COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 4 September 2003

12225/03

LIMITE

COSDP 493
COAFR 99
CD 20

NOTE

From: Secretariat
To: Delegations
Subject: Status of the forces participating in the European Union military operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo requiring access to presence in and departure from Uganda

- Note Verbal from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda


2. On 18 June 2003, the Framework Nation for the EU Military Operation, France, signed a bilateral status of forces agreement with the Government of the Republic of Uganda. Article 3, paragraph 2 of that Agreement provides the possibility to extend the application of the provisions of the Agreement to other forces participating in the Operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

3. In order to adequately address the requirements of the force and its personnel, status of forces agreement had to be negotiated with the Republic of Uganda, where the forward mounting base is located. On 30 June 2003 the Council authorised the Presidency, assisted where necessary by the Secretary General/High Representative and in close co-operation with the Framework Nation to open negotiations with the Republic of Uganda (10773/03 COSDP 378 COAFR 64 PESC 375 CD 3).

\(^1\) OJ L 147, 14.6.2003, p.42
4. On 20 August 2003 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uganda issued a Note Verbal (EUR 133/150/01) stating that the Government of Uganda has extended the provisions of the Agreement of 18 June 2003 between the Republic of France and the Republic of Uganda to forces on the ground of other EU Member States, Brazil, Canada, Cyprus, Hungary and South Africa.

5. Delegations will find the Note Verbal received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda attached to this note.
NOTE VERBALE

The Embassy of the Republic of Uganda and Permanent Mission to the European Communities presents its compliments to the Secretary General of the Council of the European Union and as a follow-up to previous correspondence regarding the proposed exchange of letters between the European Union and the Uganda Government in the context of EU’s participation in the deployment of the Interim Emergency Multinational Force in Bunia, has the honour to forward herewith a copy of a Note Verbale No. EUR 133/150/01 of 20 August 2003 emanating from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uganda.

The Embassy of the Republic of Uganda and Permanent Mission to the European Communities avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary General of the Council of the European Union, the assurances of its highest consideration.

BRUSSELS: 22 August 2003

The Secretary General of the Council of the European Union
Rue de la Loi, 175
1048 BRUSSELS

Article 3, paragraph 2 of the Agreement provides for the extension of the application of the provisions of the Agreement to other forces participating in the IEMF Operation in DRC. The Ministry is aware that the Operation takes place under the strategic direction and political control of the European Union. Participation in the force is subject to the force generation process conducted by the Operation Commander and, in particular, to the acceptance of contributions of non-EU Member States by the Political and Security Committee upon proposal by the Operation Commander and recommendation of the EU Military Committee.
In addition to contributions of the French, other EU Member States, Brazil, Canada, Cyprus, Hungary and South Africa are participating in the Operation. The Government of Uganda has already extended the provisions of the Agreement to those forces on the ground.

The Government of Uganda would like to reconfirm its commitment to extend the application of the provisions of Agreement to the forces now participating in the IEMF Operation in the DRC and in the future.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the European Union Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

Kampala: 20th August 2003

European Union Secretariat
Brussels, Belgium