

The Council underlines that EU support for peace and security in Africa is part of a coherent EU policy towards Africa in which ESDP activities and the Peace Facility are combined with other instruments of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Cotonou Agreement and with bilateral actions by Member States. This integrated, long term approach will include continuous attention for the vulnerable position of women and children and the increased risks of HIV/AIDS in armed conflict. The EU work will be based on the principle of full coordination with other actors in this field, i.e. the UN, the AU, subregional organisations, in order to ensure coherence and complementarity with bilateral initiatives and initiatives by, for example, the G8.

The Council notes with satisfaction that under the Peace Facility several requests of the AU have already been honoured. These include support for the mission of the AU AMIS in Sudan and the capacity building initiatives of the AU."

**EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

**Western Balkans - Participation in Community programmes**

The Council adopted five Decisions approving the signing of Framework Agreements with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on the general principles for their participation in Community programmes (14297/1/04). The Agreements were signed on 22 November in the margins of the Council.

The list of programmes open to participation, once the Agreements enter into force, of the five mentioned countries is as follows:

- Combating discrimination (2001-2006)
- Combating social exclusion (2002-2006)
- Community actions in support of consumer policy (2004-2007)
- Community action programme to promote bodies active at European level and support specific activities in the field of education and training (2004-2006)
- Community action programme to promote active European citizenship (2004-2006)
- Community action in the field of public health (2003-2008)

- Culture 2000 (2000-2006)
- Customs (2003-2007)
- Daphne II (2004-2008)
- eContent Plus (2004-2008)
- eLearning (2004-2006)
- Erasmus Mundus (2004-2008)
- Fiscalis (2003-2007)
- Gender equality (2001-2006)
- Hercule (2004-2006)
- Intelligent Energy Europe (2003-2006)
- Life (2000-2006)
- Leonardo da Vinci II (2000-2006)
- Marco Polo (2003-2010)
- Media Plus/Media Training (2001-2006)
- Safer Internet plus (2005-2008)
- Sixth RTD Framework Programme (2002-2006)
- Socrates II (2000-2006)
- Youth (2000-2006).