The EU continues its reflection on how best to develop its dialogue with the countries of Central Asia. It is a priority of the EU to ensure a good fit between its policies towards these and surrounding countries. The EU will therefore consider how to promote cooperation in Central Asia, and how to manage EU relations with regional organisations. A particular area to be developed is dialogue on energy with countries of the Caspian Sea basin.

### **3. CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE**

As from 17 April 2003, the Candidate countries are participating as active observers in the Council and its preparatory bodies. This also includes their participation in political dialogue meetings with third countries, if these meetings do not take place in troika format but when the EU is represented by all Member States. This was in particular the case for several political dialogue meetings which were held in the margins of the 58th United Nations General Assembly in New York.



Political contacts with Romania and Bulgaria continued through meetings between Heads of State and government and Ministers for Foreign Affairs on the occasion of the European Council, at Ministerial level in the framework of the Association Council and at Political Directors level.

At expert level, formal troika meetings continued to take place on Western Balkans. Following efforts to build in more flexibility in contacts with Romania and Bulgaria so as to be able to react to international developments, a series of informal contacts was established between the Presidency, the Council Secretariat and the Commission. These informal meetings focussed notably on areas of interest to Romania and Bulgaria, such as EU-Russia "New Neighbours" initiative, EU-Nato, Middle East and Asia.

#### **4. SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE**

##### **(a) Turkey**

Further to the December 2002 Copenhagen European Council decisions, the Council strengthened the accession strategy for Turkey in particular through the adoption of a revised accession partnership (May 2003) and through intensified political dialogue. Political dialogue meetings at ministerial level (troika format) were held on 31 January in Ankara and 11 November in Rome. The 42nd EC-Turkey Association Council (ministerial level) was held on 15 April in Luxembourg. Political dialogue meetings at Political Directors level took place on 22 January in Athens (troika), 26 May in Crete (EU 25), 4 July at Grottaferrata (EU 25) and 24 October in Ankara (troika). On these occasions, Turkey was in particular encouraged to pursue firmly the reform process, to ensure effective implementation and to improve the actual human rights situation, to help a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem and to work towards implementation of paragraph 4 of the Helsinki conclusions. A wide range of regional and international issues of mutual interest - *i.a.* Iraq, the Middle East peace process, Southern Caucasus, Afghanistan and ESDP - were also discussed at these meetings.

In addition, the Commission introduced a focussed political criteria monitoring dialogue with Turkey (four meetings held in 2003).

Turkey also took part in various dialogue meetings together with the other candidate countries.

On 22 July, the EU troika (heads of mission in Ankara) carried out a demarche on religious freedom focussing on the situation of non-moslem religious foundations. On 31 July, the Presidency issued a declaration on behalf of the EU welcoming the 7th legislative reform package ("harmonisation package") adopted by the Turkish parliament. On 19 September, the EU troika (heads of mission in Ankara) carried out another demarche, addressing the "Customs Union framework agreement" between Turkey and the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus". The terrorist attacks in Istanbul on 15 and 20 November were condemned in Council conclusions (General Affairs Council of 17 November) and a Presidency declaration on behalf of the EU (20 November).

In December, the Brussels European Council noted that progress in addressing many political criteria and accession partnership priorities had brought Turkey closer to the Union. At the same time it specified five areas where further sustained efforts by Turkey were needed, in particular as regards strengthening the independence and functioning of the judiciary, the overall framework for the exercise of fundamental freedoms (association, expression and religion), the further alignment of civil-military relations with European practice, the situation in the Southeast of the country and cultural rights and stated that a settlement of the Cyprus problem, whilst not part of the Copenhagen political criteria, would greatly facilitate Turkey's membership aspirations.

## **(b) Cyprus**

After the failure of the talks between the two Cypriot communities at The Hague on 10/11 March and the subsequent signature of the accession treaty by the Republic of Cyprus on 16 April, the Council continued to affirm the EU's preference for the accession of a united Cyprus. It urged all parties concerned, in particular Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leadership, to strongly support the UN Secretary General's efforts, called for the resumption of talks on the basis of the UNSG's proposals ("Annan plan") and reiterated the EU's willingness to accommodate the terms of a settlement in line with the principles on which the EU is founded. In parallel, measures were implemented in consultation with the government of Cyprus to promote economic development of the northern part and its rapprochement to the Union (Commission package of June).

Cyprus enjoyed status as "active observer" in Council bodies as from the signature of the accession treaty on 16 April 2003. Specific provisions for political dialogue were therefore no longer necessary.

**(c) Malta**

Malta, like Cyprus, enjoyed status as "active observer" in Council bodies as from the signature of the accession treaty on 16 April 2003. Specific provisions for political dialogue were therefore no longer necessary.

**5. MIDDLE-EAST PEACE PROCESS (MEPP)**

The situation concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been characterised by a further escalation of violence with casualties on both sides. The lack of progress on the MEPP, together with the situation in Iraq, has increased the sense of frustration in the International Community, particularly in the Arab world.

The overall objective for the EU concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict remained two-fold: the creation of a democratic, viable and independent state of Palestine, bringing to an end the occupation of 1967, and the right of Israel to live within safe and secure boundaries guaranteed by the commitment of the International Community, and in particular the Arab countries. The initiative of Saudi Arabia, as endorsed by the Beirut Summit of the Arab League remains an important basis for good neighbourly relations with Israel. The EU continued to stress that a comprehensive peace must also include Syria and Lebanon.

Against this background, the International Community has continued to search for a way out of the current crisis in the MEPP. The EU has played a very active role within the Quartet (EU, Russia, US, UN) also through HR Solana. The EU also underlined its commitment to the peace process by appointing Amb. Otte as new EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process on 14 July 2003.

The EU urged the other Quartet members to agree on a joint Roadmap, which was published and handed out to the parties on 30 April 2003. It contains clear timelines for the establishment of a Palestinian State by 2005. The implementation of such a Roadmap must be based on parallel progress in the security, political and economic fields and should be closely monitored by the Quartet. The EU welcomed the international support for the Roadmap as expressed by the unanimous adoption of UNSCR 1515 on 19 November 2003. Although the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) have accepted the Roadmap, there have been no signs of a serious implementation by the parties. Quartet Principals met in Jordan on 22 June 2003 and in New York on 26 September 2003 for a common assessment of the situation.

The EU has also continued to take concrete action on the ground:

Financial support to the PA and to the reform process has been a major priority for the EU, also in 2003. EU budgetary support to the Palestinian Authority with clear objectives and conditions continued. The EU participated in donors meetings of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC) on 18/19 February in London and in Rome on 10 December 2003, back to back with a meeting of the Quartet Reform Task Force. The deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Territories was highlighted. At the AHLC meeting in December, donors expressed their impatience due to the lack of implementation of the Roadmap.

In order to extend the temporary reception by Member States of the EU of certain Palestinians who had been involved in the siege of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the Council amended the relevant common position on 19 May 2003.

In its demarches and declarations the EU has reiterated its strong and unequivocal condemnation of all acts of terrorism. Suicide attacks are considered to do irreparable damage to the Palestinian cause. While recognising Israel's legitimate security concerns, the EU called upon Israel to stop excessive use of force and extra-judicial killings, which do not bring security to the Israeli population.

The European Council on 12 December 2003 urged the Israeli Government more specifically to reverse its settlement policy and to dismantle settlements built after March 2001. This policy, together with the departure of the so-called security fence in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem from the Green Line, could prejudice future negotiations and make the two-State solution physically impossible to implement. In this context, the EU was alarmed by the creation of a closed zone between this "fence" and the Green Line.

The European Council also recalled the importance of open and unhindered channels of communication with Israel for all EU interlocutors and welcomed initiatives from civil societies on both sides, including the Geneva Peace Initiative. It expressed its readiness to further assist in the efforts to promote rapprochement, confidence building and the search for a lasting peace.

## **6. MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

### **(a) Euro-Mediterranean Partnership - Barcelona Process**

A Mid-Term Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers meeting was held by the Greek Presidency in Crete on 26/27 May 2003, which took stock of the progress made in the Partnership, particularly in the implementation of the Valencia Action Plan, and discussed its future developments notably in the light of the future enlargement of the Union (members of the Partnership grew from 27 to 35 Partners). In that respect, the new EU Neighbourhood framework, as proposed by the Commission Communication on Wider Europe / New Neighbourhood Initiative was discussed with the Mediterranean partners with the aim of reinforcing the Barcelona Process and to develop closer cooperation based on the mutual recognition of common interests.

As had been agreed in Valencia, the political and security dialogue focused on ESDP through the establishment of liaisons with new structures established by the Union, the promotion of non-proliferation of WMD and adherence to multilateral instruments on arms control, the fight against terrorism, and seeking improvement of the working methods of the Partnership, inter alia through the holding of thematic meetings; efforts to enhance sub-regional cooperation continued.

The Union underlined its firm commitment to democracy, human rights and the rule of law by agreeing to further develop the parliamentary dimension of the Partnership. The Ministers agreed to include the envisaged Parliamentary Assembly of a consultative capacity in the framework of the Barcelona Process once the European Parliament and Euro-Mediterranean national Parliaments would have reached agreement on its creation.

At the VIth Conference of Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers which was held in Naples under the Italian Presidency on 2/3 December 2003, the Ministers confirmed their joint interest in reinforcing security and stability in the region through the promotion of political and economic reform, agreeing that such a vision was even more relevant in the present circumstances. The main three issues, i.e. the creation of a Euromed Parliamentary Assembly and its inclusion in a consultative capacity in the framework of the Barcelona Process, the future course of FEMIP, and the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue of Cultures constitute important challenges that will all foster greater political cooperation in the region.

Regarding the political and security Partnership in the Mediterranean region, cooperation in promoting human rights and democracy aiming at capacity building of civil society players in a regional or sub-regional framework, was emphasised by the Union, endorsing the relevant Commission communication "Reinvigorating EU actions on Human Rights with Mediterranean partners". Existing partnership building measures in the field of security were pursued, while Ministers mandated Senior Officials to study further and identify new measures if necessary on the basis of participation by a limited number of partners, open to others to join later.

## **7. MASHREK/MAGHREB**

### **(a) Algeria**

The Euro-Mediterranean Agreement signed on 22 April 2002 in Valencia (Spain) is currently in the process of ratification in the EU Member States and Algeria. It will eventually institutionalise the political dialogue and provide for bilateral co-operation in many areas, including co-operation in the fight against terrorism. Algeria has so far not signalled an interest in concluding an agreement in order to advance the trade part of the Association Agreement awaiting entry into force of the remainder of the Association Agreement.

A political dialogue meeting was held at ministerial level on 3 November in Rome. The parties held an exchange of views on the human rights situation in Algeria, as well as on the general situation in the run-up to the presidential elections to be held in April 2004. Regional issues such as Western Sahara, Maghreb integration and the state of play of the Union of the Arab Maghreb were also discussed. The international issues addressed were the Middle East Peace Process and the situation in Iraq. Algeria restated its interest in developing further the dialogue with the EU on counter-terrorism issues. It also expressed an interest in the European Security Strategy and the dialogue the EU is developing with the Mediterranean countries on ESDP issues subject to clear objectives and comparative advantages.

#### **(b) Tunisia**

The Association Council held its fourth meeting on 30 September in Brussels. The political dialogue covered the Middle East Peace Process, Iraq, fight against terrorism, the democratic process in Tunisia, the Barcelona Process and prospects for co-operation in the framework of the New Wider Europe Policy as well as sub-regional co-operation. The Association Council adopted a decision establishing six sub-committees with a view to intensifying relations. The sub-committees are set up in the areas: Internal Market; Industry, trade and services; Transport, environment and energy; Research and innovation; Agriculture and fisheries and Justice and security. Tunisia also agreed herein to consider the setting-up of a sub-committee on human rights.

#### **(c) Morocco**

The Association Council held its third meeting on 24 February in Brussels. The political dialogue covered the EU enlargement, ESDP, Iraq, the Middle East, Western Sahara and other regional questions. The Association Council adopted a decision providing for the set-up of 6 sub-committees with a view to a deepening of relations in the perspective of the Moroccan aim to acquire an advanced status with the EU. Part of the sub-committees have held their first meetings during 2003, the remainder will be activated in the first half of 2004. The decision also provides for the establishment of a sub-committee on human rights subject to agreement by both parties.

At the occasion of the third meeting of the Association Committee on 21 October in Rabat, the parties also exchanged views on political questions of common interest, international, regional and bilateral. The parties decided that these questions could be further developed in the framework of a strategic high-level reinforced political dialogue, which should hold its first ad hoc meeting in the first half of 2004. The Association Committee also agreed on the set up of a sub-committee on human rights. The parties will now define the modalities and the objectives of such a committee.

**(d) Western Sahara**

The EU regularly evaluated the situation. Its position continued to be fully supportive of the efforts of the UNSG and his Personal Envoy, James Baker, aimed at finding a negotiated solution which would be durable and mutually acceptable, in conformity with international law and the terms of the unanimously adopted UNSC Resolution 1495 (2003). The EU repeatedly called on the parties to undertake immediate concrete measures to improve the humanitarian situation with a view to contributing to establishing a climate of confidence and positively influencing the search for a political solution. The EU on 5 March welcomed the release of 100 prisoners of war detained in the Tindouf camps but reminded all parties of their respective obligations. It called on the parties, each within their own responsibilities, to release without delay all remaining prisoners of war, to cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross on the issue of the disappeared and to ensure family contacts between the refugees in Tindouf and their families in Western Sahara through the free exchange of correspondence, telephone contacts and visits.

**(e) Libya**

Libya continued to be invited to certain meetings of the Barcelona Process. As special guest of the Presidency, it attended the Euro-Mediterranean Mid-term Conference on 26/27 May in Crete (Greece) and the Euro-Mediterranean Conference in Naples (Italy) on 2/3 December.



**(f) Israel**

At the occasion of the third meeting of the Association Committee held on 9 July in Brussels, both parties had an exchange of views on political matters of common interest, notably the Middle East Peace Process, terrorism, non-proliferation, Iraq and Iran. The Israeli delegation presented a proposal for further co-operation on political issues.

The Association Council held its fourth meeting on 18 November in Brussels. The political dialogue focussed on the situation in the Middle East, Iran and Iraq. Moreover the prospects and conditions for the implementation of the Wider Europe/New Neighbourhood Policy were discussed.

**(g) Lebanon**

The Interim Agreement on trade and trade-related matters which was signed at the same time as the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement in June 2002 entered into force on 1 March.

**(h) Jordan**

The second meeting of the Association Council was held on 14 October in Luxembourg. The political dialogue focussed on the Middle East Peace Process, Iraq, the Barcelona Process, the Wider Europe/New Neighbourhood Policy, the Agadir declaration, sub-regional co-operation and the democratic process in Jordan. Jordan committed itself to accelerate reforms in a number of areas. They will be addressed through the New Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan to be adopted in the course of 2004.

A decision on the setting-up of nine technical sub-committees as well as of a working party for social affairs was adopted by written procedure on 14 August. Jordan agreed herein to also consider the setting-up of a sub-committee on human rights.

## **(i) Egypt**

Pending ratification of the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement signed in 2001, the parties agreed to conducting a political dialogue at all levels. A meeting at ministerial level took place on 17 June in Luxembourg. The parties discussed the Middle East Peace Process, Iraq, terrorism, the internal situation in Egypt, the Barcelona Process and the Wider Europe/New Neighbourhood Initiative. The political dialogue will be institutionalised by the entry into force of the Association Agreement expected to happen during 2004.

## **(j) Syria**

Negotiations for the conclusion of a Euro-Mediterranean Agreement continued during 2003 and gained in intensity with three negotiating rounds taking place 12/13 March in Damas, 15/16 October in Brussels and 8/9 December in Damas. The last round of negotiation brought the parties very close to an agreement and it is expected that the Association Agreement could be signed during 2004. Syria would be the last of the partners in the Barcelona process to conclude an Association Agreement, thus completing the network.

## **8. MIDDLE EAST / GULF**

### **(a) Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)**

The 13th EU-GCC Joint Council and Ministerial meeting took place in Doha, Qatar, on 3 March. The discussions covered a wide range of subjects, including political issues of mutual interest such as the situation in Iraq, the Middle East Peace Process, human rights, counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In preparation of the Ministerial meeting, EU and GCC officials met in Brussels on 28 and 29 January in the Joint Co-operation Committee and for a political dialogue meeting.

Throughout the year, negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement continued, mainly focussing on trade and market access issues. The EU has informed the GCC of its intention to include provisions on human rights, the fight against terrorism and cooperation on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in all its agreements with 3<sup>rd</sup> countries. Negotiations with the GCC on these matters will begin in 2004.

**(b) Iran**

The EU pursued its policy of engagement and dialogue with Iran in 2003 aiming at supporting the reform process in the country.

Following the decision in June 2002 to deepen relations with Iran and the opening of negotiations with Iran on a Trade and Cooperation Agreement and on a Political Agreement on 12 December 2002, two rounds of negotiations took place in 2003 on respectively 10 April in Brussels and 1/2 June in Teheran. In line with the mandate, the negotiations on the Political Agreement were conducted by the Presidency and the Commission led the negotiations on the Trade and Cooperation Agreement. The 1 June meeting in Teheran offered an opportunity for a first discussion with Iran on the concerns expressed by the IAEA on Iran's nuclear programme and to convey to Iran the EU's wish to see Iran sign and implement an additional Protocol to its Safeguards Agreement and to work closely with the IAEA in order to demonstrate its stated peaceful intentions with regard to the programme. Throughout the rest of the year, the EU continued to bring to the attention of Iran its serious concerns over the Iranian nuclear programme, recalling that non-proliferation, as well as human rights, counter-terrorism and the Middle East Peace Process, were policy areas in which the EU expected significant progress in parallel with the deepening of economic relations. These are interdependent, indissoluble and mutually reinforcing elements of the global approach, which is the basis of progress in EU/Iran relations. In December, the Council decided that the EU would review progress in all areas of concern in the light of EU High Representative Javier Solana's visit to Iran in early 2004 and the next report by IAEA Director General Dr. El Baradei on Iran's nuclear programme.

In addition to the negotiations and contacts above, the EU also met with Iran within the framework of the EU-Iran Comprehensive Dialogue of which the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting took place in Athens on 29 April. Two rounds of the new « EU-Iran Human Rights Dialogue » in which both representatives of EU and Iranian authorities as well as NGOs participate, were held on respectively 14/15 March and 8/9 October.

### **(c) Iraq**

Throughout 2003 the EU followed the situation in Iraq with great concern. While expressing its commitment to supporting the economic and political reconstruction of Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein, within the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, the EU maintained that an adequate security environment and a strong and vital role of the UN would be essential for these endeavours to be successful.

As for the economic reconstruction, the EU (EC and Member States) made a substantial pledge at the Madrid Donor's Conference on 24 October. The Presidency and the Commission participated in the work of the "Core Group" which includes the major international donors.

On the political process, the European Council on 12 December welcomed the agreement of 15 November between the Iraqi Governing Council and the Coalition Provisional Authority on a timeline and programme for an accelerated transfer of power to a transitional Iraqi Government by 30 June 2004. It expressed its wholehearted condemnation of terrorist attacks on Iraqis, multinational forces and international organisations designed to undermine the political and economic reconstruction and called on all parties involved to keep the political process moving forward in an orderly and peaceful manner.

In 2004, the EU will discuss its medium term strategy in relation to Iraq based on a proposal from the EU High Representative, Javier Solana, and the Commission who were invited by the Council to elaborate such a strategy, presenting a progress report by March 2004.

## 9. ASIA-OCEANIA

### *Multilateral*

#### **(a) ASEAN and ARF**

The 14th EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting was held in Brussels on 27-28 January 2003. Ministers agreed to co-operate in the promotion of democracy and human rights, in the fight against terrorism and transnational crime, and to promote bilateral trade and investment flows.

The ARF remains of increasing importance for the dialogue and co-operation on security issues in the Asia Pacific region. The EU participated actively in the ARF Ministerial Meeting in June in Phnom Penh, and in the two Inter-sessional Group Meetings on Confidence Building Measures (ISG on CBMs), that were held in March in Vientiane and in November in Beijing.

The EU has constantly encouraged the further strengthening of this Forum, in particular through a reinforcement of confidence building measures, preventive diplomacy and practical co-operation in tackling common threats and problems.

#### **(b) ASEM**

A number of important meetings were held in the aftermath of the ASEM 4 Summit, which was held in Copenhagen on 23/24 September 2002. The main meetings were the ASEM Finance Ministers meeting (Bali-Indonesia, 5-6 July 2003), the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers meeting (Bali, Indonesia, 23-24 July 2003), the ASEM Economic Ministers meeting (Dalian, China, 23-24 July 2003), and the ASEM Environment Ministers meeting (Lecce, Italy, 13-14 October 2003).

At their meeting in Bali, Foreign Ministers discussed global economic developments, Millennium Development Goals and the international development agenda, a partnership for growth and development between Asia and Europe, inter-regional financial co-operation, anti-money laundering as well as combating the financing of terrorism.

## ***Bilateral***

### **(a) Afghanistan**

The Council closely followed the situation in Afghanistan and continued to press for the implementation of the Bonn Agreement, while reiterating the EU's full commitment to this process. It expressed at various occasions its grave concerns about the worsening security situation in some parts of Afghanistan as well as about the substantial increase in the cultivation of poppy and the resulting drugs threat.

In 2003, the EU continued to be the largest donor to Afghanistan with substantial stakes in the reconstruction of the country and preparation of the electoral process. Several Member States took over lead roles in key areas such as counter-narcotics, police reform and reform of the justice system. The Council extended twice for a six-month period the mandate of the EU Special Representative, Mr Francesc Vendrell, who is based in Kabul and acts under the authority of the High Representative. In October 2003, a EU troika mission at the level of State Secretaries visited Afghanistan.

The EU co-operated closely with other major players, in particular the United Nations (UNAMA) and ISAF, which came under NATO-leadership and extended its activities beyond Kabul on the basis of UNSCR 1510(2003). In the course of 2003, several EU Member States became involved in the setting up of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs).

### **(b) Australia and New Zealand**

As in previous years, the EU held a Ministerial Meeting with Australia (Rome, 3 October 2003). It held a Ministerial Meeting with New Zealand (Stockholm, 19 September 2003).

### **(c) Burma/Myanmar**

The EU continued to remain seriously concerned at the situation in the country and urged the Burmese authorities to restore democracy, pursue national reconciliation and respect human rights. The EU did not send any Troika to visit the country in 2003.

In April 2003 the Council extended the EU's Common Position on Burma for a further twelve months and decided to keep the evolution of the political situation in the country under close scrutiny. The EU also confirmed its readiness to react proportionately to developments in Burma/Myanmar, either positive or negative. Further to the arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi on 30 May 2003, and in accordance with its commitment to react proportionately to developments, the Council decided to implement without delay the strengthened sanctions originally envisaged to enter into force by October 2003. In December 2003, following a reshuffle of the Burmese government, the Council updated its visa ban and assets freeze list. The list applies to members of the State Peace and Development Council, government ministers, senior members of the military, members of the United Solidarity and Development Association, state-owned economic enterprises, and beneficiaries of the government's economic policy, and their families.

In every possible occasion, especially at political dialogue meetings, the Council invited Asian partners to use their influence on the Burmese authorities to promote change, and brought to their attention the fact that a prosperous and democratic Burma would be to their advantage. Upon initiative from the EU, the situation in Burma was a major topic both at the ARF (Phnom Penh, June) and the ASEM Ministerials (Bali, in July). Moreover, four EU Member States (Austria, Germany, France and Italy) were invited and participated in the "Forum on International Support for National Reconciliation in Myanmar" convened by Thailand on 15 December 2003 in Bangkok, in which Australia, Burma/Myanmar, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and Thailand took part.

The Council took note of the Government of Burma/Myanmar's announcement to convene the National Convention in 2004 and to draft a constitution. The Council called on the Government of Burma/Myanmar to enter into substantial and meaningful political dialogue, at the earliest opportunity, with the NLD, as well as other political groups, concerning a process leading to national reconciliation.

The Council fully endorsed the efforts of the UN Secretary General in Burma and his call upon the Burmese authorities to allow his Special Envoy, Tan Sri Ismail Razali, to return to Burma/Myanmar as soon as possible.

The EU also carried out demarches on political prisoners in the country, and introduced a resolution on Burma in the UNGA Third Committee and in the CHR.

#### **(d) China**

China and the EU intensified and expanded their relations in 2003. In the European Security Strategy adopted by the European Council on 12 December, the EU identifies China as a major strategic partner. In view of the sixth EU-China Summit which took place in Beijing on 30 October, both parties published policy papers on each other expressing their resolve to deepen EU-China co-operation in all areas. During the very successful Summit, the EU and China signed an Agreement on the Galileo Navigation System and initialled an Agreement on Approved Destination Status that will facilitate Chinese tourism in Europe.

The EU held several political dialogue meetings with Chinese interlocutors discussing a broad range of issues including the situation in the Middle East, Iraq, the Korean Peninsula, Burma, the fight against terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, illegal migration and transnational crime, and human rights. The EU praised the crucial role played by China in the Six-Party Talks on the Korean Peninsula. The EU also pursued its co-operation with China in the multilateral framework, including in ASEM and the ARF.

As to human rights dialogue with China, two rounds were held, in Athens in March and in Beijing in November. Both sides reconfirmed their commitment to work towards achieving meaningful and positive results. The EU raised, on these and several other occasions, its concerns over a wide range of human rights problems, including the death penalty, torture and administrative detention, freedom of expression and the media, the situation in Tibet and Xinjiang, ratification of the ICCPR and the implementation of the ICESCR, and rights of people with HIV/AIDS, and pointed to a number of individual cases. The EU also encouraged China to adhere to the Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court, and sponsored a seminar on this topic in Beijing.

As to the situation in Tibet, the EU encouraged direct dialogue between Beijing and the Dalai Lama as a means to a peaceful and lasting solution to the Tibetan question.



### **(e) East Timor**

The Council welcomed the establishment of diplomatic relations between East-Timor and Indonesia and encouraged further the development of good bilateral relations between the countries.

The Council is closely monitoring the situation of the Timorese refugees who are still on Indonesian territory close to the border with East Timor and is ready to cooperate with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in supporting the Indonesian authorities in the urgent implementation of rehousing programmes for those refugees who do not intend to settle permanently in East Timor.

### **(f) Indonesia**

The EU expressed its support to the efforts of the Indonesian government to make further progress in its economic recovery, to strengthen the country's democracy, reform its military and judicial systems, and enhance the rule of law and good governance. The EU reaffirmed its aspirations to build a closer partnership with Indonesia and further strengthen political dialogue, e.g. by increasing contacts and arranging high-level contacts in the margins of regional meetings. The EU reiterated on several occasions its attachment to a democratic, stable, united and prosperous Indonesia, and supported Indonesia's territorial integrity. The EU expressed its readiness to assist Indonesia in support and observation of the 2004 Presidential and parliamentary elections.

The Council expressed its solidarity with Indonesia in fighting terrorism and recognised the serious challenges the country is facing. The EU condemned the terrorist attack that occurred at the Marriott hotel in Jakarta in August. The Council welcomed the significant steps taken by the Indonesian government following the Bali attacks and indicated the EU's readiness to support the Government in this field. The EU encouraged Indonesia to adhere to the twelve UN conventions on terrorism.

The EU reaffirmed the importance it attaches to the protection and promotion of human rights in Indonesia, and urged the authorities to maintain the moratorium on the execution of the death penalty. The EU welcomed the establishment of an ad hoc Human Rights Tribunal on East Timor. However, the EU regretted that the trials, completed with the last verdict delivered in August, had failed to deliver justice and did not result in a substantiated account of the violence.

On several occasions, the Council stressed the importance of the full implementation of the letter and the spirit of the Special Autonomy laws in Aceh and Papua. In November, the EU, Japan and the United States, which co-chaired the Tokyo preparatory conference on peace and reconstruction in Aceh, expressed concern for the extension of the state of military emergency in Aceh, and encouraged the government during the state of emergency to carry out its activities with the minimum possible impact on the well-being of the people in Aceh and in an approach that included humanitarian aid, restoration of civil institutions and upholding the law.

#### **(g) India**

The Council continued its efforts to develop a strategic partnership with India. A successful EU-India Summit was held in New Delhi, November 2003. The Summit approved a new Agenda for Action, providing, inter alia, for a bilateral Maritime Agreement as well as for the start of negotiations on India's participation in the GALILEO programme and on a Customs-Co-operation Agreement.

Throughout 2003, the Council pursued a political dialogue with India on a wide range of bilateral and multilateral subjects of common interest. A Ministerial meeting took place in Athens in January 2003 and several meetings were held at Senior Officials and experts level, including a successful informal brainstorming meeting in New Delhi, in October 2003.

#### **(h) Japan**

Close co-operation between the EU and Japan continued during 2003. A successful Summit was held in Athens on 1-2 May, which was followed by a Ministerial Meeting held in New York on 24 September. The implementation of the EU-Japan Action Plan has been proceeding well. In the European Security Strategy, adopted by the European Council in December 2003, the EU committed itself to establish a strategic partnership with Japan, as one of the key countries sharing its objectives and values.

### **(i) Korean Peninsula**

The year 2003 was characterised by the EU's serious concern at the DPRK's nuclear programme. On 12 December 2003 the European Council urged the DPRK to return to full compliance with the NPT and completely, verifiably and irreversibly dismantle its nuclear programme.

An EU regional directors troika visited the DPRK in December 2003. It underlined the Union's commitment to contribute to a peaceful solution to the current situation, through the continuation of the "Six-party talks", and its preparedness to enhance its co-operation with the DPRK, provided that the DPRK fully complied with its international obligations.

### **(j) Nepal**

The Council followed with grave concern the political and security situation in Nepal. The EU pressed both the government and the Maoist insurgents to engage seriously in a peace process and it called for a solution to the constitutional crisis and a return to multiparty democracy. The Council urged both warring parties to respect human rights. It also encouraged the government to address the root-causes of the conflict, notably poverty, exclusion and corruption.

### **(k) Pakistan**

The Council continued to follow closely the situation in Pakistan and encouraged a return to democracy and respect for human rights. An EU troika at the level of State Secretaries visited Pakistan in October 2003.

Both in its political dialogue with India and Pakistan, the EU welcomed and supported the efforts made by the leaders of these two countries to improve their bilateral relationship and to work towards a peaceful settlement of the outstanding issues between them.

## **(I) Sri Lanka**

The Council remained strongly committed to the peace process and supported international efforts to bring an end to the violent conflict between the government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The EU actively participated in the Tokyo Conference on Reconstruction and Development in Sri Lanka, in June 2003, and contributed significantly – as a Co-Chair together with Japan, the United States and Norway - to monitoring progress towards peace and to implementing the Tokyo Declaration. A political dialogue meeting with Sri Lanka at ministerial level was held in the margins of the UN General Assembly.

## **10. AFRICA**

### ***Multilateral Relations***

#### **a) Conflict Prevention**

The Council adopted on 26-27 January 2004 a revised Common Position on Conflict prevention, management and resolution in Africa. The adoption of this Common Position underlines the importance, which the EU attaches to its relationship with Africa. The EU sees Africa as a key strategic partner and is deeply committed to assisting Africa and its regional organisations. The Council stressed the need to shift from crisis management, focussing on ongoing imminent crises, to conflict prevention in a long-term peace-building sense. This requires an integrated approach, working through all EU's external action instruments so as to define comprehensive preventive strategies.

#### **b) Peace Facility for Africa**

On 17-18 November the Council approved a draft decision to be adopted by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers on the use of European Development Fund resources for the creation of a Peace Facility in Africa.

This initiative is in response to a request made by the African Union at its summit in Maputo for the EU to examine the possibility of setting up a Peace Support Operation Facility, to fund peace support and peace keeping operations conducted under the authority of the AU. Its success will depend on an enhanced cooperation between the AU, African sub-regional organisations, the EU and the UN with the aim of supporting African led peace keeping efforts and institution and capacity building. The functioning of the Facility will require an enhanced and permanent political EU-AU dialogue calling for close interaction between AU, EU and the UN in regard with peace and security in Africa.

The intention is to provide a budget of 250 million € to enable the facility to become operational during the course of 2004.

**c) Political dialogue**

Noting a need for political dialogue to become a permanent feature of EU action in the ACP countries in conformity with the Cotonou Agreement, article 8, the EU has agreed upon such a systematical dialogue to be carried out in a continuous, structured but flexible way. Local Heads of Mission have therefore been instructed to agree locally on a series of themes to be discussed in the framework of political dialogue over a period of successive EU presidencies including urgent and topical issues. The political dialogue should be comprehensive, i.e. cover a sufficiently broad set of issues and be conducted with a sufficiently large spectrum of actors, including civil society.

#### **d) Africa-Europe Dialogue**

Following the postponement of the EU-Africa Summit, scheduled to take place in April 2003 in Lisbon, EU efforts concentrated on the continuation of the dialogue with the African side at different levels. A Ministerial Troika in the margins of the Summit of the African Union in Maputo took place in July. A second Ministerial Troika under the Italian Presidency took place in November in Rome. The two sides reaffirmed the strategic nature of the partnership between the EU and Africa and acknowledged that the EU-Africa dialogue is a process that focuses on issues of common interest with a view to reaching a common political understanding. The discussions emphasised the joint commitment to continue and deepen the dialogue. Both sides agreed to enhance the effectiveness of the EU-Africa dialogue both in content and in modalities.

#### **e) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**

The Fourth ministerial meeting between the EU and ECOWAS took place in Accra (Ghana) on 15 October 2003. The EU congratulated ECOWAS for the successful mediation and peacekeeping efforts concerning the conflicts in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. ECOWAS thanked the EU for its political and financial support during the resolution of both conflicts. The EU recognised the crucial role of ECOWAS with regard to economic integration and peace and stability in West Africa and confirmed its full support for the reinforcement of ECOWAS' capacities in conflict prevention, management and resolution. Both parties reiterated their commitment to reinforced dialogue through the Heads of Mission accredited in Abuja and through EU/ECOWAS ministerial troikas.

#### **f) Mano River Union (MRU)**

The EU has pursued its strategy on the Mano River Union in accordance with the Council Conclusions adopted in 2002. During 2003, the Greek and the Italian Presidencies have renewed the mandate of the Presidency's Special Representative (PSR) for the Mano River Union, Hans Dahlgren. PSR Dahlgren has developed close contacts with the main political actors in the region.

PSR Dahlgren has been actively involved in the resolution of the conflict in Liberia. In Spring 2003, PSR Dahlgren, acting in his capacity of co-chairman of the International Conflict Group for Liberia (ICGL) had intense contacts with the parties in conflict to negotiate a peace agreement. In fact, during his April mission to Liberia, the PRSR obtained the commitment by the parties to enter into cease-fire negotiations under the mediation of ECOWAS.

**g) Southern African Development Community (SADC)**

In the context of a continued comprehensive dialogue between the EU and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the SADC-EU Joint Steering Committee met in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania on 4-5 September and the EU-SADC Senior Officials met in Brussels on 12-13 November. The meetings discussed matters arising out of the SADC-EU Ministerial meeting in November 2002 and continued the review process initiated at that meeting. They also discussed development in the two regions and other matters of mutual interest.

**h) Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)**

The Italian Presidency organised for the first time a political dialogue meeting with IGAD on 23 October 2003 in the margins of the IGAD Summit in Kampala. The EU Ministerial Troika met with the IGAD trio under the Ugandan Presidency together with Sudan and the IGAD Secretariat. The main objective of this dialogue meeting was to recognise IGAD's significant role in the ongoing peace processes (Somalia and Sudan) and to affirm the EU willingness to support the institutional reform. The EU welcomed the adoption of a new strategy for IGAD and expressed the hope for speedy implementation. Both sides expressed an interest in enhancing future EU-IGAD co-operation and, encouraged each other to working together in the future in order to tackle the challenges in the region.

**i) IGAD sponsored peace processes in the Horn of Africa**

The EU has been fully supporting the IGAD sponsored Sudan peace talks in Naivasha and the Mbagathi Reconciliation Conference on Somalia. Vis-à-vis Somalia and Sudan the EU reiterated its strong commitment to continue supporting both peace processes. The EU together with the international community would assist the countries in implementing the agreements.

## **j) Great Lakes region**

The EU continued to give its full support to the efforts of the UN and the AU, as well as of regional leaders and other parties, aimed at sustaining the efforts for peace in the region, in particular in Burundi and the DRC. In the same line the Council also continued to extend the mandate of the EU Special Representative Mr Aldo Ajello for the Great Lakes region on 10 December 2002 and 16 June 2003. Throughout 2003 Mr Ajello conducted extensive consultations with regional leaders, governments and other interested parties. He maintained close contact with the UN, the AU and other international organisations, participated actively in the Inter-Congolese dialogue negotiations in Sun City, South Africa and elsewhere.

### ***Bilateral relations***

#### **1) Angola**

In conformity with the stated objectives of supporting the peace process, national reconciliation and democracy, on 27 January 2003 the EU repealed its Regulation regarding the interruption of certain economic relations with Angola in connection with the activities of UNITA.

On the completion of the peace process, the EU congratulated the government and UNITA for the strong will shown in achieving peaceful conditions and initiating a process of national reconciliation. The EU invited all parties to continue to work together on these achievements.

When reviewing the Common Position of 13 October 2003, the Council recognised the substantial political changes that had occurred in Angola in 2002. The Council states its objectives to be the strengthening of mutually beneficial relations in all areas of common interest. It noted the steps taken in the direction of national reconciliation and democracy through the promotion of good governance. The Government and all political forces were encouraged to hold free and fair general elections as soon as possible, to accelerate the constitutional reform process, respect the rule of law, promote and protect human rights and foster the role of civil society. It also urged the government to intensify its efforts to relieve the serious humanitarian situation.



In order to further these objectives the EU is conducting a regular political dialogue with the Angolan authorities and assisting the government in its efforts of national reconciliation.

## **2) Burundi**

Developments in Burundi during the year covered the handover of the Presidency on 1 May from President Buyoya to Vice-President Ndayizeye in conformity with the Arusha agreement. The EU on 19 November welcomed the signing of a peace agreement between the transitional government of Burundi and the FDD, while calling on the FNL to abandon its continued but futile military operations. The EC also contributed financially to the African Union Cease-fire Observer Mission and subsequently to the African Union Peacekeeping force made up of soldiers from South Africa, Mozambique and Ethiopia. The EU also strongly condemned the murder of the Papal Nuncio to Burundi, Archbishop Michael Courtney, on 29 December 2003, following an ambush on the Nuncio's car in Minago, south of Bujumbura.

## **3) Cameroon**

In December, the EU and Cameroon held their first meeting for the launching of a structured political dialogue. On 18-21 November 2003, Cameroon was examined by the UN Committee against torture. In its conclusion the Committee noted the actions taken to improve conditions in the prisons. The Committee recommended that Cameroon take all measures to terminate the practice of torture.

## **4) Chad**

The EU welcomed the signature of the peace agreement between the government and the rebel movement (MDJT) on 14 December 2003 as a decisive step towards sustainable development. The conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan worsened at the end of 2003 and has spread over the border to Chad.

## 5) Central African Republic

The EU condemned the military coup d'état of 15 March 2003. It called on the authorities and all nationals to resume dialogue with the objective of reconciliation and to return to democracy and national reconstruction.

In May, the Council decided to hold Art. 96 consultations, which took place in Brussels on 12 June 2003. The EU noted with satisfaction that despite a number of problems, the transition process was on a positive path. The EU decided to suspend cooperation partially (a number of projects, macro economic support), which will be restored when the government has adopted a macro economic plan with IMF support and an electoral plan leading the country to open, transparent and credible elections in 2005 at the latest.

## 6) Côte d'Ivoire

After the outburst of the crisis in 2002, the EU actively supported the peace process through political and financial contributions to the peace talks. The EU was one of the main actors at the peace negotiations leading to the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, signed by the parties in conflict on 24 January 2003, in which the EU High Representative acted as a witness. The EU also participated in the Paris Summit of Heads of State on Côte d'Ivoire held on 25-26 January 2003.

Besides promoting and welcoming the agreement, the EU has also been involved in its implementation. The EU Presidency and the Commission are represented in the Follow-up Committee created by the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement to monitor its implementation. A joint delegation of the European Parliament and ACP/UE Paritary Assembly visited Abidjan in May. On various occasions, the EU has insisted on the importance that the parties abide by the Agreement, which should lead the country to a successful transition and to holding elections in 2005. In October 2003, the EU condemned the murder of the RFI reporter Jean Hélène. In December 2003, the EU welcomed the meeting held in Yamoussoukro between the national armed forces and the representatives of the rebel group *Forces Nouvelles* with a view of assembling and disarming the rebel forces and called the *Forces Nouvelles* to resume their participation in the transition government.

## **7) Democratic Republic of Congo**

The EU followed closely the situation in the DRC and the consequences it had for the stability in the region of the Great Lakes. In this context it warmly welcomed the steps towards a lasting peace taken during the last year. It welcomed the conclusion of the inter-Congolese dialogue in Sun City, South Africa on 2 April as a significant further step towards lasting peace in the DRC and the whole of the region.

On 8 May the Council adopted Common Position 2003/319/CFSP concerning support for the implementation of the Lusaka cease-fire agreement and the peace process in the DRC.

Answering to a request from the Secretary General of the UN, the EU decided to provide a temporary stabilisation force in the Bunia region in implementation of the mandate provided in the UNSC resolution 1484/03. This was the first EU-led military intervention outside of Europe. The objective of the operation ARTEMIS, as it was called, was to facilitate the build-up and deployment of a reinforced MONUC presence in Bunia by mid-August 2003. The Council on 21 July adopted conclusions on the EU's further commitments to the DRC and the Great Lakes region.

In conformity with UN Security Council Resolution 1493/03, the Council on 29 September 2003 adopted a Common Position (2003/680/CFSP) on the supply of certain equipment into the DRC. The EU continued to express concern over the human rights situation in the country and tabled a resolution to that effect in the third committee of the 59<sup>th</sup> Commission on Human Rights.

## **8) Equatorial Guinea**

In November, a Commission mission from Gabon visited Equatorial Guinea. The mission noted some progress in the political situation: the government has ratified the Cotonou Agreement, accredited the new Commission Head of Delegation and signed an agreement with the opposition guaranteeing a number of fundamental freedoms.

## **9) Eritrea**

After the failure of a High level Troika meeting with President Isayas in 2002 the EU managed to establish regular political dialogue meetings in Asmara. The government agreed to discuss all issues relevant to both sides, however announcing at the same time that sensitive issues relating to state security might be restricted in these meetings. The EU insisted on including issues of concern such as human rights, governance, democracy and freedom of press in the dialogue. In particular, the EU reiterated its hope that the political dialogue would facilitate development co-operation with the country. The EU also maintained the issue of the border demarcation with Ethiopia on the agenda.

## **10) Ethiopia**

In the framework of the Article 8 political dialogue regular meetings took place at Heads of Mission level in Addis Ababa extending discussions to issues of peace and security (regional peace processes) while maintaining human rights, democracy and governance on the agenda. Important issues included the food crisis and security in the country as well as the stalemate in the border demarcation with Eritrea. The EU also maintained the issue of the border demarcation with Eritrea on the agenda.

## **11) Ethiopia – Eritrea**

Following the refusal of the Ethiopian government to accept the decision of the Boundary Commission (BC), expressed in a letter sent to the UN SC last September, the possible failure of the Ethiopian-Eritrean peace process has become as a serious issue. The risk of continuing incidents in the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ) remains high. The EU increased its activities in support of the international efforts to implement the Boundary Commission's decision. Demarcation, scheduled to start after some delay in October 2003, was finally postponed sine die. The EU has repeatedly recalled to both sides that they had accepted the BC's decision as final and binding and that it expected from both sides to continue to co-operate fully with the BC and to implement the decision peacefully.

The EU pledged full support to the UN mission to Eritrea and Ethiopia (UNMEE) and to the UNSG Special Representative, Ambassador Legwaila and underlined their crucial role in the implementation of the BC decision.

## **12) Guinea-Bissau**

In September 2003, the EU condemned the coup d'état that ousted President Kumba Yala from power and urged the different political parties, and civil society to form a transitional government in order to take the country to democratic rule as soon as possible. The EU has urged the government to organise early and credible elections. These effectively took place at the end of March 2004 . In December, the Council agreed to begin Art. 96 Consultations thereby engaging in a positive and constructive dialogue with the government of Guinea-Bissau. The consultations were launched in Brussels in January 2004 and it was noted that the consultations did not necessarily imply the suspension of aid to Guinea-Bissau.

## **13) Guinea**

In January 2003, Commissioner Nielson met a ministerial delegation from Guinea. The Presidency Special Representative for the Mano River Union travelled to Guinea in November and held contacts with the government, opposition and civil society representatives. The Presidential elections took place in December 2003. The opposition boycotted these elections and President Lansana Conté proclaimed its victory with 95% of the votes. The EU decided not to send an election observation mission, since the Government of Guinea had not fully complied with the benchmarks required for EU electoral support, i.e. liberalisation of the airwaves and the creation of an independent electoral commission.

## 14) Kenya

Following the general elections on 27 December 2002 the EU intensified political dialogue with the new government *inter alia* in regular meetings at Heads of Mission level in Nairobi. The Constitutional reform, legal and public sector reorganisation, economic recovery, human rights, security sector reform and fight against terrorism as well as development co-operation were on the agenda.

On 18-19 September an EU Ministerial Troika met with the Kenyan government and the President Kibaki. In the discussion the EU expressed its recognition to the great efforts Kenya has undertaken in the peaceful transition and democratisation of the country. The objective of the Troika visit was to underline the EU's commitment to support Kenya in its reform process and it informed the government of the adoption of the Country Strategy Paper (CSP) for the period 2003-2007 providing € 225 Mio as grants from the 9th EDF to support Kenya's efforts in achieving sustainable growth and reducing poverty.

The EU considers Kenya as a country of political stability in the conflict shaken region and therefore acknowledged and strongly commended Kenya's crucial role in the regional conflict resolution efforts (Sudan and Somalia) and emphasised its important role in regional integration in the framework of IGAD.

## 15) Liberia

The EU strongly supported politically and financially ECOWAS' mediation and peacekeeping efforts to bring an end to the fourteen-year conflict in Liberia (see above). The EU (represented by the Presidency Special Representative Hans Dahlgren) is one of the members of the ICGL (International Contact Group on Liberia), created in late 2002 to consolidate the efforts to promote peace and reconciliation in the Mano River Union in general and in Liberia in particular. The EU welcomed the cease-fire agreed in June between the government of Liberia and the rebel groups LURD and MODEL, condemned its violations and welcomed the achievement of a Comprehensive Peace Agreement in August 2003. On 16 September 2003, the European Commission granted € 8 million as an *ad hoc* intervention to support peacekeeping efforts in Liberia by ECOWAS.

The objective of the support is to offer urgent assistance in the implementation of the fragile peace process and to promote a return to stability and national reconciliation. The Commission through its humanitarian office ECHO has granted a further € 4 million in response to urgent humanitarian needs in Liberia. The EU has given its full political and economic support to the transitional government in Liberia. An EU ministerial delegation attended the inauguration of the Transitional Government in Liberia on 14 October 2003.

#### **16) Mauritania**

The EU recognised and commended the conduct of the presidential elections in November, which were conducted in an atmosphere of calm. The EU also welcomed the re-election of President Taya. However, concern was expressed regarding an incident whereby one of the candidates was questioned by police before and after the election. . The EU called on the government and the opposition of Mauritania to resume dialogue in a spirit of openness and responsibility so as to ease political tensions .

#### **17) Mozambique**

The EU sent an election observer mission to Mozambique for the 19 November 2003 municipal elections . The EU welcomed the fact that the elections passed off calmly in a peaceful atmosphere and the constructive attitude of the party leaders. The EU however expressed concern over certain shortcomings in the efficiency and transparency of the election administration. These questions will be raised in the context of the political dialogue with the country and an EU Election Observation Mission will be deployed to monitor the upcoming legislative and presidential elections in 2004.

#### **18) Nigeria**

In May, the EU welcomed the fact that Presidential and Gubernatorial elections in Nigeria had taken place peacefully and congratulated President Obasanjo for his victory. However, the EU also expressed concern for the instances of irregularity and fraud reported by the EU election observation mission. In November 2003, the EU adopted a new Common Position on Nigeria,

where it welcomed the achievements of the Nigerian authorities to date in consolidating democracy and advancing socio-economic development. To these two ends, the EU intends to pursue a consistent and coherent policy approach towards Nigeria, with a view to supporting Nigeria's own processes of consolidating democracy and respect for human rights; reducing poverty and achieving sustainable social and economic development; enhancing its capacity to contribute to regional integration, peace, security, development and good governance and strengthening the electoral processes.

The EU has held regular political dialogue meetings with Nigeria. In the context of this dialogue, the EU has expressed its concern about application of the death penalty and especially, about sentencing to cruel and inhuman methods of capital punishment, such as stoning.

### **19) Rwanda**

The EU observed the Presidential and parliamentary elections in Rwanda and commented on them in declarations on 29 August and 13 October. In the context of the review of the Common Position, the Council on 8 December stated its objectives and priorities in relation with Rwanda. They are to encourage, stimulate and support the process: 1) of consolidation of democracy and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, 2) recovery from genocide , and 3) reconstruction, poverty reduction and development.

### **20) Sao Tomé e Príncipe**

The EU condemned the military rebellion of July 2003, reiterating its rejection of any unconstitutional seizure of power and its commitment to the rule of law and the democratic process, and therefore appealing for the restoration of the constitutional order, which effectively took place.

### **21) Sierra Leone**

In March 2003, the EU issued a statement in support of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and welcoming its prompt action, that led to its first indictments and arrests. . The United Nations Mission to Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) continues to downsize as the situation in the country remains



stable, including in border areas. UNAMSIL has handed over security responsibilities to Government forces in areas where there are relatively low security threats, mostly in the central region. The disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration programme was completed on 31 December 2003.

## **22) Somalia**

The EU is supporting the Mbagathi Reconciliation Conference and reiterated the importance of a comprehensive result acceptable by all parties, with a view to enable the emergence of an all-inclusive broad-based government..

The EU called on all Somali leaders to avoid any action which may disrupt the Conference and to achieve a final compromise as early as possible. In the margins of the EU Ministerial Troika mission in Kenya in September 2003 the EU Troika had discussions with the International Observers to the Somali peace process, the IGAD Technical Committee and with a delegation of some 30 Somali leaders present in Nairobi. The EU reiterated its position that there was no credible alternative to the Mbagathi Conference to establish an effective government and to reassure Somalia of EU support in national reconciliation and peace building.

Following a number of setbacks in the reconciliation conference in late 2003, the EU welcomed the decision of the IGAD Facilitation Committee to convene a retreat of Somali leaders in order to prepare for the final phase of the Conference.

## **23) South Africa**

The EU continued its important political dialogue with South Africa. This dialogue covered areas of national and bilateral issues, regional matters and African Union (where South Africa held the Presidency until mid-2003) and NEPAD. Other issues discussed included peace and security in Africa specifically such as the Peace and Security Council, South Africa's contribution to peace keeping efforts in various African countries was recognised by the EU.

## 24) Sudan

The EU expressed its full readiness to support and assist the consolidation of a comprehensive peace agreement in the Sudan. The EU Ministerial Troika met twice with the negotiators in the Naivasha peace talks. It underlined in both meetings the importance the EU attaches to these peace talks and stressed that the international community would reward a comprehensive agreement. The EU is committed to starting development co-operation once a comprehensive agreement is reached and it will assist and support the implementation of the agreement.

The EU considered the agreement on military and security questions in September as an important step towards a settlement of the civil war in Sudan. In October the Africa Working Group had a special meeting on the Sudan peace process with the participation of Gen. Sumbeiywo (IGAD facilitator) and UN Resident Coordinator M.Kapila.

In parallel to the ongoing peace talks the EU pursued its political dialogue in monthly meetings between Heads of Mission in Khartoum and the Government of Sudan (GoS) including in particular the human rights situation and democratisation. The EU expressed its deep concern about the worsening of the conflict in Darfur and in particular the humanitarian situation of refugees and IDPs.

A Ministerial Troika mission to Khartoum (meeting with the GoS) and Naivasha (meeting with the SPLM/A) in December reviewed progress in 2003 on the agreed benchmarks in the EU – Sudan political dialogue, including the peace process, democratisation, the rule of law and human rights. The Troika agreed with the GoS benchmarks for 2004 and underlined that human rights, democracy and the rule of law will continue to be fundamental elements in the process after a peace agreement. When a peace agreement is signed, the EU will fully normalise relations with the Sudan and resume development co-operation, including resettlement, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development for the whole of Sudan.

## **25) Togo**

Co-operation with Togo remains suspended, although the EU has pursued political dialogue with a view to normalising its relations with this country. In February, the EU noted the constitutional amendments and their relevance to the presidential elections. In May, the EU criticised the harassment of members of the opposition and human rights activists. In July, the EU expressed its concern for the incidents before, during and after the elections, which resulted in the harassment of opposition members, obstacles to freedom of expression and incidents preventing Togolese people from casting their vote.

## **26) Uganda**

Following the presentation of the report of ECHO Director General, Ms. Adinolfi on her visit to the region the EU started discussion on the humanitarian situation in northern Uganda. A demarche was carried out by the Ministerial EU Troika mission in the margin of the IGAD Summit in Kampala condemning the atrocities committed by the LRA. It urged the Ugandan government to explore all possible ways for a peaceful solution to the conflict in the North. In the context of conflicts in neighbouring countries (Sudan, DRC) developments in Uganda and its role were analysed also in the regional perspective.

## **27) Zimbabwe**

Noting that no improvement in the situation in Zimbabwe had taken place since the restrictive measures were put in place in 2002, the Council decided to extend them for another 12 months.

During the year, the Council continued to follow events closely in the country and has issued a number of declarations on events, including the crackdown on the opposition, the arrest of Morgan Tswangirai, (Movement for Democratic Change leader), sanctions against Zimbabwe, the freedom of the press and on the current situation in Zimbabwe..

As the food crisis in Zimbabwe worsened, the EU also made demarches in the other SADC capitals as well as Abuja and the AU, explaining the efforts the EU was undertaking to provide food aid to Zimbabwe. These demarches were carried out in an effort to counter the image that Zimbabwe is trying to paint of the EU causing hardship for the population in Zimbabwe through its "sanctions". The same message was passed in the EU-South Africa political dialogue meeting and in the EU-SADC meetings that have taken place during the year in the presence of Zimbabwe. During the troika meetings with the AU the question of Zimbabwe has also regularly been on the agenda.

## **11. LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN**

The EU actively further enhanced its relations with LA and its regions, groups and countries. It also intervened in situations where political stability, democracy and Human Rights were at risk, offering its practical help, political support and advice.

### ***EU-LAC***

The EU actively continued to implement the conclusions of the II EU-LAC Summit in Madrid (17 May 2002), and in particular the commitments in the Political Declaration. A mechanism for the presentation of bi-regional projects and a related website were created.

EU and LAC started preparations for the III Summit, to be held end of May 2004 in Guadalajara/Mexico. "Social Cohesion" and "Effective Multilateralism" will be the overarching themes for the agenda.

## ***Regional Groups***

### **(a) Mercosur, Chile and Bolivia**

A Ministerial meeting on political dialogue between the EU and Mercosur, Chile and Bolivia was held in Athens on 27 March 2003. On that occasion, Ministers reaffirmed their intention to further strengthen and deepen their political dialogue. Ministers took stock of and welcomed the progress made on the negotiations of an Association agreement between the EU and Mercosur.

As to the latter, three negotiating rounds took place in 2003 and an agreement was reached in November on a new work programme with a view to beginning the concluding period of the negotiations.

### **(b) Andean Community**

Honouring their commitment at the EU-Andean Summit (Madrid, 18 May 2002), after only two negotiating sessions, both parties signed a Political Dialogue and Co-operation Agreement in Rome on 15 December 2003. Its implementation should allow creating conditions under which, building on the outcome of the Doha Work Programme, a feasible and mutually beneficial Association Agreement, including a Free Trade Agreement, could be negotiated between them. Political dialogue will allow preparing the way for joint initiatives in numerous areas, including regional development security and stability, conflict prevention and resolution, fight against corruption, illegal migration, counter-terrorism, drugs, asset laundering and trafficking of small weapons.

At their annual ministerial meeting, on 27 March 2003 at Athens, both sides reiterated their strong commitment to international humanitarian law. The EU supported the Andean initiative of establishing a sub-regional "Peace-Zone" and the efforts of several Andean States to establish national dialogues aiming at creating broader political consensus and fostering social cohesion.

**(c) EU-San José**

The XIXth Ministerial meeting of the San José Dialogue was held in Panama on 12 May 2003. Discussions focused on the ongoing negotiations of a bi-regional Political Dialogue and Co-operation Agreement, as a precursor of a full-fledged Association Agreement. The Political Dialogue and Co-operation Agreement between the EC and its Member States and Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama (Belize, although not a party to the Agreement, will participate in the political dialogue mechanisms foreseen by the agreement) was signed in Rome on 15 December 2003.

**(d) Rio Group**

On 28 March 2003 the XI Institutionalised Ministerial Meeting between the Rio Group and the European Union took place in Vouliagmeni.

**(e) Political dialogue**

Political dialogue meetings at ministerial level took place in the margins of the UN General Assembly in September in New York with the Rio Group, Mercosur, the Andean Community and Central America.

***Individual countries***

**(a) Mexico**

On 27 March 2003, at their III Joint Council, EU and Mexico confirmed their commitment to the United Nation's System and the Rule of International Law.

They recalled their commitment to combat all forms of terrorism, which constitutes a threat to international peace and security, in full respect of international law, human rights and international humanitarian law.

**(b) Chile**

The first meeting of the EU-Chile Association Council, established by the EU-Chile Association Agreement, was held in Athens on 27 March 2003. Ministers recalled the importance of the political dialogue between the EU and Chile and agreed that appropriate mechanisms should be devised so as to co-ordinate positions and undertake joint initiatives in the appropriate international fora, and to co-operate in the field of foreign and security policy and in the fight against terrorism. They highlighted the relevance of strengthening the EU-Chile consultation and co-ordination at the UN Security Council.

In December 2003, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with Chile in order to adapt the association agreement to take account of the forthcoming EU enlargement.

**(c) Haiti**

Throughout 2003, the EU has closely monitored the situation in Haiti and has repeatedly expressed concern at the deterioration of the political climate and at increasingly frequent and serious violations of individual rights and freedoms and, in some cases, the brutal interventions by the national police. In particular, the EU has deplored the delays in the setting up of a provisional electoral council and the postponement of the elections. On 22 December 2003, the Council decided to extend the measures of article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement.

**(d) Guatemala**

The EU has followed with great attention the situation in Guatemala, in particular after the regretful events of 24-25 July 2003, and the electoral process that ended in December 2003 with the election of President Berger. An EU Electoral Observation Mission was deployed from August to December 2003 to monitor the electoral process and to underline the EU support to Guatemala in such a crucial step of the democratic life of that country.

**(e) Colombia**

As stated at the London meeting on international support for Colombia on 10 July, the European Union supports the efforts of President Uribe and his government to reform Colombia's institutions, to address effectively the threats to its democracy by terrorism and drugs, and to tackle the roots of the internal conflict through investing in social and economic development.

In the EU's view, there can be no purely military solution to Colombia's conflict. The EU requested that all illegal armed groups be prepared to engage in a negotiated process and act accordingly. The contribution of the UN Special Advisor for Colombia in this process is particularly valid. The EU urged the Colombian Government to base its efforts on the 27 recommendations of the UNHCHR to Colombia for 2003. The rehabilitation and reinsertion into society of former combatants should be undertaken in line with the relevant international law and jurisprudence and in a manner that respects the right of the victims of the conflict to truth, justice and reparation.

Co-operation commitments with Colombia by EU member states and the Commission in the year 2003 amounted to €300m.

The EU strongly condemned terrorist attacks and kidnappings in February, May and August, stressing that Colombia is not alone in its fight against terrorism, which is a common fight of all free and democratic nations. On the other hand, the EU recalled that to be efficient and acceptable, fight against terrorism must be done in the respect of human rights and democratic procedures. These positions were also repeated at meetings between the HR as well as of the EU Troika with Vice-president Santos and UN Special Advisor J. Lemoyne in early December.

**(f) Venezuela**

The EU continuously monitored the ongoing political crisis in Venezuela with great concern. It welcomed steps to settle the conflict within democratic institutions and procedures, such as the political agreement between the Venezuelan Government and opposition on 29 May, the appointment of the members of the Consejo Nacional Electoral on 25 August, as well as the collection of signatures for recall referenda which took place in an atmosphere of tolerance and restraint in December.



In this context, the EU reaffirmed its commitment to contribute to the democratic development of Venezuela, together with the Organisation of American States, the Carter Centre, the UNDP and the Group of Friends of the Secretary General of the OAS. The EU is ready to provide financial and technical assistance for the implementation of the agreement of 29 May.

**(g) Bolivia**

The European Council of 16-17 October expressed its deep concern about the dramatic events and violent incidents in Bolivia, which eventually lead to the resignation of the President in October. Few days before, at the Consultative Group meeting on 8-9-October in Paris, the EU, together with other donors had announced further funds. In its declaration of 21 October, welcoming the appointment of the new constitutional President, Mr Mesa Gisbert, the EU stressed again that it will continue to provide help and assistance to Bolivia in addressing the root causes of the crisis, for strengthening democratic institutions, the rule of law and respect for human rights, and in order to promote a more effective climate of social progress and economic development, including through increased political participation of indigenous peoples.

The EU will continue to be a significant source of investment, trade and development aid of Bolivia, which as one of the main beneficiaries of EC assistance in South America, has received more than Euro 500 Million since 1976.

**(h) Peru**

The EU welcomed the Peruvian Government's message on the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on violence in the period 1980-2000.

The EU acknowledged President Toledo's stand in favour of justice as well as compensation for the families of the victims, in addition to his apology on behalf of the Peruvian State. The EU will contribute to the plan for peace and development in the most affected areas of Peru.

**(i) Ecuador**

On the occasion of the first anniversary of the inauguration of President Gutierrez, the European Union underlined in a declaration published on 15 January 2004, that only the rule of law and good governance can provide a solid basis for political stability, social cohesion and economic development, which will in turn create the most advantageous conditions for further European co-operation and direct investment. The European Union encouraged the continuation of the economic policies implemented by the Government. The EU encouraged a comprehensive national dialogue to strengthen the democratic institutions of the State. The European Union stands ready to continue to support sound and effective reforms.

**(j) Cuba**

As soon as the wave of arrests in spring became public, the European Union and Member States issued public declarations and made strong demarches.

At its meeting of 14 April, the Council condemned the executions, the large-scale arrests of dissidents, the unfair trials and the arbitrary and excessive sentences imposed, and called for the immediate release of all political prisoners. The Council stated that these latest developments which mark a further deterioration in the Human Rights situation in Cuba will affect the EU's relationship with Cuba and the prospects for increased co-operation.

On 5 June, the EU made public four measures it had taken:

- limit the bilateral high-level governmental visits
- reduce the profile of member states' participation in cultural events
- invite Cuban dissidents at national days celebrations
- proceed to the re-evaluation of the EU common position.

In its evaluation of the Common Position on Cuba, in July, the Council reiterated these positions, underlining also that constructive engagement remains the basis of the EU's policy. However, following Cuba's decision to restrict co-operation activities, the EU decided that funding should be channelled through governmental institutions only if a direct benefit for the population or meaningful contribution towards economic opening and reform in Cuba is ensured.

Following Cuba's decision to deny normal access to its ministries for embassies which had applied the measures of 5 June, the EU insisted that the Cuban Government restore normal diplomatic relations in conformity with the Vienna Convention.

## 12. TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

Amid the perception of a deepening rift on both sides of the Atlantic caused by the Iraq crisis, the annual EU-US Summit was held in Washington on 25 June. The successful outcome of the Summit helped to restore the spirit of cooperation in the transatlantic relationship. In the Joint Statement on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction issued at the Summit, the EU and the US expressed their intention to strengthen the international system of treaties and regimes against the spread of WMD, both through the development of new regimes and the reinforcement of the existing ones. Furthermore, the EU and the US stated their will to cooperate in all areas to stop and reverse proliferation, in particular through adequate support to IAEA activities, and to address specific proliferation challenges such as those stemming from North Korea and Iran.

Two further Joint Statements were issued, namely on transatlantic aviation negotiations (agreement to begin comprehensive air service negotiations with the goal of opening access to markets and maximising effects for consumers, airlines and communities) and on the Hydrogen economy (commitment to collaborate on accelerating its development with the aim to enhancing the security of energy supply, increasing diversity of energy sources and improving local and global environmental quality). On the same date, two bilateral agreements on extradition and on mutual legal assistance were signed, an excellent example of EU and US commitment to common efforts in the fight against terrorism and a milestone in EU-US relations.

On 12 December, the European Council issued a declaration on transatlantic relations, stating that the transatlantic relation is irreplaceable and affirming the EU commitment to a constructive, balanced and forward-looking partnership with the transatlantic partners, based on shared values and common interests.

Work on the review of bilateral relations with Canada was pursued during 2003. The Athens Summit on 28 May 2003 allowed participants to take stock of the progress realised on the review exercise and reaffirmed broad identity of views on major international issues. Ministers of Foreign Affairs were expected to submit their report on the review at the December Summit but the latter was postponed.

## MULTILATERAL FORA

### 1. UNITED NATIONS

In 2003, the EU continued to play an active role in the 58th session of the United Nations General Assembly, as well as in the work of other relevant UN bodies, agencies and conferences.

On 21 July, the Council adopted the "EU Priorities Paper for UNGA 58", setting out the priorities for this session of the UN General Assembly. The EU reaffirmed its commitment to the UN as the unique instrument dealing with critical global problems that require collective resources and co-operation for a more prosperous and peaceful world. It also reaffirmed the importance the EU attaches to the "Millennium Declaration", incorporating the common vision of the international community towards peace, security and development with tangible goals. The comprehensive implementation of this Declaration remains an overriding priority of the EU, including a better co-ordination in the follow-up mechanisms of UN conferences. It was also considered that, to achieve the "Millennium Declaration" ambitious objectives until 2015, new initiatives would have to be taken with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of decision-making processes of the responsible UN organs and working fora, including in particular, ECOSOC and the pertinent committees of the UNGA.

On 24 September, the EU and the UN signed a Joint Declaration on co-operation in crisis management. The Parties welcome the existing co-operation between the UN and the EU in the area of civilian and military crisis management, in particular in the Balkans and in Africa. In this Declaration, they reaffirmed the principle that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rests with the United Nations Security Council, in accordance with the United Nations Charter. The EU reasserted its commitment to contribute to the objectives of the UN in crisis management. The EU and the UN have therefore agreed to establish a joint consultative mechanism at the working level to examine ways and means to enhance mutual co-ordination and compatibility in the areas of planning, training, communication and best practises of crisis management.

At its meeting on 8 December, the Council adopted relevant Conclusions on the "EU-UN relations". In these Conclusions, the Council assessed the different aspects of the EU-UN relations and reaffirmed the EU's deeply rooted commitment to make effective multilateralism a central element of its external action, with at its heart a strong UN, as also reflected in the European Security Strategy. The EU recalled its determination to play a major role within the UN system in line with its objective to develop a stronger international community, well functioning international institutions and international relations based on the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The EU also reaffirmed its intention to actively contribute to the ongoing UN comprehensive reform process, with a view to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the UN bodies, policies and processes.

## **2. INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)**

On 21 July, the Council adopted Conclusions recalling the principles that serve as guidelines when considering the necessity and scope of possible agreements or arrangements regarding the conditions for surrender to the ICC, with a view to preserving the integrity of the Rome Statute and ensuring respect for the obligations of States Parties under the Statute. It was agreed to continue, as appropriate, to draw the attention of third States to the above principles and express their appreciation to those countries that so far have been guided by them. The Council also expressed its readiness to continue the dialogue with all interested countries on the development of effective and impartial international criminal justice and the role of the ICC in that respect.

On 16 June, the Council adopted a new Common Position on the ICC, taking into account the entry into force of the Rome Statute, on 1 July 2002, and the fact that the Court is now fully functional. The EU reaffirmed the objective of the universal accession to the Court, by promoting the widest possible participation in the Rome Statute, and of the integrity of the Rome Statute. The Common Position also foresees different ways and means of supporting the ICC activity with a view to ensuring its independence.

In 2003, the EU pursued its actions aimed at promoting the ratification and preserving the integrity of the Rome Statute, in particular through several demarches to the governments of third countries.

### **3. ORGANISATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE)**

The EU has actively participated in the work of the OSCE in Vienna. Co-operation has been going on at the political, field and staff-to-staff level through regular contacts and meetings. The OSCE Ministerial Council in Maastricht (1-2 December 2003) has seen a significant presence of the EU and it has led to a relevant European action in the meeting. The EU will continue to play an important role in the implementation of the decisions taken in Maastricht. EU-OSCE co-operation encompassed the politico-military, economic and environmental and human dimensions and it has added specific tasks in the field of conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

The framework for relations between the EU and the OSCE has been further enhanced with the approval of the Council Conclusions on EU-OSCE co-operation in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation adopted on 17 November 2003. The EU will now concentrate in the implementation of these conclusions and will work to identify further potential co-operation areas and priorities for EU-OSCE co-operation.

### **4. COUNCIL OF EUROPE (CoE)**

Co-operation between the European Union and the Council of Europe will continue. During the 19th Quadripartite meeting between the European Union and the Council of Europe on 17 June 2003, both sides discussed the most relevant aspects of their co-operation focusing in particular on enlargement, the Constitution for Europe and the plans for a third Council of Europe summit. A joint Concluding Statement was agreed at the end of the meeting and it sets out different fields of co-operation aimed in particular to strengthening democratic stability in various region of the European continent.

## PERSPECTIVES FOR FUTURE ACTION

### 1. FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

In the wake of the terrorist attacks in Madrid, the European Council adopted a Declaration on Combating Terrorism. Terrorism has already been identified by the European Security Strategy as one of the key threats to EU interests. The Declaration calls for Member States to build on existing cooperation and effectively and comprehensively implement all outstanding measures previously adopted by the Council. At the same time, the Declaration sets out the broad parameters of an EU counter-terrorist strategy for the future, specifically in areas including suppression of the financing of terrorism, strengthening border controls and document security, greater protection of transport and civilian populations and enhanced cooperation at an international level, particularly in support of the work of the United Nations.

The Council appointed a Counter-Terrorism Coordinator (Mr Gijs de Vries) whose role will be to ensure coordination between different EU bodies and institutions in response to the threat posed by terrorism, and to maintain an overview of all instruments at the Union's disposal in this regard.

The Council also adopted a Declaration on Solidarity against Terrorism which calls on Member States to act in the spirit of the solidarity clause of the draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe.

A comprehensive revised Plan of Action on Terrorism, including key tasks and deadlines, will be brought to the European Council in June.

Further specialised seminars or workshops on preventing the financing of terrorism will be held within the context of political dialogue with third countries and regional organisations. Special attention will be put on the freezing of funds and economic resources pursuant to Regulations (EC)

No 881/2002 and No 2580/2001. Member States will continue to report to the Commission on the amounts frozen. Strengthening co-operation with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and all international organisations, institutions, and bodies concerned with suppressing and preventing the financing of terrorism.

## 2. NON-PROLIFERATION

### • **Weapons of Mass Destruction:**

In 2004, **implementation of chapter III of the Strategy** will focus, inter alia, on its new measures:

- The release of financial resources to support specific projects conducted by multilateral institutions such as the IAEA. A draft Joint Action has already been put forward to that effect and contacts with the IAEA have taken place in order to specify the projects and the modalities of EU supports. Three projects are under preparation in the area of nuclear security against terrorism; they should be carried out in countries selected among countries of south-eastern Europe, Central Asia, Georgia and Armenia.
- Strengthening export control policies and practices, including through the promotion of reinforced export controls with respect to intangible transfers of dual use technology,
- The enhancement of the physical protection of proliferation sensitive materials, equipment and expertise ,
- The adoption by Member States of common policies related to criminal sanctions for illegal export brokering and smuggling of WMD-related materials, as well as,
- The consideration of measures aimed at controlling the transit and transshipment of sensitive materials.

The Council should adopt by end of April 2004 the EU Joint Action supporting the IAEA programmes. The Council should also extend the EU Co-operation Programme in the Russian Federation beyond 24 June 2004.

In the light of developments Chapter III of the Strategy will be regularly updated.



- **Arms exports**

**Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Arms Exports:** Perspectives for action in 2004 include a review of the Code of Conduct, provision of technical assistance to acceding states and third countries and full implementation of the User's Guide.

**Common Position on the control of arms brokering:** Implementation of the Common Position taking into account the different situations of national legislation, will be followed up by COARM in 2004.

### **3. EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY**

On military capabilities, the Council wants to look beyond 2003 and develop a longer- term perspective by setting new or complementary goals with a 2010 horizon. Against the background of the European Security Strategy and the lessons from EU-led operations, the EU's new level of ambition will be translated into a qualitative and quantitative Headline Goal 2010 based on a concept of increasingly flexible, more rapid, more deployable and sustainable units that can work together for the best with a high degree of interoperability. As part of present efforts to overcome identified shortfalls, an ECAP (European Capabilities Action Plan) Roadmap will be developed. The Roadmap will a readable overview of capabilities and help Member States monitor progress and redirect project groups' work when necessary. Through the Steering Board of the future Agency, Defence Ministers will provide further direct impetus to capabilities work, an area in which the Agency itself will become a player.

In this context, the Council also wants to develop further the capabilities in the area of civilian crisis management, in the four priority areas of Police, Rule of law, Civil administration and Civil protection, including in the context of enlargement of the Union. Continuous high priority will be devoted to the two ongoing ESDP civilian crisis management police operations, namely EUPM in Bosnia-Herzegovina and EUPOL Proxima in fYROM. Against the background of the experience gained with the planning for and conduct of concrete operations, and in view of further civilian

missions in the short/medium term, work will increasingly focus on the needs for bringing the instruments to a higher level of operationality. For that purpose, the Council Secretariat is, at the request of Member States, strengthening its capabilities for planning and mission support. Issues for further work include inter-pillar co-ordination and coherence, civil-military co-ordination, the co-operation with the UN, the OSCE and other international actors, as well as financing, personnel, including training, and logistics. In addition, a process of reflection on the need to developing new civilian crisis management capabilities and instruments in complementary areas, e.g. Monitoring, has been initiated.

Getting ready to launch in the course of 2004, the Agency **in the field of defence capabilities development, research, acquisition and armaments** will be a major and complex enterprise. The agency will perform a number of main functions: developing capabilities, as well as looking downstream at procurement and armaments, and upstream at requirements and research. Appointed by the SG/HR in January 2004 as Leader of the Agency Establishment Team, Mr. Nick Witney and his team (around 15 people) will make sure the balance between the main functions is kept when developing the Agency. The team will prepare the decisions on the operational setting up and working of the Agency. It will report and submit proposals to the Council before June.

On **EU/UN relations**, work will continue to implement the "joint declaration on EU/UN co-operation in crisis management" signed on 24 September 2003. The two sides agreed on a pattern for regular consultation. The intention is to draw upon lessons learned from recent experience of co-operation in the field (IPTF-EUPM transition as well as co-operation during operation Artemis) to identify practical ways of concrete co-operation (such as Joint Fact Finding Missions), thus contributing to the ESS's "effective multilateralism" course of action.

**EU/NATO relations**, now deep-rooted and well established, will continue being a major point of the ESDP, not least in a context of post-SFOR thinking. Following the EU/NATO ministerial in December 2003, consultations on terrorism continued, a seminar on terrorism co-sponsored by the two organisations is being organised. Exchanges on WMD proliferation are taking place.

Following the European Council's meetings at Copenhagen and Brussels that indicated the EU's willingness and readiness to lead a **military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina following SFOR** and drawing on "Berlin Plus", work will continue to prepare this operation, in consultation with NATO and the local authorities. Particular attention will be paid to the co-ordination of all EU instruments so that the EU is in a position to deliver a coherent effort to achieve its objectives, as part of the EU's new comprehensive policy on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Continuing from Operation Artemis, the first ESDP operation outside of Europe, work has begun in the relevant bodies (PSC, MC, Civcom and AWG) to assess what additional capacity (military and civil) available through ESDP could be envisaged as **a contribution to the integrated approach the EU pursues in conflict prevention and management** in Africa. This includes: early warning capacity; autonomous EU military and civil crisis operational means; strengthening African peace support operations capabilities; Disarmament, Demobilisation, Reintegration (DDR); security sector reform (military and police); combating arms trafficking; removal of landmines.

Building on the work already done and on initiatives from Member States, **rapid response** development will be pursued, in the framework defined by Council, along a number of tracks. First, the capabilities required for rapid response will be precisely identified, with a view to complementing the Headline goal. Second, advance military strategic planning will undergo the adjustments needed to support EU rapid response operations. Yet another side of this equation will be, but to work on the development of rapid response b enabling the EU to intervene quickly where needed. This is the kind of capability the UN is looking for and one which would consequently be particularly useful to support this organisation.

On 11 December the European Council welcomed a presidency paper entitled "European Defence: **NATO/EU consultation, planning and operations**". It has requested the SG/HR to propose the necessary measures for improving the preparation of European Union operations having recourse to NATO assets and capabilities, and establishing a cell of civil/military components to meet the objectives defined in the Presidency paper. These measures will have to be implemented in 2004 following the SG/HR report.

In May 2004, the EU will undertake its first **crisis management exercise** involving a national Operation Headquarter (OHQ) as EU OHQ (UK Permanent Joint Headquarters, PJHQ, in Northwood). The exercise, called CME 04, will provide an opportunity to test the full spectrum of the EU's civilian and military instruments and their co-ordination in conducting operational planning in response to a fictitious crisis situation." For the first time in an EU crisis management exercise, the civil protection instrument will be included.

This year the Council should agree an **ESDP training concept** to implement the co-ordinated EU Training Policy in the field of ESDP approved in November 2003. The concept aims at further enhancing the European security culture under the ESDP and at establishing an overarching EU coordination arrangement for training in ESDP encompassing both the civilian and military dimensions.

#### **4. CONFLICT PREVENTION**

The EU will continue to devote considerable attention to the cross-cutting theme of Conflict Prevention. Continued efforts will be made to highlight this theme and to bring coherence to the full range of the EU's external action instruments in support of Conflict Prevention. The Irish Presidency will submit a progress report to the June 2004 European Council on the ongoing implementation of the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts.

#### **5 CFSP GEOGRAPHICAL PRIORITIES**

The envisaged CFSP geographical priorities will be as follows:

**Western Balkans Region:** The Thessaloniki European Council and the EU-Western Balkans Summit confirmed the high priority that the Union will continue to attach to the Western Balkans. The shared objective of eventual integration into EU structures, on the basis of full compliance with the Copenhagen criteria and with international obligations, will be achieved through the

implementation of wide-ranging political, economic and institutional reforms by the individual countries of the Western Balkans. The EU will continue to support the countries of the region in their endeavours to consolidate democracy, security and stability and to promote economic development and regional co-operation.

The Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP) will remain the basic framework for the development of the EU's relations with the Western Balkans. The Commission opinion on Croatia's application for membership of the EU will be delivered in the first half of 2004. In the light of that opinion, the European Council, most likely in June 2004 will define next steps. The Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYROM) will enter into force in the first half of 2004 and the government of fYROM submitted an application for membership at the end of March 2004. . SAA negotiations with Albania will continue. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, wide-ranging reforms identified in the Commission's Feasibility Study will have to be implemented, with a view to a possible decision on SAA negotiations later in 2004. A Feasibility Study on negotiating an SAA with Serbia and Montenegro will be launched once the necessary pre-requisites are in place.

Building on the progress made during the first annual meetings of Foreign Ministers and JHA Ministers under the EU-Western Balkans Forum established at Thessaloniki, the Council will continue to work with the countries of the region to ensure full implementation of the commitments made at these meetings, in particular in relation to the Europe-wide fight against organised crime and corruption. Ministerial meetings will be held with the five SAP countries during 2004. The agreed procedures for the alignment of the SAP countries with EU Declarations, Demarches and Common Positions on CFSP issues will be fully implemented.

The Council will also continue to closely monitor political developments in the Western Balkans, with particular attention given to the continued implementation of the Dayton/Paris Accords and subsequent decisions by the Peace Implementation Council, Security Council Resolution 1244 and the Ohrid and Belgrade Agreements. Developments in Kosovo will be particularly important, in the light of plans for an overall review of progress under the strengthened policy of "standards before status" by mid-2005.

The Council will continue to support the role of Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe in promoting effective regional co-operation in complementarity to the SAP.

**Eastern Europe and Central Asia:** The Partnership and Co-operation Agreements will be extended to the new EU Member States by 1 May 2004. They will remain the cornerstones of EU relations with the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The Union adopted an assessment report in February 2004 on all aspects of the Union's relationship with Russia and has proposed measures aimed at strengthening the strategic partnership and respect of the values on which it is based. This provided a solid basis for work towards the EU-Russia Summit in May 2004.. The EU and Russia have already agreed ambitious political objectives. The development, within the framework of the PCA, of the Four Common Spaces agreed with Russia in St. Petersburg should gradually reinforce and expand the partnership on a reciprocal and equal basis. The Council therefore decided that internal work on all four Common Spaces should now begin in a coherent manner with a view to reaching agreement on the main lines by the Summit in May.

The Union will follow closely the situation in Chechnya.

In the context of the European Neighbourhood Initiative the Commission will present detailed proposals for the Action Plans for Ukraine and Moldova in the first half of 2004 . It is foreseen that the Council will adopt conclusions in June.

For Belarus, the Union will continue efforts towards implementation of the step-by-step approach and will review EU policy as appropriate, taking into account the European Neighbourhood Policy context.

On the Northern Dimension, the second Action Plan will be implemented and the 2003 annual progress report will be submitted to the European Council in March 2004.

Concerning the South Caucasus, the Council is due to consider, before the end of the Irish Presidency, the relationship of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to the European Neighbourhood Initiative. Meanwhile, work is in hand on assessing progress in implementation of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements between these three countries and the EU.

In Central Asia, the main development of 2004 for EU relations will be signature of the new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with Tajikistan. Longer term, the EU may face questions as to whether technical assistance is the most appropriate mechanism to address development needs.

**Turkey:** In December 2004, the European Council will have to decide, on the basis of a report and a recommendation from the Commission, whether to open accession negotiations with Turkey. In view of this decision, reform and implementation in Turkey will be very closely monitored and an intensive dialogue with Turkey will be pursued.

**Cyprus: At the time of writing,** With a view to the referenda on the island on 24 April 2004, the Council will in any case stay firmly committed to accommodating the terms of a settlement in line with the principles on which the EU is founded. Funds from the EU budget will be made available to reduce regional disparities in Cyprus. In addition, the Council will support an international donors' conference which the Commission is ready to organise.

**Euro-Mediterranean Partnership - Barcelona Process :** The Irish Presidency will organise a Mid-Term Euro-Mediterranean meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers on 5/6 May 2004. This will provide an opportunity to further assess progress towards an enhanced partnership following the momentum achieved by the previous meetings in Valencia, Crete and Naples and by the first meeting of the Euromed Parliamentary Assembly. It will also be an important occasion at which to discuss the Strategic Partnership with Mediterranean partners. Other important issues for discussion will include:

- Efforts to solve pending issues in order to allow the establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue of Cultures;
- Carrying forward discussion within the existing bodies of the Euromed Partnership with a view to improve its working methods.

**The regions of the Middle East and the Mediterranean:** As foreseen by the European Security Strategy, the Council is committed to developing a more strategic approach to the EU's relationship with the Middle East region. The General Affairs and External Relations Council in March and the Spring European Council welcome the interim report on the Strategic Partnership. Consultations with Arab partners will be an important part of the process. The Strategic Partnership is scheduled to be adopted at the European Council in June.

A core element of the EU's Strategic partnership with the region will be a continued focus on the Middle East Peace Process. EU will continue to contribute actively to the search for peace and stability and to the future prosperity of the Middle East.

Considerable challenges lie ahead, these include: ensuring the implementation of the Roadmap, development of the EU's role in security issues such as active and well co-ordinated support to rebuild and reform Palestinian security institutions, continued work on the establishment of a Quartet monitoring mechanism, supporting international donor efforts to ensure the functioning of the Palestinian Authority, contribution to regional stability after the Iraq crisis, an increased need for coordination/exchange of views with EU Member States, with Euromed partners and other international key actors in the Middle East. The EUSR shall provide an active and efficient contribution from the European Union to actions and initiatives leading to a final settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and of the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese conflict and shall develop and implement an EU programme relating to security issues.

More specifically, the EU will work with the parties, as well as with other international actors, including the US, and Arab countries most concerned, in seeking an end to the violence and the resumption of negotiations for an agreement in the framework of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. The Quartet and the Roadmap will remain the basis for the way forward.

**Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) :** The EU is willing to enhance relations with the GCC. Though progress has been achieved in the FTA negotiations, key issues remain at stake. There are a number of meetings scheduled to take place in 2004 as the GCC-EC Joint Cooperation Committee, Regional political Directors meeting, as well as a GCC-EU Ministerial meeting.



**Iran:** The situation in Iran will remain high on the Council's agenda. Continued cooperation by Iran with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is vital. Depending on progress made by Iran in the areas of concern, negotiations on a Trade and Cooperation Agreement as well as on parallel agreements on political dialogue and on cooperation in the fight against terrorism may re-commence.

**Iraq:** A key aim for the Council will be to assist in reconstruction and economic development in Iraq and to support the early transfer of sovereignty to the people of Iraq. The EU is committed to a central role for the UN in this process. The Irish Presidency will work closely with the 'Advisory Group on Iraq' established by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to help guide the process of stabilising and reconstructing Iraq.

### **Mashrek - Maghreb**

- **Algeria:** Presidential elections will take place in April 2004. The EU will remain engaged in the country. Another troika meeting may take place in the course of 2004 to underline that engagement.
- **Tunisia:** Tunisia is scheduled to be in the first wave of countries for which, in the framework of the Wider Europe/New Neighbourhood Policy, an Action Plan will be defined in mid-2004.. The Action Plan will serve to identify shortcomings across the different areas of co-operation, including political, economic, justice and security etc. and will spell out concrete action to be undertaken.
- **Morocco:** Morocco is also likely to be in the first wave of countries for which, in the framework of the Wider Europe/New Neighbourhood Policy, an Action Plan will be defined in the first half of 2004. The Action Plan should spell out concrete action to be taken across the different areas of co-operation, including on political subjects such as human rights and fundamental freedoms, democratisation and good governance.
- **Libya:** Following the announcement on 19 December that Libya would abandon its WMD programme, the EU will, in the course of 2004, review its relations with Libya, subject to Libya fully complying with its international obligations and resolving the remaining bilateral issues with EU Member States. The question of Libya's participation in the Barcelona process will also be addressed in this context.

- **Israel:** The EU has stated its readiness to consider the Israeli proposals to strengthen political dialogue. It expects Israel to keep all communication channels with the EU open, including on the Middle East Peace Process.
- **Lebanon:** Lebanon ratified the Association Agreement on 7 January 2004. Pending ratification of the Association Agreement in the EU Member States and the formal entry into force of its institutional set-up, the EU convened a meeting of the EU/Lebanon Co-operation Council on 24 February 2004 to reinvigorate relations.
- **Syria:** The EU will continue its efforts to finalise the negotiations for the conclusion of a Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement with Syria and it hopes that this Agreement will be signed during 2004. Thus, the network of Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements will be completed.

#### **Asia-Oceania:**

With regard to Afghanistan, the Council will remain fully committed to the implementation of the Bonn process and to Afghanistan's longer term reconstruction and development efforts in the context of nation-building.

**ASEM:** All the efforts will be focussed in 2004 on the forthcoming ASEM 5 Summit, which will take place in Hanoi on 8-9 October 2004. An ASEM Foreign ministerial will take place during the Irish Presidency in April 2004 at which the issue of ASEM enlargement will be discussed. It will be crucial for the future development of ASEM that the issue of ASEM enlargement is satisfactorily settled in time for the Summit.

**Australia and New Zealand:** The EU will continue active co-operation with these countries. A successful EU-Australia and EU-New Zealand troika took place during the first trimester of 2004.

**Burma:** The EU will continue to promote democracy, national reconciliation and human rights in Burma. To this end, it will remain in close contact with China, Japan, India and the ASEAN, and it will lend its support to UN efforts in the country. The EU will continue to seek the liberation of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest. The General Affairs Council in April will decide on the renewal of the Common Position.

**China:** The EU will ensure the success of the EU-China Summit to take place in the Netherlands in the Netherlands in November. During 2004, the EU will seek to obtain, inter alia, a Re-admission Agreement with China, as well as a Custom Co-operation Agreement. As requested by the European Council on 12 December 2003, the Council will review the question of the EU embargo on the sales of arms to China in 2004. .

**Japan:** The forthcoming summit, scheduled for June 2004 in Tokyo, will address perspectives for future action and co-operation, notably on the basis of the 2001 EU-Japan Action Plan.

**Korean Peninsula:** All attention will be focussed for 2004 on the evolution of the Six-Party talks between the DPRK, the RoK, the US, Russia, China and Japan. The purpose of the talks is to solve the present nuclear stand-off in the Korean Peninsula. The EU does not participate in the talks. However, the EU has repeatedly expressed its readiness, when the time is ripe, to contribute to international efforts aimed at moving matters forward.

**South Asia:** Following the recent rapprochement between India and Pakistan at the Islamabad Summit in January 2004 and the important decisions taken at this Summit with regard to regional integration in the framework of SAARC, the Council will:

- seek to enhance relations with both India and Pakistan, each according to its own dynamic. The visit of the EU Ministerial troika to New Delhi and Islamabad in February 2004 has made an important contribution to this process
- on the basis of the successful EU-India Summit in November 2003 and an EU-India Foreign Ministerial in February, continue to work towards a strategic relationship with India in accordance with the European Security Strategy. In this context, the Council looks forward, in particular, to the presentation, in due time, of a Commission Communication on EU-India relations;
- explore possibilities for increased co-operation between the EU and SAARC;
- enhance co-ordination with other relevant actors on international support for the peace process in Sri Lanka;

- continue to call for peace negotiations, multiparty democracy and respect for Human rights in Nepal and actively support these goals.

**South East Asia:** The Council will adopt conclusions on the Commission's communication "a New Partnership for Southeast Asia", with a view to identifying areas for strengthening co-operation with the region. The EU will also ensure the success of the next ARF ministerial meeting, to take place in Jakarta in July. The EU also intends to follow the situation in the individual countries. With a view to enhancing bilateral relations, the EU will hold a meeting at ministerial level with Indonesia in the margins of the ASEM ministerial in April in Dublin, and an additional high-level meeting may take place later in the year. An EU electoral observation mission will observe the elections in Indonesia. The Council will monitor the situation in Aceh and Papua.

**Latin America:** The EU will actively continue to implement, jointly with LAC the conclusions of the II EU-LAC Summit in Madrid (17 May 2003), and to ensure the success of the III Summit in Guadalajara/Mexico (28 May 2004).

Bi-regional Political Dialogue in international fora and in the UN system will be enhanced. It could cover areas such as security, regional stability, conflict prevention and resolution, human rights, strengthening democratic and good governance, the fight against corruption, counter-terrorism and the global problem of illicit drugs and related crimes.

Bi-regional co-operation will in particular focus on the various aspects of Social Cohesion and good governance; efforts will be made to ensure convergence of activities to this aim at national, regional and international levels.

The EU will continue to be a significant source of investment, trade and development aid of Latin America. The EU will make all efforts to conclude negotiations with Mercosur in 2004, and to prepare the field for possible future Association Agreements with Central America and the Andean Community. It encourages partners in LA to make similar efforts.

Wherever possible and appropriate, the EU encourages further regional integration, which facilitates the pursuit of development, democratic stability and regional security in LA.

The EU offers its support and advice for establishing national dialogues aiming at creating a broad political consensus and fostering social cohesion. The promotion of a more effective climate of social progress and economic development will in turn create the most advantageous conditions for further European co-operation and direct investment.

The EU will continue to contribute to the settlement of conflicts within democratic institutions and procedures, wherever possible together with UN or international institutions and Groups of friends. In this context, it will stress the need to address the root causes of crises.

**Africa:** A major aim for the EU will be to re-invigorate the dialogue with African partners with the intention of pushing African issues up the EU's agenda. The EU will continue the dialogue with the African Union which was initiated in 2003. Linked to this dialogue commitment will be EU support for an Africa – led peacekeeping capacity. This will take the form of particular support for the African Union in their efforts to assume greater responsibility for conflict prevention and peacekeeping as well as further developing the Peace Facility for Africa. At the EU-Africa Union Ministerial Troika in Dublin on 1 April 2004, the EU announced that it will commit €250 million to the establishment of the Peace Facility. At this Troika a common paper on the issue of effective multilateralism was also agreed and an experts report on debt was endorsed.

Dialogue will also continue with ECOWAS with the aim of getting a West African perspective on the important African issues of development, conflict prevention and crisis management.

The EU will also offer its support to other Africa – wide and regional initiatives on development with a particular emphasis on support for NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) and its peer review mechanism.

The EU will also continue to follow closely regional developments. The situation in the Great Lakes region will be of particular importance and efforts will be concentrated on the preparatory process for the convening of a Great Lakes Conference in 2004.

**Transatlantic Relations:** 2004 will be a year of transition for both the EU and the US. The November 2004 elections in the US will be matched on the EU side by enlargement, EP elections and the seating of a new Commission. Constructive engagement will continue on many issues on the broad transatlantic agenda at the June EU-US Summit, the G-8 Summit under US chair and the NATO Summit. Discussions at the EU-US Summit are expected to focus on cooperation in the fight against terrorism, non proliferation, security issues and regional initiatives such as a parallel dialogue with regard to the countries in the Mediterranean and the Middle East, , and on the promotion of effective multilateralism and deeper economic cooperation.

The EU-Canada Summit took place on 18 March 2004. The Summit adopted a new EU-Canada Partnership agenda at the EU-Canada Summit in Ottawa. This will further enhance co-operation between the EU and Canada in foreign and security policy, justice and home affairs and in tackling global issues including climate change, and poverty in developing countries. The Summit also agreed a framework for a new Trade and Investment Enhancement Agreement (TIEA) between Canada and the European Union to further stimulate the bilateral commercial relationship. A second Summit meeting is expected to take place before the end of 2004. A second Summit meeting is expected to take place before the end of 2004.

## **6. MULTILATERAL AND GLOBAL QUESTION**

**United Nations:** The EU intends to pursue its active role in the preparation and during the 59th session of the United Nations General Assembly, as well as in the work of other relevant UN bodies, agencies and conferences. The EU intends to strengthen its relations with the different UN bodies, in particular with a view to improving UN's contribution to an effective multilateralism. Particular importance will be given to the implementation of the "EU-UN Joint Declaration on co-operation in crisis management" of 24 September 2003. By next summer, the EU will produce the "EU Priorities Paper for UNGA 59", which should be a short, concise and useful document. The EU also intends to actively participate in the ongoing UN reform process and present a contribution to the work of the work of the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change.

**Human Rights:** The EU will continue to play an active role in the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the EU's bilateral relations as well as in its activities in multilateral fora. Priorities foreseen for 2004 are to continue playing an effective role in the CHR, the Third Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee on Disability; to develop a policy towards human rights defenders; to ensure the implementation of the guidelines on torture and children and armed conflict; and to conduct an in-depth evaluation of the EU human rights dialogue with China.

**International Criminal Court (ICC):** The EU intends to pursue and increase its support to the ICC activity. Particular emphasis will be put on supporting the principles of universality of the Court and of the integrity of the Rome Statute. The EU will adopt the necessary acts to ensure the implementation of its Common Position of 16 June 2003 and in particular to implement the revised EU Action Plan on the ICC. The EU also intends to actively participate in the III Assembly of the States Parties, which will take place next September.

**LEGAL ACTS INVOLVING FINANCING FROM THE CFSP LINES OF  
THE COMMUNITY BUDGET**

In 2003, the Council adopted legal acts (see Annex 3) which entailed expenditure from the CFSP lines of the budget in the following areas:

**A. WESTERN BALKANS**

**1. FYROM**

(a) European Union Special Representative (EUSR)

On 16 June 2003, the Council adopted Joint Action 03/446/CFSP <sup>1</sup> amending and extending, until 31 December 2003, the mandate of the EUSR in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The amended mandate included the conduct, together with the EU Force Commander in the country and in coordination with the presidency, of a regular dialogue with the FYROM authorities on the progress of the EU-led military mission. The financial reference amount was set at € 288.000 (see **doc. 10390/03 for financial statement**).

On 8 December 2003 the mandate was extended for a further 6 months (Joint Action 03/870/CFSP <sup>2</sup>) and provided for the EUSR giving guidance, as necessary, to the Head of Mission/Police Commissioner of the EU Police Mission. The financial reference amount for this period was set at € 370.000 (see **doc. 15339/03 for financial statement**).

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 150 of 18.06.2003.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 326 of 13.12.2003.



(b) European Union Police Mission in fYROM (EUPOL "Proxima")

On 29 September 2003, the Council adopted Joint Action 03/681/CFSP<sup>1</sup> establishing a European Union Police Mission (EUPOL) in fYROM. Entitled "Proxima", this operation was launched in December 2003. The costs for the implementation of the Joint Action are:

- a maximum amount of € 7,3 million for start-up costs of the mission
- a maximum of € 650.000 for running costs for 2003, including per diems of € 100 per person for 2003
- a total of € 7.056 million for running costs 2004.

The Council also adopted a Decision appointing Mr Bart D'HOOGE as Head of Mission/Police Commissioner of EUPOL "Proxima" as from 15 December 2003 (03/682/CFSP<sup>2</sup>).

## 2. European Union Police Mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina

On 27 February 2003, the Council adopted Joint Action 03/141/CFSP<sup>3</sup> amending Joint Action 02/210/CFSP on the European Union Police Mission. For technical reasons, the invitation to tenders related to the procurement of equipment necessary to the start-up of the mission could not be finalised in the timeframe required. Therefore, some financing authorised for the start-up costs of the mission in 2002 was not used and had to be cancelled. Joint Action 03/141/CFSP provides for the financing of the above-mentioned tenders out of the budget for 2003. The amount allocated to this Joint Action is € 1,7 million (**see doc. 6450/03 for financial statement**).

On 8 December 2003, the Council adopted Decision 03/856/CFSP<sup>4</sup> implementing Joint Action 02/210/CFSP. Under this Decision, an amount of €17,5 million covering operational running costs of EUPM in 2004 will be financed from the general budget of the European Union (**for financial statement, see doc. 15438/03**).

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 249 of 01.10.2003.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 249 of 01.10.2003.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 053 of 28.02.2003.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 323 of 10.12.2003.

### 3. European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM)

On 5 December 2003, the Council adopted the Joint Action 03/852/CFSP<sup>1</sup> extending the mandate of the European Union Monitoring Mission until 31 December 2004. The financial reference amount for 2004 was set at € 4.496.366 (see doc. 15212/1/03 for financial statement). At the same date, the Council decided (Decision 03/853/CFSP<sup>2</sup>) to extend the mandate of Ms Maryse DAVIET, appointed Head of Mission by the Council on 29 July 2003 (Decision 03/562/CFSP<sup>3</sup>).

It is recalled that the primary objective of the EUMM is to contribute, in a flexible manner, through information gathering and analysis in line with directions for the Secretary-General/High Representative and the Council, to the effective formulation of Union policy towards the Western Balkans.

#### B. SOUTHERN CAUCASUS

On 25 June 2003, the Council adopted Joint Action 03/473/CFSP regarding a contribution of the EU to the conflict settlement process in Georgia/South Ossetia<sup>4</sup>. The financial reference amount was set at €160.000 (for financial statement, see doc. 10875/03).

On 7 July 2003, the Council decided to appoint a European Special Representative for the South Caucasus and appointed Mr Heikki Talvitie to this position (Joint Action 03/496/CFSP<sup>5</sup>). This decision was in line with the Council's stated wish to play a more active political role in the South Caucasus. The Joint Action applied until 31 December 2003 and foresaw that the administrative expenditure of the EUSR would be covered exceptionally by Finland. This Joint Action was extended and amended by Joint Action 03/872/CFSP<sup>6</sup>, adopted by the Council on 8 December 2003. For this Joint Action, the financial reference amount was set at €299.000 (see doc. 15339/03 for financial statement).

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 322 of 09.12.2003, + Corrigendum L 007 of 13.01.2004.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 322 of 09.12.2003.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 190 of 30.07.2003.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 157 of 16.06.2003.

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 169 of 08.07.2003.

<sup>6</sup> OJ L 326 of 13.12.2003.

## C. MIDDLE EAST / GULF

On 16 June 2003, the Council adopted Joint Action 03/445/CFSP <sup>1</sup> amending and extending until 31 December 2003 the mandate of the EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process. The amended mandate notably includes the implementation of a programme relating to security issues, for which the EUSR may be assisted by an expert charged with the practical implementation of operational projects related to Security. The budget was set at € 710.000 **(see doc. 10390/03)**.

On 21 July 2003, the Council confirmed the appointment of Mr Marc Otte as EU Special Representative (Joint Action 03/537/2003 <sup>2</sup>) following the resignation of Mr Miguel-Angel Moratinos.

The mandate of the EU Special Representative was amended and extended until 30 June 2004 by Joint Action 03/873/CFSP, adopted by the Council on 8 December 2003. The financial reference amount for this period was set at € 793.000 **(see doc. 15339/03 for financial statement)**.

## D. SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

On 16 June 2003, the Council adopted Joint Action 03/449/CFSP extending until 31 December 2003 the mandate of the EU Special Representative to act as Special Co-ordinator for the Stability Pact in South-Eastern Europe. The financial reference amount was set at € 743.000 **(see doc. 10390/03 for financial statement)**.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 150 of 18.06.2003.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 184 of 23.07.2003.

## E. ASIA

### Afghanistan

On 16 June 2003, the Council adopted Joint Action 03/448/CFSP <sup>1</sup> extending until 31 December 2003 the mandate of the EU Special Representative in Afghanistan. The budget was set at €310.000 (see doc. 10390/03).

On 8 December 2003, the mandate was amended and extended until 30 June 2004 by Joint Action 03/871/CFSP <sup>2</sup>. The financial reference amount was set at €496.000 (see doc. 15339/03 for financial statement).

## F. AFRICA

On 16 June 2003, the Council adopted Joint Action 03/447/CFSP <sup>3</sup> extending until 31 December 2003 the mandate of the EU Special Representative for the African Great Lakes Region. The budget was set at €310.000 (see doc. 10390/03).

On 8 December 2003, the mandate was amended and extended until 30 June 2004 by Joint Action 03/869/CFSP <sup>4</sup>. The financial reference amount was set at €510.000 (see doc. 15339/03 for financial statement).

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 150 of 18.06.2003.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 326 of 13.12.2003.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 150 of 18.06.2003.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 326 of 13.12.2003.

## G. DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION

### 1. Russia

On 24 June 2003, the Council adopted Joint Action 03/472/CFSP<sup>1</sup> on the continuation of the EU cooperation programme aimed at supporting the Russian Federation in its efforts with regard to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. The Joint Action continues certain activities launched in 1999 and 2001 that have not yet been finalised. In addition, new projects will be adopted in the chemical, nuclear or biological field and relating to export controls, as decided by the Council on the basis of recommendations by the Member States or the Commission. The financial reference amount is set at €680.000 (see doc. 10416/03 for financial statement).

On 8 December 2003, the Council adopted a Decision implementing this Joint Action (03/874/CFSP<sup>2</sup>), by making a financial contribution, for a total of € 5.5 million, to specific projects (see doc. 15513/03 for financial statement).

### 2. Small arms and light weapons

- On 14 April 2003, the Council adopted Decision 03/276/CFSP<sup>3</sup> implementing Joint Action 02/589/CFSP with a view to an EU contribution to the destruction of ammunition for small arms and light weapons in **Albania**. The decision provides for a contribution of € 820.000 for actions in this field, in the framework of a project managed by the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (see doc. 7754/03 for financial statement).

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 157 of 26.06.2003.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 326 of 13.12.2003.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 099 of 17.04.2003.

- On 21 July 2003, the Council adopted Decision 03/543/CFSP <sup>1</sup> implementing Joint Action 02/589/CFSP with a view to a EU contribution to combating the destabilising accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons in **Latin America and the Caribbean**. The Decision provides for financial support for projects aimed at training law enforcement instructors, improving the control of the legal firearms trade, combating illicit trafficking, facilitating the destruction of surplus weapons and improvements of stockpile management, and supporting moves to improve legislation in this field. A total allocation of € 700 000 is provided for by the Decision **(for financial statement, see doc. 11174/03)**.
  
- On 17 November 2003, the Council adopted Decision 03/806/CFSP <sup>2</sup> extending until 15 November 2004 and amending Decision 99/730/CFSP implementing Joint Action 99/34/CFSP with a view to a EU contribution to combating the destabilising accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons in **Cambodia**. The decision provides for a financial reference amount of €1.436.953 **(see doc. 14042/03 for financial statement)**.
  
- On 17 November 2003, the Council also adopted Decision 03/807/CFSP <sup>3</sup> extending and amending Decision 02/842/CFSP concerning the implementation of Joint Action 02/589/CFSP regarding the EU's contribution to combating the destabilising accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons in South East Europe. The financial reference amount was replaced by € 300.000. This amount was additional to the amount made available for the preceding Decision **(for financial statement, see doc. 14045/03)**.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 185 of 24.07.2003.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 302 of 20.11.2003.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 302 of 20.11.2003.

**LEGAL ACTS WITHOUT FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CFSP LINES OF THE  
COMMUNITY BUDGET**

**A. WESTERN BALKANS**

**(a) European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Albania**

On 24 February 2003, the Council adopted Decision 03/252/CFSP<sup>1</sup> concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the EU and Albania, laying down the rules governing the EUMM operations in Albania, according to the procedure laid down in Article 24 of the Treaty. This Agreement made it possible to extend the activities of the EUMM also to Albania, but did not entail any financial implications.

**(b) International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia**

On 16 April 2003, the Council adopted Common Position 03/280/CFSP<sup>2</sup> aimed at supporting the effective implementation of the mandate of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia by placing a travel ban on persons involved in the evasion of justice. The Acceding Countries, the Candidate countries and the EFTA countries members of the EEA, aligned with this Common Position. The Common Position is applicable for a 12-months period and shall be kept under constant review.

The Council adopted on 27 June 2003 Decision 03/484/CFSP<sup>3</sup> extending the list of persons subject to a travel ban because of their involvement in the evasion of justice under the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia).

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 093 of 10.04.2003.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 101 of 23.04.2003.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 162 of 01.07.2003.

### **(c) European Union Police Mission (EUPM)**

Following the adoption of Joint Action 02/210/CFSP on the European Union Police Mission, which started operations on 1 January 2003, the Council adopted, on 17 March 2003, Joint Action 03/188/CFSP<sup>1</sup> concerning EU classified information handled by personnel seconded to EUPM.

On 21 July 2003, the Council adopted Decision 03/582/CFSP<sup>2</sup> approving an Agreement negotiated by the Presidency with the Russian Federation on its participation in EUPM.

### **(d) European Union Military Operation in fYROM**

Following the letter from President Trajkovski inviting the European Union to take over the operation in fYROM, which is based on the UNSC resolution 1371, and in light of the European Council conclusions of Copenhagen, the Council adopted on 27 January 2003 a Joint Action (03/92/CFSP<sup>3</sup>) with a view to an early take-over of the mission, based on agreed arrangements with NATO.

The take-over of the mission by the EU underlined the Union's pledge to a stable and secure fYROM, committed to fully implement the Framework Agreement and determined to make further progress towards European integration in the context of the Stabilisation and Association process.

The financial reference amount was set at €4.700.000 (**see doc. 5794/03 for financial statement**)

The Council also adopted, without debate, a decision establishing an operational financing mechanism to provide for the financing of the shared costs of the EU operation in fYROM. The Treaty on European Union foresees that operational expenditure arising from decisions on operations with military or defence implications is chargeable to Member States. The mechanism established is intended to cover the part of the operational expenditure to be jointly financed. The remaining operational expenditure will be chargeable to each participating State individually.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 073 of 19.03.2003.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 197 of 05.08.2003.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 034 of 11.02.2003.



On 29 July 2003, The Council decided to extend the EU military operation in fYROM until 15 December 2003 (03/563/CFSP <sup>1</sup>). The decision allowed the administrator of the Operational Financing Mechanism for the financing of the common costs of the operation to call contributions from the contributing member states up to € 800 000.

**(e) European Union military operation in fYROM**

Pursuant to Council Joint Action 03/92/CFSP, and in particular Article 8 thereof on the participation of third States, the Political and Security Committee adopted Decision FYROM/1/03 <sup>2</sup> on the setting-up of the Committee of Contributors for the EU operation in question.

On 10 March 2003, the Political and Security Committee adopted Decision 03/497/CFSP <sup>3</sup>, establishing the list of third States contributions which were accepted for the EU operation in fYROM. This decision was subsequently modified by Decisions of the Political and Security Committee on 11 March (03/498/CFSP <sup>4</sup>) and 17 June 2003 (03/499/CFSP <sup>5</sup>).

On 18 March 2003, the Council adopted Decision 03/202/CFSP <sup>6</sup> relating to the launch on 31 March 2003 of the Military Operation in fYROM.

This Decision was followed by Council Decision 03/222/CFSP of 21 March 2003 <sup>7</sup> concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the EU and fYROM on the status of the EU-led forces (EUF) in fYROM.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 190 of 30.07.2003.  
<sup>2</sup> OJ C 062 of 15.03.2003.  
<sup>3</sup> OJ L 170 of 09.07.2003.  
<sup>4</sup> OJ L 170 of 09.07.2003.  
<sup>5</sup> OJ L 170 of 09.07.2003.  
<sup>6</sup> OJ L 076 of 22.03.2003.  
<sup>7</sup> OJ L 082 of 29/03.2003.

On 19 May 2003, the Council adopted three Decisions approving the conclusion of Agreements between the European Union and Iceland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Norway, Slovenia (doc. 7713/1/03 REV 1), Romania (doc. 8987/03) and Lithuania (03/661/CFSP <sup>1</sup>). On 26 May 2003, the Council adopted the Decisions concerning the conclusion of Agreements between the EU and Latvia (03/832/CFSP <sup>2</sup>), the Slovak Republic (03/61/CFSP <sup>3</sup>), the Czech Republic (03/650/CFSP <sup>4</sup>) and Turkey (03/662/CFSP <sup>5</sup>). On 15 July 2003 the Decision concerning the conclusion of the Agreement with Estonia was adopted (03/624/CFSP <sup>6</sup>) and on 29 September 2003 concerning the conclusion of the Agreement with Poland (03781/CFSP <sup>7</sup>)

On 18 March 2003, the Council authorised the Secretary-General/High Representative to open negotiations with a view to the conclusion of such agreements with third States participating in the EU Military Operation.

On 29 July 2003, the Council decided to extend the EU Military Operation until 15 December 2003 (Decision 03/563/CFSP <sup>8</sup>).

On 11 December 2003, the Council adopted Decision 04/75/CFSP <sup>9</sup> concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the EU and FYROM on the status and activities of the European Union Police Mission (EUPOL Proxima) in FYROM.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 234 pf 20.09.2003.  
<sup>2</sup> OJ L 313 of 28.11.2003.  
<sup>3</sup> OJ L 012 of 17.01.2004.  
<sup>4</sup> OJ L 229 of 13.09.2003.  
<sup>5</sup> OJ L 234 of 20.09.2003.  
<sup>6</sup> OJ L 216 of 28.08.2003.  
<sup>7</sup> OJ L 285 of 01.11.2003.  
<sup>8</sup> OJ L 190 of 30.07.2003.  
<sup>9</sup> OJ L 016 pf 23.01.2004.

## **B. EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA**

### **(a) Russia**

On 20 June 2003, the European Council adopted Common Strategy 03/471/CFSP<sup>1</sup> amending Common Strategy 99/414/CFSP on Russia in order to extend the period of its application until 24 June 2004.

### **(b) Ukraine**

On 12 December 2003, the European Council adopted Common Strategy 03/897/CFSP<sup>2</sup> amending Common Strategy 99/877/CFSP on Ukraine in order to extend the period of its application until 23 December 2004.

### **(c) Moldova**

The Council, in February 2003, expressed deep concern on the situation regarding the Transnistrian conflict in Moldova. It considered the continued obstructionism of the leadership of the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova and its unwillingness to change the status quo to be unacceptable. Consequently, the Council adopted on 27 February 2003 Common Position 03/139/CFSP<sup>3</sup> concerning restrictive measures against the leadership of the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 157 of 26.06.2003.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 333 of 20.12.2003.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 053 of 28.02.2003.

## **C. MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS**

On 19 May 2003, the Council adopted Common Position 03/366/CFSP<sup>1</sup> amending Common Position 2002/400/CFSP on the temporary reception by EU Member States of 13 Palestinians evacuated from Bethlehem in May 2002 following the siege of the Church of the Nativity by Israeli forces.

The Common Position extends by a further 12 months the validity of the 12-month national permits granted by the host Member States; its application will be evaluated within 23 months of the adoption of Common Position 2002/400/CFSP.

The permits are restricted to the territory of the Member State concerned, and do not imply a right to move freely inside the Union. Matters such as housing, living conditions, family relations, access to employment and vocational training are governed by the laws of each receiving Member State, with exchange of information in order to encourage comparable treatment.

In the event of a third State requesting extradition of any of the 13 Palestinians, the Member States agree to consult each other within the Council in order to see whether the matter can be approached along common lines.

## **D. MIDDLE EAST / GULF**

### **Iraq**

On 7 July 2003, the Council adopted Common Position 03/495/CFSP<sup>2</sup>, lifting most of the sanctions on Iraq and leaving in place (in a modified form) some restrictive measures in accordance with UNSCR 1483(2003) of 22 May 2003.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 124 of 20.05.2003.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 169 of 08.07.2003.

These measures repeal all sanctions established by Security Council Resolution 661(1990) and subsequent resolutions, with the exception of those related to the sale or supply to Iraq of arms and related material other than that required by the occupying powers, the United States and the United Kingdom.

On 13 October 2003, the Council modified Common Position 03/735/CFSP by adopting Common Position 03/735/CFSP<sup>1</sup> and thus clarifying some elements so as to avoid a restrictive interpretation of Resolution 1483(2003).

## **E. ASIA**

### **Burma/Myanmar**

The Council adopted on 28 April 2003 Common Position 03/297/CFSP<sup>2</sup> extending and strengthening the measures taken under Common Position 96/635/CFSP against the military regime in Burma/Myanmar, in view of the further deterioration in the political situation there and the continuing serious violations of human rights. The new common position will apply until 29 April 2004.

The scope of the ban on entry visas and of the freezing of assets is extended to include further members of the regime, the military, security forces and other groups and individuals, including those who benefit from policies impeding Burma/Myanmar's transition to democracy and their families. The embargo on arms, munitions and military equipment is modified to prohibit technical training and assistance.

On 20 June 2003, the Council adopted Decision 03/461/CFSP<sup>3</sup> implementing the strengthened sanctions provided for in Common Position 03/297/CFSP against the military regime in Burma/Myanmar, in view of the further deterioration in the political situation there and the continuing serious violations of human rights.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 264 of 15.10.2003.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 106 of 29.04.2003.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 154 of 21.06.2003.

On 22 December 2003, the Council adopted Decision 03/907/CFSP<sup>1</sup>, implementing Common Position 03/297/CFSP and updating the list of persons subject to restrictive measures, in view of the appointment of new members of the government of Burma/Myanmar.

## **F. AFRICA**

### **(a) EU military operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Artemis)**

On 12 June 2003, the Council adopted Decision 03/432/CFSP<sup>2</sup> on the launching of the EU military operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, operation "Artemis). By its decision, the Council approved the Operation Plan and authorised the Operation Commander with immediate effect to release the activation order so as to execute the deployment of the forces, prior to transfer of authority following their arrival in theatre, and start execution of the mission.

On 1 July 2003, the Political and Security Committee adopted Decision 03/500/CFSP<sup>3</sup>, establishing the list of third States contributions which were accepted for the EU operation in DRC. This decision was subsequently modified by Decision of the Political and Security Committee on 31 July (03/605/CFSP<sup>4</sup>).

On 11 July 2003, the Political and Security Committee adopted Decision 03/529/CFSP<sup>5</sup> on the setting up of the Committee of Contributors for the European Union military operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo

On 22 September 2003, the Council adopted Decision 03/693/CFSP<sup>6</sup> approving an Agreement on the participation by the Republic of Cyprus in the European Union forces contributing to the military operation "Artemis" in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 340 of 24.12.2003.  
<sup>2</sup> OJ L 147 of 14.06.2003.  
<sup>3</sup> OJ L 170 of 09.07.2003.  
<sup>4</sup> OJ L 206 of 15.08.2003.  
<sup>5</sup> OJ L 184 of 23.07.2003.  
<sup>6</sup> OJ L 253 of 07.10.2003.

**(b) Liberia**

On 19 May 2003, the Council adopted Common Position 03/365/CFSP<sup>1</sup> extending until 7 May 2004 and modifying Common Position 01/357/CFSP on restrictive measures against Liberia. The Common Position is aimed at implementing UNSCR 1478 and provided for

- an arms embargo,
- a ban on the import of rough diamonds from Liberia
- a travel restrictions on senior members of Liberia's government and armed forces, their spouses and any other individuals providing support to armed rebel groups in neighbouring countries, as well as any individuals or groups in violation of the arms embargo
- a ban on the import of round logs and timber products as from 7 July.

On 1 August 2003 the United Nations Security Council adopted UNSCR 1497(2003) authorising the establishment of a Multinational Force in Liberia to support the implementation of the Liberian cease-fire agreement signed in Accra on 17 June 2003 and providing for an exception to the existing arms embargo against Liberia in support of that Multinational Force.

The Council therefore adopted on 22 September 2003 Common Position 03/666/CFSP<sup>2</sup> modifying Common Position 01/357/CFSP by transposing UNSCR 1497(2003).

On 19 September 2003 the United Nations Security Council decided in its Resolution 1509(2003) to establish a United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to transfer authority from the ECOWAS-led ECOMIL forces to UNMIL on 1 October, and decided that exemptions should be granted for the supply to UNMIL of arms and related materiel and for the provision of technical training or assistance, despite the arms embargo imposed by UNSCR 1343(2001).

In order to align the arms embargo and the ban on providing certain related services with the UNSCR 1509(2003), the Council adopted on 27 October 2003 Common Position 03/771/CFSP<sup>3</sup> modifying again Common Position 01/357/CFSP.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 124 of 20.05.2003.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 235 of 23.09.2003.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 278 of 29.10.2003.

**(c) Zimbabwe**

On 18 February 2003, the Council adopted Common Position 03/115/CFSP<sup>1</sup> amending and extending until 20 February 2004 Common Position 02/145/CFSP imposing targeted sanctions against Zimbabwe.

The sanctions take the form of an embargo on the sale, supply or transfer of arms and technical advice, assistance or training related to military activities, and an embargo on the sale and supply of equipment which could be used for internal repression in Zimbabwe. They also include a travel ban on persons who engage in serious violations of human rights and of the freedom of opinion, of association and of peaceful assembly in Zimbabwe, and a freezing of their funds, financial assets and economic resources.

The Acceding States, the Candidate Countries Bulgaria and Romania and the EFTA countries members of the EEA, aligned with this Common Position.

**G. FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM**

On 27 February 2003, the Council adopted Common Position 03/140/CFSP<sup>2</sup> concerning specific exceptions to the restrictive measures imposed by Common Position 02/402/CFSP implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1390 (2002) against Usama Bin-Laden, members of the Al-Qaida organisation and the Taliban and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with them. The decision aims to provide exceptions permitted by the UN Security Council in its Resolution 1452 (2002). The Acceding States, the Candidate Countries and the EFTA countries members of the EEA, aligned with this Common Position.

On 5 June 2003, the Council updated the EU list of terrorist organisations and persons linked to terrorist activities, which was first adopted on 27 December 2001 in the wake of the events of 11 September 2001, and which is reviewed at regular intervals.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 046 of 20.02.2003.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 053 of 28.02.2003.



It did so through the adoption of Common Position 03/402/CFSP<sup>1</sup>, updating Common Position 01/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism and repealing Common Position 02/976/CFSP.

The Council further updated the list on 27 June 2003 (Common Position 03/482/CFSP<sup>2</sup>), on 12 September 2003 (Common Position 03/651/CFSP<sup>3</sup>) and on 22 December 2003 (Common Position 03/906/CFSP<sup>4</sup>). The Acceding States, the Candidate Countries and the EFTA countries members of the EEA, aligned with these Common Positions.

## **H. NON-PROLIFERATION**

### **(a) Arms brokering**

The Council adopted on 23 June 2003 Common Position 03/468/CFSP<sup>5</sup> aimed at regulating arms brokering in order to avoid the circumvention of United Nations, EU or OSCE embargoes on arms exports. The Common Position established a set of provisions to be implemented through national legislation, requiring the Member States to take all the necessary measures to control brokering activities on their territory or carried out by brokers of their nationality.

### **(b) Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty**

On 21 July 2003, the Council adopted Decision 03/567/CFSP<sup>6</sup>, aimed at accelerating the process of ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), in view of the CTBT conference that was held in Vienna on 3 to 5 September 2003. The Decision provides that the EU will encourage those States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the CTBT.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 139 of 06.06.2003.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 160 of 28.06.2003.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 229 of 13.09.2003.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 340 of 24.12.2003 + corrigendum L 007 of 13.01.2004.

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 156 of 26.06.2003.

<sup>6</sup> OJ L 192 of 31.07.2003.

### **(c) Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction**

On 17 November 2003, the Council adopted Common Position 03/805/CFSP<sup>1</sup> on the universalisation and reinforcement of multilateral agreements in the field of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and means of delivery. In the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Basic Principles for a EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, adopted by the Council on 16 June 2003 and endorsed by the European Council, the EU and its Member States undertook to promote at political level universal adherence to instruments relating to weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

#### **I. INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

On 16 June 2003, the Council adopted Common Position 03/444/CFSP<sup>2</sup> on the International Criminal Court, updating for the second time its June 2001 Common Position, which was already amended in June 2002. The objective of the Common Position is to support the effective functioning of the Court and to advance universal support for it by promoting the widest possible participation in the Rome Statute.

The new Common Position takes into account the events since June of 2002, not least the entry into force on 1 July 2002 of the Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the fact that the Court is now fully functional. Another development mentioned in the updated Common Position is the Council Conclusions of 30 September 2002 on the ICC, and the EU Guiding Principles annexed thereto, with regard to proposals for arrangements concerning conditions for the surrender of persons to the Court.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 302 of 20.11.2003.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 150 of 18.06.2003.

**J. ESDP**

1. On 24 February 2003, the Council adopted Decision 03/211/CFSP<sup>1</sup> concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the EU and NATO on the Security of Information.
2. On 19 May 2003, the Council, by Decision 03/401/CFSP<sup>2</sup> appointed general Rolando Mosca Moschini ad Chairman of the Military Committee of the European Union.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 080 of 27.03.2003.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 139 of 06.06.2003.

## ACTES JURIDIQUES PESC

## LISTE THEMATIQUE

DATE	OBJET	BASE JURIDIQUE	REFERENCE J.O.
<b>AFGHANISTAN</b>			
08.12.2003	Modification et prorogation du mandat du représentant spécial de l'UE	art. 14, art. 18§5, art. 23§2	03/871/PESC L 326 (13.12.2003)
16.06.2003	Prorogation du mandat du représentant spécial de l'UE	art. 14, art. 18§5, art. 23§2	03/448/PESC L 150 (18.06.2003)
<b>BALKANS OCCIDENTAUX</b>			
08.12.2003	Modification et prorogation du mandat du représentant spécial de l'UE dans l'ARYM	art. 14, art. 18§5, art. 23§2	03/870/PESC L 326 (13.12.2003)
05.12.2003	Prorogation du mandat du chef de la Mission de surveillance de l'UE	art. 23§2	03/853/PESC L 322 (09.12.2003)
05.12.2003	Prorogation du mandat de la Mission de surveillance de l'EU	art. 14	03/852/PESC L 322 (09.12.2003) rectificatif: L 7 (13.01.2004)
29.07.2003	Nomination du chef de la mission de l'EUMM; abrogation de la décision 02/922/PESC	art. 23§2, Action commune 02/921/PESC	03/562/PESC L 190 (30.07.2003)
27.06.2003	Mandat du TPIY: mise en œuvre de la position commune 2003/280/PESC	Position commune 03/280/PESC, art. 23§2	03/484/PESC L 162 (01.07.2003)
16.06.2003	Modification et prorogation du mandat du représentant spécial dans l'ARYM	art. 14, art. 18§5, art. 23§2	03/446/PESC L 150 (18.06.2003)
16.04.2003	Mise en œuvre effective du mandat du TPIY	art. 15	03/280/PESC L 101 (23.04.2003)
24.02.2003	Conclusion de l'accord relatif aux activités de la Mission de surveillance de l'UE (EUMM) en Albanie	art. 24	03/252/PESC L 093 (10.04.2003)

<b>BIRMANIE</b>			
22.12.2003	Mise en œuvre de la position commune 2003/297/PESC	position commune 03/297/PESC, art. 23§2	03/907/PESC L 340 (24.12.2003)
20.06.2003	Mise en œuvre de la position commune 2003/297/PESC	position commune 03/297/PESC, art. 23§2	03/461/PESC L 154 (21.06.2003)
28.04.2003	Mesures négatives: abrogation et remplacement de la position commune 96/635/PESC	art. 15	03/297/PESC L 106 (29.04.2003)
<b>CAUCASE DU SUD</b>			
08.12.2003	Modification et prorogation du mandat du représentant spécial de l'UE	art. 14, art. 18§5, art. 23§2	03/872/PESC L 326 (13.12.2003)
07.07.2003	Nomination d'un représentant spécial de l'UE	art. 14, art. 18§5, art. 23§2	03/496/PESC L 169 (08.07.2003)
25.06.2003	Contribution de l'UE au processus de règlement du conflit en Géorgie/Ossétie du Sud	art. 14	03/473/PESC L 157 (26.06.2003)
<b>COUR PENALE INTERNATIONALE</b>			
16.06.2003	Cour pénale internationale	art. 15	03/444/PESC L 150 (18.06.2003)
<b>EUROPE DU SUD-EST</b>			
16.06.2003	Prorogation du mandat du représentant spécial de l'UE	art. 14, art. 18§5, art. 23§2	03/449/PESC L 150 (18.06.2003) + rectificatif L 158 (27.06.2003)

<b>IRAK</b>			
13.10.2003	Modification de la Position Commune 2003/495/PESC	art. 15	03/735/PESC L 264 (15.10.2003)
07.07.2003	Mesures restrictives à l'encontre de l'Iraq, abrogation des positions communes 96/741/PESC et 2002/599/PESC	art. 15	03/495/PESC L 169 (08.07.2003)
<b>LIBERIA</b>			
27.10.2003	Modification de la position commune 2001/357/PESC	art. 15	03/771/PESC L 278 (29.10.2003)
22.09.2003	Modification et prorogation de la position commune 2001/357/PESC	art. 15	03/666/PESC L 235 (23.09.2003)
19.05.2003	Modification et prorogation de la position commune 2001/357/PESC	art. 15	03/365/PESC L 124 (20.05.2003)
<b>LUTTE CONTRE LE TERRORISME</b>			
22.12.2003	Mise à jour de la position commune 01/931/PESC et abrogation de la position commune 03/651/PESC	art. 15 et 34	03/906/PESC L 340 (24.12.2003) rectificatif L 7 (13.01.2004)
12.09.2003	Mise à jour de la position commune 01/931/PESC et abrogation de la position commune 03/482/PESC	art. 15 et 34	03/651/PESC L 229 (13.09.2003)
27.06.2003	Mise à jour de la position commune 01/931/PESC et abrogation de la position commune 03//402/PESC	art. 15 et 34	03/482/PESC L 160 (28.06.2003)
05.06.2003	Mise à jour de la position commune 01/931/PESC et abrogation de la position commune 02/976/PESC	art. 15 et 34	03/402/PESC L 139 (06.06.2003)
27.02.2003	Exceptions aux mesures restrictives imposées par la position commune 2002/402/PESC	art. 15	03/140/PESC L 053 (28.02.2003)
<b>MOLDOVA</b>			
27.02.2003	Mesures restrictives à l'encontre des dirigeants de la région de Transnistrie	art. 15	03/139/PESC L 053 of 28.02.2003
<b>NON-PROLIFERATION</b>			
17.11.2003	Contribution de l'UE à la lutte contre l'accumulation et la diffusion déstabilisatrices des armes légères et de petit calibre dans le Sud-Est de l'Europe; prorogation et modification de la décision 02/842/PESC	art. 23§2 action commune 02/589/PESC	03/807/PESC L 302 (20.11.2003)
17.11.2003	Contribution de l'UE à la lutte contre l'accumulation et la diffusion déstabilisatrices des armes légères et de petit calibre au Cambodge; prorogation et modification de la décision 99/730/PESC	art. 23§2 action commune 02/589/PESC	03/806/PESC L 302 (20.11.2003)

17.11.2003	Universalisation et renforcement des accords multilatéraux de non-prolifération des armes de destruction massive et de leurs vecteurs	art. 15	03/805/PESC L 302 (20.11.2003)
21.07.2003	Contribution de l'UE à la promotion de l'entrée en vigueur du traité d'interdiction complète des essais nucléaires (CTBT)	position commune 99/533/PESC, art. 23§2	03/567/PESC L 192 (31.07.2003)
21.07.2003	Contribution de l'UE à la lutte contre l'accumulation et la diffusion déstabilisatrices des armes légères et de petit calibre en Amérique du Sud et dans les Caraïbes	action commune 02/589/PESC art. 23§2	03/543/PESC L 185 (24.07.2003)
23.06.2003	Contrôle du courtage en armements	art. 15	03/468/PESC L 156 (25.06.2003)
14.04.2003	Mise en œuvre de l'action commune 2002/589/PESC	action commune 2002/589/PESC C art. 23§2	03/276/PESC L 099 (17.04.2003)
<b>PESD</b>			
11.12.2003	Mission de police de l'UE dans l'ARYM (EUPOL "Proxima"): Conclusion de l'accord relatif au statut et aux activités de la mission	art. 24	04/075/PESC L 016 (23.01.2004)
08.12.2003	Mise en œuvre de l'action commune 02/210/PESC relative à la Mission de police de l'Union européenne	action commune 02/210/PESC art. 23§2	03/856/PESC L 323 (10.12.2003)
17.11.2003	Agence dans le domaine du développement des capacités de défense, de la recherche, des acquisition et de l'armement	art. 28..§1 TUE art. 207§2 CE	03/834/CE JO L 318 (03.12.2003)
29.09.2003	Conclusion des accords relatifs à la participation d'Etats tiers à l'opération militaire de l'UE dans l'ARYM (Pologne)	art. 24	03/781/PESC L 285 (01.11.2003)
29.09.2003	Nomination du chef de la mission/commissaire de police de la Mission de police de l'UE dans l'ARYM	art. 23§2 action commune 03/681/PESC	03/682/PESC L 249 (01.10.2003)
29.09.2003	Mission de police de l'UE dans l'ARYM (EUPOL "Proxima")	art. 14, 25 §3, 26, 28§3	03/681/PESC L 249 (01.10.2003)
22.09.2003	Participation de Chypre à la FUE en République démocratique du Congo	art. 24	03/693/PESC L 253 (07.10.2003)

31.07.2003	Acceptation des contributions des Etats tiers à l'opération menée par l'UE en République démocratique du Congo	art. 25	03/605/PESC L 206 (15.08.2003)
29.07.2003	Prolongation de l'opération militaire de l'UE dans l'ARYM	art. 17§2, action commune 03/092/PESC	03/563/PESC L 190 (30.07.2003)
21.07.2003	Conclusion de l'accord entre l'UE et la Russie concernant la participation aux activités de la MPUE en Bosnie-Herzégovine	art. 24	03/582/PESC L 197 (05.08.2003)
15.07.2003	Conclusion des accords relatifs à la participation d'Etats tiers à l'opération militaire de l'UE dans l'ARYM (Estonie)	art. 24	03/624/PESC L 216 (28.08.2003)
11.07.2003	Etablissement du comité des contributeurs pour l'opération militaire de l'UE en République démocratique du Congo	art. 25§3	03/529/PESC L 184 (23.07.2003)
01.07.2003	Acceptation des contributions des Etats tiers à l'opération menée par l'UE en République démocratique du Congo	art. 25	03/500/PESC RDC/01/2003 L 170 (09.07.2003)
17.06.2003	Acceptation des contributions des Etats tiers à l'opération militaire de l'UE dans l'ARYM	Action commune 03/92/PESC, Déc. FYROM/2/03	03/499/PESC ARYM/04/03 L 170 (09.07.2003)
16.06.2003	Régime applicable aux experts et militaires nationaux détachés auprès du Secrétariat général du Conseil	art. 28§1 UE + art. 207§2 CE	03/479/CE L 160 (28.06.2003)
12.06.2003	Lancement de l'opération militaire de l'UE en République démocratique du Congo	art. 17§2 et art. 25	03/432/PESC L 147 (14.06.2003)
05.06.2003	Opération militaire de l'UE en République démocratique du Congo	art. 14, art. 18§5, art. 25§3, art. 26, art. 28§3	03/423/PESC L 143 (11.06.2003)
26.05.2003	Conclusion des accords relatifs à la participation d'Etats tiers à l'opération militaire de l'UE dans l'ARYM (Turquie)	art. 24	03/662/PESC L 234 (20.09.2003)
26.05.2003	Conclusion des accords relatifs à la participation d'Etats tiers à l'opération militaire de l'UE dans l'ARYM (République tchèque)	art. 24	03/650/PESC L 229 (13.09.2003)



26.05.2003	Conclusion des accords relatifs à la participation d'Etats tiers à l'opération militaire de l'UE dans l'ARYM (République slovaque)	art. 24	04/61/PESC L 12 (17.01.2004)
26.05.2003	Conclusion des accords relatifs à la participation d'Etats tiers à l'opération militaire de l'UE dans l'ARYM (Lettonie)	art. 24	03/832/PESC L 313 (28.11.2003)
19.05.2003	Conclusion des accords relatifs à la participation d'Etats tiers à l'opération militaire de l'UE dans l'ARYM (Lituanie)	art. 24	03/661/PESC L 234 (20.09.2003)
19.05.2003	Conclusion des accords relatifs à la participation d'Etats tiers à l'opération militaire de l'UE dans l'ARYM (Roumanie)	art. 24	Doc. 8987/03
19.05.2003	Conclusion des accords relatifs à la participation d'Etats tiers à l'opération militaire de l'UE dans l'ARYM (Islande, Hongrie, Bulgarie, Norvège, Slovénie)	art. 24	Doc. 7713/1/03 REV 1
19.05.2003	Désignation du président du Comité militaire de l'Union européenne	art. 28§1 UE + art. 207 CE	03/401/CE L 139 (06.06.2003)
21.03.2003	Statut des forces placées sous la direction de l'UE (FUE) dans l'ARYM	art. 24	03/222/PESC L 082 (29.03.2003)
18.03.2003	Lancement de l'opération militaire de l'UE dans l'ARYM	art. 17 §2; art. 25	03/202/PESC L 076 (22.03.2003)
17.03.2003	MPUE: modification de l'action commune 2002/210/PESC	art. 14	03/188/PESC L 073 (19.03.2003)
11.03.2003	Acceptation des contributions des Etats tiers à l'opération militaire de l'UE dans l'ARYM	Déc. FYROM/2/03	03/498/PESC ARYM/03/03 L 170 (09.07.2003)
10.03.2003	Acceptation des contributions des Etats tiers à l'opération militaire de l'UE dans l'ARYM	art. 25	03/497/PESC ARYM/02/2003 L 170 (09.07.2003)
27.02.2003	MPUE: modification de l'action commune 2002/210/PESC	art. 14	03/141/PESC L 053 (28.02.2003)
24.02.2003	Accord entre l'Union européenne et l'Organisation du Traité de l'Atlantique Nord sur la sécurité des informations	art. 24	03/211/PESC L 080 (27.03.2003)
18.02.2003	Etablissement d'un comité des contributeurs pour l'opération militaire de l'UE dans l'ARYM	art. 25	ARYM.03/1/2003 C 062 (15.03.2003)
07.02.2003	Nomination du commandant de l'opération de l'UE et du commandant de la force de l'UE et désignation de l'état -major d'opération de l'UE	art. 14	Non publié au JO Doc. 6187/03

27.01.2003	Mécanisme de financement opérationnel d'une opération militaire de l'UE dans l'ARYM	Action commune 03/092/PESC, art. 23 §2	Doc. 5561/1/03 REV 1
27.01.2003	Opération militaire de l'UE dans l'ARYM	art. 14 §25, art.26, art.28 §3	03/092/PESC L 034 (11.02.2003)
<b>PROCESSUS DE PAIX AU MOYEN-ORIENT</b>			
08.12.2003	Modification et prorogation du mandat du représentant spécial de l'UE	art. 14, art. 18§5, art. 23§2	03/873/PESC L 326 (13.12.2003)
21.07.2003	Nomination du représentant spécial de l'UE pour le Processus de paix au Moyen-Orient; modification de l'action commune 02/965/PESC	art. 14, art. 18§5, art. 23§2	03/537/PESC L 184 (23.07.2003)
16.06.2003	Modification et prorogation du mandat du représentant spécial de l'UE	art. 14, art. 18§5 art. 23§2	03/445/PESC L 150 (18.06.2003)
19.05.2003	Accueil temporaire de certains Palestiniens par des Etats membres de l'UE - Modification de la position commune 02/400/PESC	art. 15	03/366/PESC L 124 (20.05.2003)
<b>REGION DES GRANDS LACS</b>			
08.12.2003	Modification et prorogation du mandat du représentant spéciale de l'UE	art. 14, art. 18§5, art. 23§2	03/869/PESC L 326 (13.12.2003)
29.09.2003	Modification de la position commune 2002/829/PESC	art. 15	03/680/PESC L 249 (01.10.2003)
16.06.2003	Prorogation du mandat du représentant spécial	art. 14, art. 18§5, art. 23§2	03/447/PESC L 150 (18.06.2003)
08.05.2003	Soutien de l'UE à la mise en œuvre de l'accord de cessez-le-feu de Lusaka et du processus de paix en RDC; abrogation de la position commune 01/203/PESC	art. 15	03/319/PESC L 115 (09.05.2003)
<b>RUSSIE</b>			
08.12.2003	Programme de coopération de l'UE en faveur de la non-prolifération et du désarmement dans la Fédération de Russie; mise en œuvre de l'action commune 03/472/PESC	art. 23§2 action commune 03/472/pesc	03/874/PESC L 326 (13.12.2003)
24.06.2003	Poursuite du programme de coopération en faveur de la non-prolifération et du désarmement	art. 14, art. 23§2	02/472/PESC L 157 (26.06.2003)
20.06.2003	Prorogation de la période d'application de la stratégie commune 1999/414/PESC	art. 13§2	03/471/PESC L 157 (26.06.2003)

<b>UKRAINE</b>			
12.12.2003	Modification de la stratégie commune 99/877/PESC	art. 13 § 2	03/897/PESC L 333 (20.12.2003)
<b>ZIMBABWE</b>			
18.02.2003	Modification et prorogation de la position commune 2002/145/PESC	art. 15	03/115/PESC L 046 (20.02.2003)

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