



10633/06

COVER NOTE

from :	Presidency
to :	Delegations
Subject :	<b>BRUSSELS EUROPEAN COUNCIL 15/16 JUNE 2006</b>

## PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS

Delegations will find attached the Presidency Conclusions of the Brussels European Council (15/16 June 2006).

8. In the light of the increased cooperation and the need for further progress with third countries of origin and transit in migration issues in particular in the regions neighbouring the Union, namely the eastern, south eastern and Mediterranean regions, the European Council recalls the importance of a balanced and comprehensive approach. Developing the **Global Approach to Migration** agreed in December 2005 is a fundamental priority for the Union. Recent events reinforce this assessment. In this context the European Council looks forward to the forthcoming report by the Commission on the Hampton Court follow-up to migration and security to be presented at its December 2006 meeting. In the meantime the European Council:

- welcomes the concrete cooperation measures taken by the Commission, Frontex and some Member States in the wake of recent events in the Canary Islands and in the Mediterranean. It calls for enhanced efforts on maritime operational cooperation with a view to developing adequate surveillance capacities at the sea borders as well as on the establishment of Rapid Border Intervention Teams;
- underlines the priority of enhancing cooperation on migration with African and neighbouring countries and calls for a balanced dialogue on migration with African States, regional organisations and the African Union through a pan-African conference on migration and development;
- welcomes the Euro-African Ministerial Conference in Rabat, as well as other conferences with a specific regional focus, as steps to a regular comprehensive dialogue with African countries as well as the launching of a EU-ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) dialogue on migration (on the basis of Article 13 of the Cotonou Agreement);
- recalls the Barcelona Action Plan engagement to hold a EUROMED Ministerial Meeting on Migration Management and to highlight cooperation on migration as an important part of our neighbourhood policy;
- looks forward to the presentation by the Commission of a communication on future priorities in the field of illegal immigration and follow-up action;
- calls on implementation of AENEAS funded projects on migration, providing financial and technical assistance to third countries in support of their efforts to ensure more effective management of all aspects of migration flows;

## **EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

57. The European Council reiterates the importance it attaches to the **European Neighbourhood Policy** as a means to strengthen cooperation with its neighbours and expand prosperity, stability and security beyond the borders of the European Union. The European Neighbourhood Policy seeks to support the political and economic reforms of neighbouring countries on the basis of partnership and building on shared values. The Union is determined to strengthen and further develop its Neighbourhood Policy, thus offering an increasingly close relationship and substantial support, as neighbouring countries fulfil their commitments to reform.
58. The European Council attaches great importance to a fruitful co-operation between the European Union and the **Council of Europe** and encourages them to overcome the remaining difficulties in the ongoing negotiations on a memorandum of understanding. It expresses its appreciation to Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker for his report on the future relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union, which deserves further consideration.
59. The European Council adopted declarations on the **Western Balkans** (Annex II), **Iran** (Annex III), **Iraq** (Annex IV), the **Middle East Peace Process** (Annex V), **Africa** (Annex VI), **Lebanon** (Annex VII) and **Timor-Leste** (Annex VIII).
60. The European Council endorses the Presidency report on **ESDP** (doc. 10418/06), which comprises the mandate for the incoming Presidency.
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**DECLARATION ON THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS**

The European Union remains committed to working within the Quartet towards the goal of a just, viable and lasting solution based on existing agreements, the relevant UNSC resolutions and the principles laid down in the Roadmap.

In view of the urgent need to re-launch the process towards a negotiated two-state solution which would bring peace to both the Israeli and the Palestinian people, the European Council calls for an early engagement between the Israeli Prime Minister and the President of the Palestinian Authority, who was elected on a platform of peace. It reiterates its expectations from both parties to respect existing agreements and obligations, including the Roadmap.

As set out by the Quartet, the Hamas-led Palestinian Government needs to meet and implement the three principles of non-violence, recognition of Israel's right to exist and acceptance of existing agreements and obligations.

The European Council remains concerned by the security situation in Gaza and the West Bank. It condemns the violence against Palestinian civilians. It condemns the launching of Qassem rockets against population centres in Israel. It reminds both parties of their responsibility to protect civilian lives. It calls on the Palestinian Authority to take action to improve security and prevent terrorist attacks on Israel. It reiterates its condemnation of extra-judicial killings. It calls on all parties to refrain from violence and to exercise restraint.

The European Council calls on all Palestinian political forces to engage in a national dialogue aimed primarily at putting an end to inter-Palestinian confrontation and establishing law and order. It calls on the Palestinian government to cooperate with the President of the Palestinian Authority to achieve this, including through the disarmament of groups engaged in violence and terror.

The European Council takes note of the announcement by President Abbas to hold a referendum. It calls on all Palestinian political forces to work towards the widest possible consensus in support of the objectives of the Roadmap.

The European Council calls on Israel to desist from any action that threatens the viability of an agreed two-state solution and from acts that are contrary to international law. Of particular concern are settlement activities, the construction of the barrier on Palestinian land and activities in and around East Jerusalem as well as in the Jordan Valley. The European Union will not recognize any change to the pre-1967 borders other than those agreed to by both sides.

The European Council urges Israel to resume transfers of withheld Palestinian tax and customs revenues which are essential in averting a crisis in the Palestinian territories.

The European Council stresses the need for a coordinated international response to the deterioration of the humanitarian, economic and financial situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The European Council endorses the proposed temporary international mechanism to channel assistance directly to the Palestinian people, which has been drawn up by the Commission following consultations within the EU as well as with Quartet members, major donors, international financial institutions and partners in the region. The European Council appreciates the Commission's work so far and requests it to continue urgently establishing the mechanism, in conjunction with Quartet members, other key international partners and the PA President's Office.

The European Council agrees that, in order to achieve an immediate impact, the mechanism will focus on essential supplies and running costs for social services and health, supply of utilities including fuel, and social allowances. Other donors, including Arab states, are invited to provide funding and to consider early and substantial contributions. The Community stands ready to contribute a substantial amount to the international mechanism.

The European Council furthermore underlines the importance of freedom of movement and urges both parties to take concrete steps to implement their obligations under the Agreement on Movement and Access, in order to alleviate the worsening situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The European Council reiterates the importance of preserving and pursuing the democratic functioning of the institutions of the Palestinian Authority whose continuity is crucial for a future independent, democratic and viable Palestinian state based on the rule of law.

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**DECLARATION ON LEBANON**

The European Council reaffirms the importance it attaches to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence of Lebanon and reiterates its call for Security Council Resolution 1559 to be implemented in full. It welcomes the adoption of Resolution 1680 and calls for its full implementation, particularly as regards the delineation of the Syrian-Lebanese border. In this context, it calls upon Syria to grasp the hand offered by the Lebanese government following the agreements emerging from the Lebanese national dialogue. It is pleased that this national dialogue has been opened and encourages the parties to continue it.

The European Council reaffirms its full support for the work of the International Independent Investigation Commission into the assassination of Rafik Hariri and his escort, and for the action of its head, Mr Serge Brammertz. It welcomes the Investigation Commission's fourth interim report, takes note of the progress recorded in the investigation, which is cause for hope for the Lebanese people. It welcomes the Security Council's adoption of resolution 1686 which extends the mandate of the Independent Investigation Commission for another year and supports the Commission's intention to extend further its tutorial assistance to ongoing investigations into other political assassinations that have been committed in Lebanon since October 2004. It welcomes the Lebanese authorities' excellent co-operation with the Independent Investigation Commission and calls once again on all parties to co-operate with it fully and unconditionally.

The European Council welcomes the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1664 and expresses the hope that negotiations will progress rapidly with a view to the actual setting up of the international tribunal provided for in that Resolution.

The European Council strongly condemns the serious incidents which took place on the Blue Line around 28 May, appeals to all parties to exercise restraint and reminds them of their obligation to strictly respect the Blue Line, including the respective airspaces. The European Council stresses once again the need for the Lebanese State to restore its sovereignty over the whole of its national territory and to exercise the sole right to the use of force on that territory.

The European Council reaffirms its support for the Lebanese government and urges it to undertake the economic and political reforms agreed, so that the international conference to support Lebanon can be held as soon as possible. The implementation of the action plan concluded in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy will assist the reform process in the country.

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