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I. INTRODUCTION

The European Council meeting in Tampere (October 1999) gave EU proceedings on Justice and Home Affairs an external dimension and, with the objective of ensuring overall, integrated awareness of JHA issues in all EU policies, the Feira Council (June 2000) agreed on a programme of priorities, objectives and measures which enshrined Justice and Home Affairs issues as priority components throughout the EU political programme. The document prepared by the Belgian presidency (14926/01 JAI 166), submitted to the Council on 6 December 2001, assesses compliance with the Tampere conclusions and reinforces that focus.

To guarantee maximum coherence and continuity in the development of JHA issues in the EU's internal and external policy, it was agreed that the EU programme for external relations in the field of Justice and Home Affairs would be dealt with on a multipresidency basis.

Experience so far has been very positive. Nevertheless, the events of 11 September 2001 in the United States and the decisions adopted at the extraordinary meetings of the JHA Council on 20 September and of the European Council on 21 September 2001, in particular the adoption of the European Action Plan against Terrorism, which was endorsed by the Ghent European Council on 19 October 2001, have led to a reorientation of JHA activities, a development which the Spanish Presidency firmly supports and will resolutely move forward.

The need to make progress in the furtherance of the common area of freedom, security and justice also underlines the desirability of establishing and strengthening cooperation with third countries in these areas. The Spanish Presidency, in conjunction with the previous Belgian Presidency and the future Danish Presidency, would therefore present the following programme of activities:

II. GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE UNION'S EXTERNAL POLICY FROM A JHA STANDPOINT

A. ENLARGEMENT

General priorities:

The European Council in Göteborg (June 2001) confirmed the irreversible nature of the enlargement process. For Spain enlargement is a priority. In the process of gradual approximation to the criteria for accession, Justice and Home Affairs issues have acquired increasing relevance.

The negotiations on Chapter 24 relating to Justice and Home Affairs have advanced in line with the road map prepared by the Commission. Progress has been very significant: with the exception of Romania, the Common Positions on Chapter 24 have been adopted and for some countries – Hungary, Slovenia, Cyprus and the Czech Republic – that has signalled the provisional closing of the chapter.

The candidate countries will have to continue their efforts to incorporate the *acquis* on Schengen and external frontiers, to strengthen judicial capability and to fight terrorism. Major advances have been made in all areas and future efforts will focus on helping candidate countries establish an appropriate level of control at common borders and set up the necessary administrative structures. With regard to future external borders, the Spanish presidency intends to channel EU assistance towards candidate countries in order to achieve a high level of protection at those borders.

With regard to the enforcement of the *acquis*, the Göteborg European Council repeated that the candidate countries must continue to progress in transposing, implementing and enforcing the *acquis* and stressed the need to reform judicial systems and the civil service. That priority was recently emphasised in the Strategy Paper published by the Commission on 13 November 2001. This issue is particularly important in relation to the latest developments in the field of mutual recognition of judgments, the touchstone of judicial cooperation in both civil and criminal matters in the EU. The Spanish Presidency will endeavour to promote activities designed to strengthen judicial and institutional structures in the candidate countries.

In the framework of the accession negotiations, the EU recalls that, under Article 29 of the EU Treaty, combating terrorism is an integral part of the Union's objectives in the creation of an area of freedom, security and justice. The Presidency will promote the necessary legal and institutional measures in the candidate countries to achieve those objectives. The candidate countries will need to follow the development of the new *acquis* in that area very closely. Special attention will be paid to assistance to candidate countries in developing a responsible and effective police force, an independent, efficient judiciary capable of maintaining procedural safeguards and ensuring adequate coordination and cooperation between the law enforcement agencies. Under the Spanish Presidency, particular attention will be devoted to assistance to the candidate countries directed at enabling them to comply with the *acquis* and other international standards relating to combating the financing of terrorism and money-laundering.

The Working Party on Collective Evaluation, whose reports on each country have been very useful and whose findings have been reflected in the Common Positions, will continue to deal with evaluation with the objective of continuing to provide an expert contribution on JHA matters to the enlargement process.

Action Plan on Drugs with candidate countries for accession to the EU:

Integration of the *acquis* on that issue will proceed as provided for in the EU Action Plan on Drugs (2000-2004). A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between each of the those countries and the EU. Each Memorandum will set out the objectives of the European Drugs Strategy and the actions to be taken on coordination, information and evaluation, reduction of demand and supply are to be found in the Action Plan.

Special emphasis will be placed on the institutional developments necessary to achieve those objectives. The candidate countries will be invited to a meeting of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs.

The Action Plan with the candidate countries will also include an undertaking to continue to provide technical and economic support for those countries, where necessary, in their fight against drug abuse and drug trafficking, particularly through the Phare programme.

Activities scheduled:

- Meeting of JHA Ministers from EU and candidate countries: 28 February 2002, Brussels.
- Working Party on Collective Evaluation: January, April, May 2002, Brussels.
- Meeting of CATS Troika and candidate countries: 21 June 2002, Brussels.
- Meeting of CIREFI and candidate countries: 24 April 2002, Brussels.
- Meeting of CIREA and candidate countries: 18 June 2002, Brussels.
- Meeting of Horizontal Working Party on Drugs and candidate countries: 7 June 2002, Brussels.
- Working Party on Drug Trafficking. The Government Delegation for the National Plan on Drugs will organise three seminars to which it will invite the candidate countries (Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Slovenia and Romania), taking part in the twinning programmes headed by Spain, and the findings will be submitted to the Working Party on Drug Trafficking. These seminars will relate to Trafficking in Hashish, Money Laundering and New Technologies. The first two will be held in Malaga and the third in Madrid.
- European Conference on the use of new technologies in relation to criminal activity, particularly drug trafficking. Candidate countries invited: Latvia, Slovenia and Romania (Madrid, 21 to 24 January 2002).

In accordance with the conclusions adopted by the extraordinary JHA Council meeting, particularly those relating to the coordinated effort to combat terrorism, which also includes the candidate countries, Spain will convene:

- A meeting of the European Judicial Network and candidate countries, May 2002, Murcia;
- A meeting of PAPEG (MDG plus candidate countries), date and venue to be decided;
- A meeting of the EU Police Chiefs Task Force. Police Chiefs from the candidate countries will be invited. (Las Palmas, Canaries, 9 and 10 April 2002);
- One-day workshop on mutual awareness of the structure and legislation of the candidate countries relating to terrorism (May 2002, Madrid).

B. COMMON STRATEGIES

1. Russia

General priorities:

The adoption of a Common Strategy on Russia following the European Council in Cologne (June 1999) has led to the development of a very ambitious strategic partnership designed to implement political, economic and social reforms and consolidate and strengthen the rule of law.

The JHA dimension of the Common Strategy deals with judicial and police cooperation in the fight against organised crime, money laundering, trafficking in human beings and drug trafficking.

Given that the first review of the EU–Russia Common Strategy took place in December 2001, the Spanish Presidency intends to organise a JHA ministerial meeting with Russia to enhance and reinforce the implementation of the Action Plan on combating organised crime.

The EU–Russia Action Plan on combating organised crime (March 2000) contains a reference to the need to reinforce cooperation between liaison officers in the Member States to involve them more closely with the application of the Plan. In accordance with the Plan, the objective being pursued is to promote arrangements with Russia to exchange technical and strategic information, to develop mechanisms allowing the use of advanced investigative techniques, to improve organised crime prevention measures and, through training courses, to improve the professional profile of experts in the fight against organised crime.

Activities scheduled:

The Spanish Presidency intends to advance and amplify implementation of the Action Plan on combating organised crime (April 2000) and to achieve closer cooperation on immigration and visas with a view to optimising activities in this area.

- EU–Russia ministerial meeting: 25 April 2002, Luxembourg;
- EU–Russia Summit: 28 May 2002, Moscow;
- SCIFA Troika–Russia meeting: 10 April 2002, Brussels;
- CATS Troika–Russia meeting: 10 April 2002, Brussels;
- a representative of the Russian judiciary or prosecutor's office will be invited to attend one of the EUROJUST meetings;
- meeting of drugs specialists in EU Troika–Russia format;
- the PCA Subcommittee on JHA matters will meet under the Spanish Presidency in Moscow;
- meeting of Member States' liaison officers in Russia with their counterparts, to be held in Moscow.

In line with the statement on international terrorism adopted at the EU–Russia summit (Brussels, 3 October 2001), the Spanish Presidency will continue to intensify cooperation in the fight against terrorism, particularly by promoting dialogue and exchange of information between experts in anti-terrorist action, using the framework already in existence in the Working Party on Terrorism under the 3rd pillar or the Police Chiefs Task Force.

2. Ukraine

General priorities:

Because of Ukraine's size and its geographical proximity to the EU, EU–Ukraine cooperation is of particular importance to both parties. The Common Strategy adopted after the European Council in Helsinki (December 1999) provides the framework for an ambitious strategic collaboration project in which Justice and Home Affairs occupy a prominent position.

The Spanish Presidency welcomes the approval of the joint EU-Ukraine Action Plan in the field of justice and home affairs and recognises the importance of having the JHA dimension in the EU–Ukraine Common Strategy highlighted through this Plan, to which it will devote special attention.

Activities scheduled:

With a view to achieving the objectives of this new Action Plan, the following programme of activities is proposed:

Foster regional cooperation and the coordination of aid programmes between EU Member States to reflect the priorities set out in the Action Plan;

Consider adopting a mechanism for monitoring implementation of the Action Plan in the field of justice and home affairs for Ukraine and drawing up an inventory of resources available for carrying it out;

In collaboration with the Commission, encourage the conclusion of a readmission agreement between Ukraine and the EU;

Cooperate in developing an effective system of border control and judicial and legislative reform, applying the extended TACIS programme to study and advice projects in this area;

Reinforce cooperation in the fight against terrorism, promoting exchanges of information between experts, particularly with regard to activities or movements of individuals or groups belonging to or connected with terrorist networks, the delivery of arms, explosives and dual-use goods and new forms of terrorism, including chemical, biological and nuclear threats;

Promote cooperation in the fight against organised crime through support for Ukraine ratification and implementation of international instruments in this area;

Meeting of SCIFA Troika–Ukraine, 10 April 2002, Brussels;

Meeting of CATS Troika–Ukraine, 10 April 2002, Brussels.

3. Mediterranean region

EUROMED

General priorities:

The whole of the Barcelona Process is one of the Spanish Presidency's priorities in the field of external policy. Among the various initiatives it wishes to stimulate within the process are approval of the Regional Programme in the field of Justice and Home Affairs, for which instructions were given at the ministerial meeting in Marseilles in November 2000 and on which preparation began at the meeting of experts in Montpellier (5 and 6 June 2001), when the Commission presented a "framework document" containing a possible outline for the programme. Following the Ministerial Conference in Brussels, the Spanish Presidency will endeavour to ensure that agreement can be reached at least on the definition and main aspects of the programme at the Ministerial meeting in Valencia.

The three principles which will guide Spanish action in implementing the JHA Regional Programme are:

- applicability criterion: it is preferable to make the programme less ambitious if that will guarantee common acceptance of the measures it contains;
- finance for application: sufficient funds will have to be made available for implementation, whether under MEDA or under other budget headings;
- priority treatment for the measures deemed more urgent, in view of the magnitude of the problems to be addressed: common management of migratory flows (stressing the possibilities offered by co-development in this area), combating networks trafficking in human beings and reinforcing anti-terrorist cooperation, inter alia.

In addition, the dialogue with Morocco on migration issues begun after the establishment of an hoc Working Party on Migration which reports to the Working Party on Social Affairs and Migration, set up under Article 73 of the EU/Morocco Association Agreement. This Working Party will deal both with issues relating to development cooperation as a way of attacking the roots of illegal migration and with the fight against illegal immigration networks, preparing projects acceptable to both parties. Spain will also work for the inclusion of a Justice and Home Affairs chapter in the Association Agreements currently being negotiated with Lebanon, Algeria and Syria.

Activities scheduled

- Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference: 22 and 23 April 2002, Valencia;
- CIREFI meeting with representatives of the Maghreb (Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia), 28 May 2002.

C. BALKANS

General priorities:

The EU is taking full responsibility for the task of assistance and support to the countries of the region to ensure that they continue to work within the framework of the process of stabilisation and association.

The Final Declaration at the EU-Western Balkans Summit held in Zagreb (24 November 2001) confirmed that the process of stabilisation and association was an essential feature of the Union's policy on the Western Balkans, the main objective being to restore the rule of the law in the area. Stabilisation and Association Agreements have already been concluded with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and with Croatia. For the first time, those agreements include a specific section on cooperation on Justice and Home Affairs. The ministerial troika on Justice and Home Affairs meeting in Sarajevo on 28 March 2001 adopted a Declaration on Asylum and Immigration and a meeting of senior officials took place on 30 November 2001 as a follow-up.

Under the Action Plan for the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe adopted at a meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs in Cologne (June 1999), JHA matters are dealt with in the Sub-Table on Justice and Home Affairs of Working Table III. Its priorities are combating corruption, legislative and judicial reform, reform of police services and asylum and migration issues. Consideration of the future of the Stability Pact has begun. Its activities and working methods will be evaluated by the new Special Coordinator of the Pact who will suggest improvements to the EU Council.

The Commission has set up an ad hoc Working Party on trafficking in human beings and illegal immigration on the Balkan route which reports on its findings and conclusions to the Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum, the High-level Working Group on Asylum and Migration, CATS and COWEB. This cross-pillar working structure reinforces the coherence of external EU action in JHA matters.

Activities scheduled:

The process of reflection on the Stability Pact currently in progress will influence activities in the Sub-Table on Justice and Home Affairs during the Spanish Presidency and will focus on asylum and immigration, trafficking in human beings, organised crime and corruption.

- Meeting of CIREFI experts with the five countries involved in the Stabilisation and Association Process for the Balkans, 23 April 2002, Brussels

III. CROSS-SECTORAL TOPICS

A. MIGRATION ISSUES

1. ASEM forum

General priorities:

A Ministerial Conference on Europe–Asia migratory flows will take place on 5 and 6 April 2002 within the ASEM framework. This initiative falls within the same framework as others in this connection which have already taken place in the ASEM forum, although they did not focus on the overall topic; one example is the symposium on trafficking in Asian women and children in Europe organised by the Swedish Presidency.

The agenda will cover three major topics:

- (a) causes of migratory flows. Development cooperation issues will also be discussed in this connection;
- (b) legal immigration: admission policies, access to employment, family reunification, integration of immigrants, combating discrimination;
- (c) illegal immigration: routes, document forgery and cooperation in combating organised crime in the area of trafficking in human beings.

The Conference is expected to result in:

- a political declaration providing solemn official recognition of the political interest of the ASEM countries in expanding cooperation in relation to migratory flows so that it covers all new initiatives arising on the matter;
- the establishment of a monitoring mechanism to supervise compliance with the measures adopted and propose new ones;
- the creation of a network of contact points in the ASEM countries with competence in immigration matters.

Activities scheduled:

- The Ministerial Conference will be held in Lanzarote (Canaries) on 4 and 5 April 2002 and the results will be analysed and discussed at the Foreign Ministers-ASEM meeting on 6 and 7 June 2002 for approval at the ASEM Summit in September 2002.

The following meetings will be held to prepare for the Ministerial Conference:

- meeting of ASEM coordinators, January 2002, Madrid
- meeting of Senior Officials on Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs to be held on the eve of the Ministerial Conference, April 2002, Lanzarote.

2. High-level Working Group on Asylum and Migration (HLWG):**General priorities:**

The High-level Working Group on Asylum and Migration was set up by the General Affairs Council in December 1998 to prepare cross-pillar action plans in the countries of origin and transit of immigrants and asylum-seekers. The countries selected were Afghanistan, Morocco, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Iraq and Albania and the neighbouring region. The plans are in line with an overall, balanced approach involving measures relating to foreign policy, economic cooperation and development cooperation in addition to migration and asylum measures in the strict sense. Six subgroups were set up to prepare and implement the Action Plans; outcomes so far have differed depending on the characteristics of each of the countries in question and they were summarised in a report submitted to the Nice European Council.

HLWG's major activity in the forthcoming presidency will be to continue to apply the measures contained in the various Action Plans through the subgroups set up for the purpose.

Activities scheduled:

During the Spanish Presidency efforts will focus on applying the existing Action Plans (Morocco, Albania, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka) rather than on preparing any new plans. Particular importance will be given to financing projects under the special budget heading B7–667 so that, in the light of the success or failure of the measures adopted under the various plans and the demonstrated need to include new measures, modifications to some of the plans can be proposed to the Council. The Commission and the European Parliament will be requested to increase the budget allocation in 2002.

Another objective is to enhance the innovatory nature of HLWG as the appropriate cross-pillar group for the discussion and submission of proposals on the inclusion of the migration perspective into foreign policy, including development policy. To this end, account will be taken of the conclusions of the Conference on Migration organised by the Belgian Presidency and the initiatives and discussions sparked by the Commission communication on "*an open method of coordination for the Community immigration policy*" (COM (2001) 387) will be followed with particular interest. Finally, special attention will be devoted to co-development as an instrument of enormous potential for managing migratory flows.

Three plenary HLWG meetings will be held on 23 January, 10 April and 22 May 2002, and there will be two meetings of subgroups: Albania, 20 February and Morocco, 9 May 2002.

B. ORGANISED CRIME**General priorities:**

This is a cross-sectoral issue which covers various manifestations of organised crime having a very direct influence on the equilibrium between freedom, security and justice outlined by the Tampere Summit. In view of its scale and its nature, the prevention and elimination of organised crime requires cooperation with third countries and active participation in international fora.

Illegal immigration, trafficking in human beings, money laundering, drug trafficking and terrorism are some of the specific forms of organised crime in relation to which prevention, repression, prosecution and punishment require action that involves cooperation in police and criminal law matters, in the financial sphere and in migration and visa policy.

Activities scheduled:

These various areas will receive priority treatment at all the Presidency's meetings with candidate countries and EU partners, particularly Russia, Ukraine, the United States and Canada, both at political dialogue level and in the Council Working Party meetings.

C. CIVILIAN ASPECTS OF CRISIS MANAGEMENT

General priorities:

The European Council in Feira (June 2000) provided the basis for this programme by setting a very concrete objective involving the creation of an EU conflict prevention and civilian crisis management capability. This means that by 2003 the European Union should be able to provide up to 5 000 police officers for international conflict prevention and crisis management missions. The staff and resources thus made available should target three priority areas of activity: strengthening the rule of law, civil administration and civil protection. The Secretary General/High Representative has agreed to the creation of a civilian police unit attached to the Council Secretariat and to an Action Plan for civilian police.

As under previous Presidencies, work will continue under the Spanish Presidency to meet the aforesaid objective and special attention will continue to be devoted to the adoption of measures allowing an optimum contribution to the Peace Missions headed by other international organisations such as the United Nations and OSCE, while maintaining compatibility between that effort and the creation and maintenance of the EU's own capability to carry out missions of that nature. In this connection, we would recall the initiatives taken concerning the European Police College with regard to training.

IV. DIALOGUE WITH TRADITIONAL PARTNERS

A. UNITED STATES

General priorities:

The new Transatlantic Agenda provides a general frame of reference for relations between the EU and the USA and is the proper vehicle for channelling future cooperation priorities. The Spanish Presidency programme is based on the conclusions of the EU/US Summit held in Göteborg (June 2001) and, following the events of 11 September, the relationship will be intensified and enhanced in all spheres and particularly in the area of police and judicial cooperation in which the fight against terrorism is in the forefront.

In view of the above and of the summary document produced jointly by the Commission and the Belgian Presidency (COTRA 113/01) which identifies a series of joint actions for the next EU/US Summit, the Spanish Presidency is taking on the ensuing work programme in which it would highlight the Justice and Home Affairs implications of the following lines of action

- (a) Combating terrorism: account will be taken in this connection of the measures agreed at the extraordinary JHA Council meeting on 20 September 2001, the extraordinary European Council meeting on 21 September 2001, the jumbo JHA/ECOFIN Council meeting on 16 October 2001 and finally the European Council meetings in Ghent (20.10.01) and Laeken (14.12.01), with particular attention being paid to the results achieved.

The plan of action to combat terrorism was approved by the extraordinary meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 20 September 2001 and will be based on the "road map" approved by the JHA Council meeting on 27 and 28 September 2001. The road map contains a series of measures intended to improve cooperation with the United States in the following areas:

- air transport security
 - police and judicial cooperation and possible negotiation of an EU-US mutual assistance agreement under Article 38 of the TEU
 - combating the funding of terrorism and other devices which support terrorists
 - border control and other aspects relating to visas and false documents
 - access to and exchange of information and electronic data between security agencies (EUROPOL and United States agencies). The General Affairs Council of December 2001 instructed Europol to negotiate an agreement for the exchange of personal data with the United States.
- (b) Combating organised crime, promoting greater transatlantic cooperation in the following areas: trafficking in human beings, combating drugs and cyber crime.

Activities scheduled:

- EU-US Summit in Washington
- Meeting of EU and US Foreign Ministers, Madrid, 23 January 2002
- JHA-EU-US Troika meeting, Madrid, 22 January 2002
- SCIFA-US meeting, Brussels, 12 March 2002
- EU Troika-US meeting on drugs, covering aspects relating to controlling the supply of drugs and to preventing consumption and reducing demand
- CIREA-US-CANADA meeting, Brussels, 10 May 2002
- CIREFI-US-CANADA meeting, Brussels, 28 and 29 May 2002
- Meeting of False Documents Working Party with the US and Canada, Brussels, 25 January 2002
- COTER Working Party on Terrorism Troika meeting (Third Pillar) with the US, in Brussels.

B. LATIN AMERICA

General priorities:

In line with the criteria and objectives which provided the motivation for including a JHA dimension in the EU's external policy, the Spanish Presidency will seek to ensure consistency of the initiatives and measures agreed at the EU/LAC Summits with the EU's action in the justice and home affairs field (Rio de Janeiro 1999-Madrid 2002).

Emphasis should be placed on the follow-up to and support for the cooperation programmes and action plans resulting from the Rio Summit and the meetings of the bi-regional group at senior official level which take place periodically. In this connection the 11 priorities identified in Tuusula provide a fitting framework for such cooperation, in particular those priorities concerned with promoting and protecting human rights and combating trafficking in drugs and arms.

The regular meetings of senior officials in the context of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism in the fight against drugs are also of particular interest.

This Mechanism was developed on the basis of aim 9 of the EU Drugs Strategy (2000-2004), which places emphasis on intensifying cooperation with other countries and international organisations.

Point 5.2.6 of the EU Action Plan on Drugs provides for stepping up drug-related work between the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean and for full implementation of the Panama Action Plan which lays down the framework for the operation of the Mechanism.

Activities scheduled:

- EU-Latin America and Caribbean Summit, Madrid, 17 and 18 May

- Fourth high-level meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean, Madrid, 7 and 8 March, with the aim of consolidating and making progress in the implementation of the Mechanism
- Meeting of the preparatory technical committee of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean, Brussels, 11 January 2002
- High-level meeting with the Andean Community, Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia), 30-31 January 2002.

C. CANADA

General priorities:

The broad outline of cooperation with Canada on justice and home affairs was agreed at the EU/Canada Summit (December 2000) at which a Joint Declaration reaffirmed a series of shared commitments covering the following major problems and challenges: combating racism and xenophobia, transnational organised crime, cyber crime, drug trafficking, money laundering and corruption, while not forgetting the specific problems of asylum and immigration.

Canada takes part in many meetings in the EU context, both at political and expert level, ranging from an EU/Canada Summit to joint meetings with CIREA, CIREFI, the Multidisciplinary Group on Organised Crime and the Working Party on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

Activities scheduled:

- EU-Canada Summit, Madrid, 8 May
- EU-Canada Foreign Ministers meeting, 6 March
- CIREFI-US-CANADA meeting, Brussels, 28 and 29 May 2002
- CIREA-US-CANADA meeting, Brussels, 10 May 2002
- Meeting of False Documents Working Party with the US and Canada, Brussels, 25 January 2002.

D. NORWAY, ICELAND AND SWITZERLAND

General priorities:

The EU has structured links with these three countries, covering very different areas within justice and home affairs:

Norway and Iceland, as Schengen States rather than EU States, participate in this reinforced cooperation mechanism through the Mixed Committee, which meets regularly under each Presidency. Cooperation on JHA matters also extends to other areas, notably the recent conclusion of cooperation agreements with Europol in June 2001, the implementation of important Conventions adopted by the Council of Europe on mutual assistance in criminal matters and extradition, and, in the area of asylum, the request from these two countries for extension of the application of the future EU Regulation on asylum by means of an appropriate legal instrument.

Activities scheduled:

The Presidency will continue and strengthen the relationship between the EU and Norway and Iceland within the framework of the Mixed Committee created to develop the Schengen acquis. The regular meetings of the Mixed Committee at Ministerial level and of Coreper, CATS and SCIFA will take place in this framework.

Working Party on Frontiers/Iceland and Norway Mixed Committee, 23 January, 20 February, 23 and 24 April, 28 and 29 May 2002.

CIREFI/Iceland and Norway Mixed Committee, 30 January, 26 February, 23 and 24 April, 28 and 29 May 2002.

Working Party on Schengen Evaluation/Mixed Committee, 14 and 22 January, 17 April, 14 May and 26 June 2002.

Working Party on the Schengen Acquis/Mixed Committee, 5 February, 18 April, 29 May and 18 June 2002.

Switzerland This country has submitted an application to take part in the Schengen area and the Dublin Convention, which is being studied by the Commission and the Council. The Commission has not yet submitted any negotiating directives although it is likely that it will do so during the forthcoming Presidencies' programme and, the negotiation of an agreement with Switzerland should therefore be included in the programme.

In addition, an agreement is being negotiated with Switzerland on cooperation in combating fraud affecting the European Communities' financial interests as the present level of cooperation is considered quite inadequate. The EC would like a broad agreement that also includes judicial cooperation. The negotiations are progressing, although there is no agreement in principle, and they should therefore also be included in the forthcoming Presidencies' programme.

E. AFRICA

General priorities:

The Spanish Presidency will attempt to stimulate the political dialogue with the ACP countries through the application of the Cotonou Agreement concluded between the EU and those countries. That dialogue will essentially concentrate on the re-establishment and consolidation of democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

V. RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER MULTILATERAL FORA

General priorities applicable to all fora:

In order to ensure that the commitments entered into by the European Union at international level are compatible with the Union's internal policy objectives, it is of vital importance that the EU should participate in multilateral fora, in particular those concentrating on the preparation of guidelines and legal instruments (United Nations, Council of Europe, The Hague Conference, OSCE) and those specialising in cooperation with a JHA component (Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, UNDCP).

A. UNITED NATIONS

The Spanish Presidency will ensure the coordination of the Member States' various positions on the actions implemented in the competent United Nations bodies concerned with justice and home affairs. In particular, coordination will concentrate on the preparatory work on a future United Nations convention against corruption within the framework of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the development of the Statute of the International Criminal Court within the framework of the Sixth Commission of the UN General Assembly, the ratification of which will be promoted in all fora and meetings. The Spanish Presidency will also seek to ensure the signing and rapid ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the Protocols thereto and the twelve United Nations Conventions against Terrorism and, most particularly, it will coordinate the EU's contribution to the proceedings on the preparation of a UN Global Convention against Terrorism, with a view to its adoption and application as swiftly as possible. Coordination will also aim to contribute to the adoption of effective measures against terrorism at Security Council level and the promotion of effective implementation of the relevant resolutions, in particular Security Council Resolution 1373.

Finally, the Spanish Presidency will continue to further the action plans for the application of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century.

- Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 11 to 15 March 2002, Vienna
- Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 15 to 24 April 2002, Vienna
- Ad hoc Committee on the Negotiation of a UN Convention against Corruption (Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice), 21 January to 1 February 2002, Vienna

B. COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Since the first EU Troika/Council of Europe meeting in March 1997 cooperation between the two bodies has developed enormously in practically all areas of mutual interest: legislative work, training of staff at various levels in the administration of justice, and the fight against corruption and organised crime, not to mention the important contributions made by the Council of Europe to the debate on the enforcement and recognition of judicial decisions.

EU-Council of Europe dialogue and cooperation cover not only cross-sectoral matters, but also different geographical areas, in particular Russia, Ukraine and the Balkans. The Presidency will continue progress in all those areas and in particular promote the signing and ratification of the conventions adopted within the Council of Europe on police and criminal justice cooperation.

- JHA Troika (CATS)-Council of Europe, 13 March 2002, Brussels

C. THE HAGUE CONFERENCE

In accordance with the tradition first established in 1996 the Presidency, in Troika formation, will hold half-yearly informal meetings with representatives of the Hague Conference for the purpose of discussions and exchanges of information on issues relating to judicial cooperation in civil matters and in particular questions such as jurisdiction and the recognition and execution of judgments, issues that are controversial and to which a pragmatic approach must be adopted. The negotiation of an international exequatur convention will require a major effort to bring positions closer together.

D. G-7/G-8

Justice and home affairs are raised with increasing frequency at G-7/G-8 meetings. In view of the special nature of these issues and the restricted compass of those fora, this growing practice requires the consolidation of a mechanism for the systematic and swift communication of information by the Presidency, when it takes part in a meeting, or, in its absence, by another participant.
