

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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COVER NOTE

Subject:	Draft Conclusions of the General Affairs Council on 17 October 2001 - Action by the European Union following the attacks in the United States:
to:	Council
from:	Permanent Representatives Committee

Delegations will find attached a set of draft Council conclusions on terrorism as they emerged from the Coreper meeting on 15 October 2001.

Draft Council Conclusions of 17 October 2001 Action by the European Union following the attacks in the United States: Coordinating the Union's work

The General Affairs Council noted the report by the Presidency on the work done by the various configurations of the Council on the fight against terrorism.

The Council welcomed the road map submitted by the Presidency, which sets out all the initiatives and work carried out by the Council and lists those responsible for implementation, the timeframes and progress made. The Council asked for the road map to be regularly updated by Coreper; it will review progress at its next meeting.

The General Affairs Council then reviewed all the work done in the other configurations of the Council, namely: the Transport Council on 14 September 2001 and 15 October 2001, the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 20 and 27 September 2001 and 16 October 2001, the Ecofin Council on 16 October 2001, the joint Justice and Home Affairs/Ecofin Council on 16 October 2001, the Telecommunications Council on 15 October 2001, and the informal ministerial meetings on 10 October 2001 (Ministers for Development Cooperation) and 11 and 12 October 2001 (Defence Ministers).

The Council noted that in all the Council's configurations, work on stepping up the fight against terrorism was progressing satisfactorily and that the conclusions of the extraordinary informal European Council of 21 September 2001 had produced results. It noted in particular:

the measures already taken against the sources that fund terrorism, such as the political
agreement on the Directive against money laundering, application in full of the
FATF measures and freezing the assets of persons and organisations linked to the Taliban;

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- work in progress to draw up a list of terrorist organisations and the valuable contribution made by the intelligence services; the Council believes that their regular meetings are vital if terrorism is to be combated successfully;
- the progress already made in examination of the Commission proposals on the European arrest warrant and terrorist offences; the Council asks that at the same time any measure facilitating mutual assistance with third countries concerning the pursuit of terrorists or terrorist organisations be considered;
- the many current contacts with the USA and in particular the Troika's meeting at operational level planned for 19 October 2001 in Washington, which will include representatives from the Police Task Force, Europol's anti-terrorism group, Eurojust and the intelligence services;
- the coordinated position drawn up by the European Union's COTER Working Party in the context of the conclusion of a general UN Convention on international terrorism.

The General Affairs Council also

- approved a system of indicators enabling the degree of commitment and cooperation on the
 part of third countries in combating terrorism to be assessed;
- instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to ensure that, in accordance with
 Article 6 of Resolution 1373 of the Security Council, the Union reports back on the measures it has taken to implement the Resolution.

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