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From : Political and Security Committee

To : COREPER/COUNCIL

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Subject : Draft Council Conclusions on EU - OSCE co-operation in conflict prevention,  
crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation

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The Political and Security Committee reached agreement on the annexed draft Council Conclusions at its meeting on 4 November 2003.

# **DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON EU-OSCE CO-OPERATION IN CONFLICT PREVENTION, CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND POST-CONFLICT REHABILITATION**

## **Guiding principles**

1. The Council recognises that, although different in structure and purpose, the EU and the OSCE share the same principles and values, as well as important responsibilities in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, the promotion of democracy and human rights and institution building. All EU Member States are also OSCE participating states; from 2004 EU Member States will make up 25 of the OSCE's 55 participating states. Both organisations are united in the recognition of the primary role of the United Nations Security Council in matters of international peace and security.
2. The Council acknowledges the role of the OSCE as a valuable instrument for the promotion of peace and comprehensive security in the area from Vancouver to Vladivostok. The Council recognises, moreover, the relevance of the inclusive, pan-European and transatlantic partnership and the importance of the OSCE's consensus-based "modus operandi" for the promotion of peace and stability in the region. The OSCE has important assets based on its valuable acquis, including its field presences, which assist the participating states in fulfilling their commitments, and institutions.
3. These particular features make the OSCE an important partner for the EU. In accordance with the EU programme for prevention of violent conflicts (2001), and in the spirit of the OSCE "Platform for co-operative security", the Council affirms its determination to continue enhancing its relationship with the OSCE with a view to further develop the existing co-operation between the EU and the OSCE. Co-operation should take into account the different nature of the EU and the OSCE.
4. Co-ordination between the EU and the OSCE should also be based on the principle of avoiding duplication and identifying comparative advantages and added value, leading to effective complementarity. Moreover, co-ordination should develop as a process in the light of changing needs within the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy, including European Security and Defence Policy as well as within the OSCE.

## **Specific areas of co-operation**

5. EU-OSCE co-operation should encompass the politico-military, economic and environmental and human dimensions, which characterise both the EU and the OSCE, as well as the specific tasks of conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. In particular:

(i) Enhanced co-operation should include: exchange of information and analyses, co-operation on fact finding missions, co-ordination of diplomatic activity and statements, including consultations between special representatives, training and in-field co-ordination.

(ii) Mutually reinforcing initiatives could include inter alia:

- possible contribution by the EU to the OSCE's operational efforts in crisis management
- joint and/or co-ordinated programmes on post-conflict rehabilitation
- EU crisis management operations following a request from the OSCE

## **Modalities for EU-OSCE co-operation**

6. The following modalities regarding regular contacts and meetings between the relevant EU and OSCE bodies could provide a basis for intensified co-operation, facilitating guidance, continuity and coherence of EU and OSCE activities:

### *Political level*

- During each Presidency, a meeting should take place between the EU troika, the OSCE troika and the OSCE Secretary General.
- At the outset of each EU Presidency, the Presidency will address the Permanent Council of the OSCE.
- Invitations, as appropriate, of representatives of the CiO, the OSCE Secretary General, heads of OSCE field presences and heads of OSCE institutions to informal meetings with the PSC during each Presidency.

- Visits by the EU troika (at PSC level) to Vienna for meetings with the OSCE troika, EU Permanent Representatives to the OSCE and third countries, as appropriate.
- Briefings by the Secretary-General/High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the European Commissioner for external relations to the Permanent Council in Vienna, including meetings with the HoMs in Vienna, as and when deemed necessary.
- Continued contacts between the Secretary-General/High Representative, the Commissioner for external relations and the OSCE CiO and Secretary General, as and when appropriate.
- Co-ordination among the EU Member States' representations to the OSCE and the European Commission delegation in Vienna and co-ordination between them and the EU institutions and bodies in Brussels in order to facilitate synergies.
- Invite, as appropriate, representatives of the OSCE Secretary General and Chairmanship in Office, Heads of Mission and Heads of OSCE institutions to informal meetings with relevant working groups.

*EU Member States' permanent representatives to the OSCE in Vienna*

The EU permanent representatives in Vienna should maintain day-to-day contact between the European Union and the OSCE including the institutions co-ordinating with each other and with EU institutions and bodies in Brussels.

*Field level*

Co-operation in the field between EU Special Representatives, heads of EU crisis management operations, EU Member States' embassies, European Commission delegations, OSCE field presences and special representatives.

*Staff-to staff level*

Staff-to-staff contacts at all levels between the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, the European Commission services and the OSCE Secretariat and other OSCE institutions.

## **Miscellaneous**

7. In the political dialogue with OSCE partners, systematically use opportunities for furthering EU policies and programmes on OSCE-related questions, particularly those enshrined in EU agreements with the partners in question.

8. On norm setting, take account of OSCE acquis with respect to standards, notably on democracy and human rights.

## **Way ahead**

9. The Council requests the Presidency, assisted by the High Representative/Secretary General and in full association with the Commission, to implement these general guidelines in coordination with the OSCE. The Presidency shall in particular ensure close coordination between the relevant Council Working Parties and between the EU Member States' permanent representatives to the OSCE. As regards implementation of these guidelines in Vienna, a Council Secretariat's liaison officer could be posted to Vienna in keeping with the available resources, so as to assist the Presidency there, facilitate communication with the Council Secretariat in Brussels and further enhance co-operation and synergy between the EU and the OSCE.

10. The Council requests the PSC to monitor the implementation of these guidelines and to identify further potential cooperation areas and priorities for EU-OSCE cooperation. It further requests the PSC to closely monitor emerging or potential crises within the OSCE's areas of activity, and to examine possible EU contributions to relevant OSCE mechanisms already in place.

11. The Council agrees that the Presidency will convey the content of these Council conclusions to the Chairman in Office of the OSCE and the OSCE Secretary-General.