

**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**COVER NOTE**

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from :            **Presidency**  
to :               **Delegations**

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Subject :       **BRUSSELS EUROPEAN COUNCIL**  
                  **15/16 DECEMBER 2005**

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**PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS**

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Delegations will find attached the revised version of the Presidency Conclusions of the Brussels European Council (15/16 December 2005).

**II. FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVES**

6. The European Council reached agreement on the Financial Perspective 2007-2013 as set out in doc. 15915/05.

**III. AFRICA**

7. The European Council adopts the EU strategy "The EU and Africa: Towards a Strategic Partnership" as called for at its June 2005 meeting (doc. 15712/1/05 REV 1). Building on the Cairo Summit, it stresses the importance of enhanced EU-Africa political dialogue, including holding a second EU/Africa Summit in Lisbon as soon as possible, and agrees to review regularly, starting in 2006, progress on the implementation of the Strategy, taking into account the conclusions adopted by the Council on 21 November 2005.

**IV. GLOBAL APPROACH TO MIGRATION**

8. The European Council notes the increasing importance of migration issues for the EU and its Member States and the fact that recent developments have led to mounting public concern in some Member States. It underlines the need for a balanced, global and coherent approach, covering policies to combat illegal immigration and, in cooperation with third countries, harnessing the benefits of legal migration. It recalls that migration issues are a central element in the EU's relations with a broad range of third countries, including, in particular, the regions neighbouring the Union, namely the eastern, south eastern and Mediterranean regions, and notes the importance of ensuring that the appropriate level of financial resources is allocated to these policies. The EU will strengthen its dialogue and cooperation with all those countries on migration issues, including return management, in a spirit of partnership and having regard to the circumstances of each country concerned.

9. The European Council emphasises that the European Union's commitment to support the development efforts of countries of origin and transit is part of a long-term process to respond to the opportunities and challenges of migration, as outlined in the Hague Programme. In this regard, the European Council recognises the importance of tackling the root causes of migration, for example through the creation of livelihood opportunities and the eradication of poverty in countries and regions of origin, the opening of markets and promotion of economic growth, good governance and the protection of human rights.
10. As part of this overall process, the European Council welcomes the Commission's Communication of 30 November 2005: Priority Actions for Responding to the Challenges of Migration and adopts the "Global approach to migration: Priority actions focussing on Africa and the Mediterranean" annexed to these conclusions, covering the following areas:
- strengthening cooperation and action between Member States;
  - increasing dialogue and cooperation with African states;
  - increasing dialogue and cooperation with neighbouring countries covering the entire Mediterranean region;
  - as well as the questions of funding and implementation.

The European Council invites the Commission to report back on progress made by the end of 2006.

## **V. COUNTER-TERRORISM**

11. The European Council underlines the importance of a comprehensive and proportionate response to the threat from terrorism. The European Council adopts the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy (doc. 14469/4/05 REV 4) which sets out a framework for work to prevent radicalisation and the recruitment to terrorism, to protect citizens and infrastructure, to pursue and investigate terrorists, and to improve the response to the consequences of attacks. The European Council notes that the EU Counter-Terrorism Action Plan, the instrument for tracking implementation, is being revised to ensure full coherence with the new Strategy.

**GLOBAL APPROACH TO MIGRATION:**  
**PRIORITY ACTIONS FOCUSING ON AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN**

The European Council welcomes the Commission's Communication of 30 November 2005, *Priority actions for responding to the challenges of migration: first follow-up to Hampton Court*.

The European Council, against the background of the EU's Strategy for Africa and the Strategy for the external dimension of Justice and Home Affairs, as well as recent events in the Mediterranean region, agrees to initiate priority actions with a focus on Africa and the Mediterranean countries.

The European Council agrees on the urgent need in the short term for broad-ranging concrete actions, which form part of ongoing work to ensure that migration works to the benefit of all countries concerned. Action must be taken to reduce illegal migration flows and the loss of lives, ensure safe return of illegal migrants, strengthen durable solutions for refugees, and build capacity to better manage migration, including through maximising the benefits to all partners of legal migration, while fully respecting human rights and the individual's right to seek asylum. The immediate actions set out below form part of a broader agenda for developing the EU's relationship with Africa and the Mediterranean countries through genuine partnership. The European Council also welcomes the complementary dialogue and cooperation being pursued by Member States in this area.

The European Council further underlines the necessity of an integrated and global approach for some of the proposed priority actions, such as the initiatives on the migratory routes and safety at sea, which concern both the Mediterranean and certain African countries.

The European Council, in the light of the Commission Communication, endorses the following actions and invites the Council and Member States to work closely with the Commission to implement these actions during the course of 2006.

**Increasing operational cooperation between Member States**

- Call on FRONTEX to:
  - implement border management measures in the Mediterranean region, in particular joint operations and pilot projects, as early as possible in 2006;
  - present a Risk Analysis report on Africa, building on recent studies, by May 2006;
  - launch a feasibility study on reinforcing monitoring and surveillance of the southern maritime border of the EU, namely in the Mediterranean Sea, and on a Mediterranean Coastal Patrols Network involving EU Member States and North African countries, as early as possible in 2006.
- Explore the technical feasibility of establishing a surveillance system covering the whole southern maritime border of the EU and the Mediterranean Sea by the end of 2006. Such a system would use modern technology with the aim of saving lives at sea and tackling illegal immigration.
- Establish regional networks of Immigration Liaison Officers (ILOs) involving priority countries or regions as early as possible in 2006, and present reports on illegal immigration and trafficking, with the assistance where appropriate of ILOs in key countries, by May 2006.
- Bring forward a proposal for the creation of rapid reaction teams made up of national experts able to provide rapid technical and operational assistance at times of high influxes of migrants, in accordance with the Hague Programme, by Spring 2006.
- Ensure a substantial follow-up to the report of the Global Commission on International Migration, and prepare for the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development that will be launched in September 2006.
- Present an analysis of the existing international instruments on the law of the sea, including relevant aspects of refugee law, by March 2006.

**Dialogue and cooperation with Africa**

- Work to make migration a shared priority for political dialogue between the EU and the African Union, including through regular senior officials' meetings to prepare for EU-Africa Ministerial Troika discussions.
- Work in partnership with African countries and regional organisations, such as ECOWAS, through a range of fora, initiatives and regional meetings, including an EU-Africa Ministerial Conference in Morocco in 2006 and a conference on migration and development in Brussels in March 2006.
- Explore the feasibility of a migration routes initiative for operational cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination, with a view to developing a concrete initiative in 2006.
- Enhance dialogue by spring 2006 with key sub-Saharan African states on the basis of Article 13 of the Cotonou Agreement, covering a broad range of issues from institution and capacity building and effective integration of legal migrants to return and the effective implementation of readmission obligations, in order to establish a mutually beneficial cooperation in this field.
- Establish and implement a pilot Regional Protection Programme (RPP) involving Tanzania as early as possible in 2006, with a steering group to oversee the programme. Based on findings from the pilot, develop plans for further programmes in Africa.
- Carry out a study to improve understanding of the root causes of migration to underpin the long-term approach.
- Develop regular dialogue with UNHCR as early as possible in 2006, to share experience and expertise on working with countries in Africa.

- Launch initiatives in early 2006 to promote cheaper and more easily available remittance services, and support ongoing efforts by international organisations to improve data on remittance flows; consider supporting efforts of African states to facilitate members of diasporas to contribute to their home countries, including through co-development actions, and explore options to mitigate the impact of skill losses in vulnerable sectors.
- Establish information campaigns targeting potential migrants to highlight the risks associated with illegal migration and raise awareness about available legal channels for migration.

#### Work with neighbouring countries

- Hold a EuroMed Ministerial meeting on migration in 2006.
- Engage Mediterranean third countries in the feasibility study of a Mediterranean Coastal Patrols Network, Mediterranean surveillance system and related pilot projects, where appropriate.
- Make available experiences and best practices where appropriate from other regional cooperation structures, including those relating to the Baltic Sea.
- Use all available frameworks for cooperation with Mediterranean partners, including those mentioned below, to prevent and combat illegal migration and trafficking in human beings, build capacity to better manage migration, and explore how best to share information on legal migration and labour market opportunities, for example through the development of migration profiles and through strengthening sub-regional fora.

- Undertake priority work with the following three countries:
  - Morocco – implement projects to combat trafficking and conclude negotiations of the EC-Morocco readmission agreement as early as possible;
  - Algeria – hold a first meeting in early 2006 to take forward cooperation on the basis of the migration provisions of the EC-Algeria Association Agreement and begin the negotiation of the readmission agreement as quickly as possible on the basis of the mandate given to the Commission;
  - Libya – conclude the work to agree the EU-Libya Action Plan on migration as early as possible in 2006, in accordance with the Council Conclusions of 3 June 2005 on initiating dialogue and cooperation with Libya on migration issues, and implement projects as soon as possible thereafter.
  
- Intensify research to improve understanding and management of migratory flows, building on the migration component of the regional JHA I MEDA programme.
  
- Help strengthen links between North and sub-Saharan African countries in the framework of the possible migration routes initiative.
  
- Continue dialogue and cooperation with UNHCR in helping third countries develop capacity for refugee protection.
  
- Hold a conference on *The role of internal security in relations between the EU and its neighbours* in Vienna in May 2006.



**Funding**

The European Council welcomes the increased priority being given to migration and the Commission's intention to intensify its financial assistance in areas concerning or related to migration in respect of its relations with third countries, including by an allocation of up to 3% of the ENPI, and comparable efforts in respect of other relevant financial instruments. Equivalent efforts will in particular be considered in Sub-Saharan Africa, with a view to tackling the root causes of migration.

The European Council also underlines the importance of ensuring that appropriate priority is given within AENEAS to Africa and the Mediterranean to actions to be financed in 2006, including actions promoting synergies between migration and development. Adequate resources for the thematic programme for cooperation with third countries in the areas of migration and asylum under the future financial perspectives should also be ensured with a sufficiently flexible means of disbursing funding quickly in cases of serious and urgent need.

**Implementation and reporting**

The European Council underlines the importance of swift implementation of the priority measures identified and calls on the Commission to organise coordination meetings between Member States, FRONTEX, UNHCR and other relevant organisations as necessary.

The European Council invites the Commission to report back on progress made by the end of 2006.