



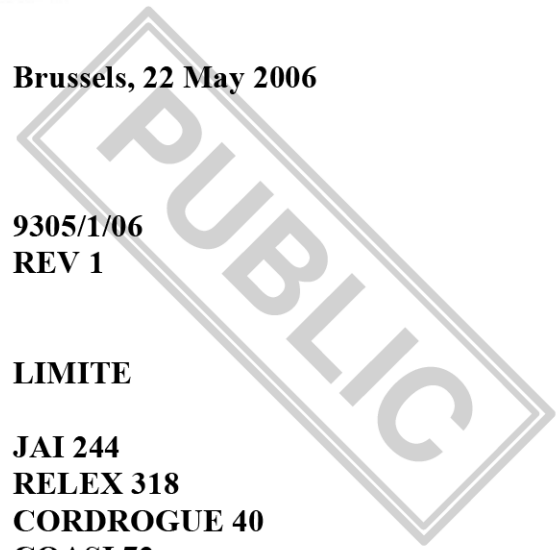
**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 22 May 2006

**9305/1/06
REV 1**

LIMITE

**JAI 244
RELEX 318
CORDROGUE 40
COASI 72**



INFORMATION NOTE

from : Presidency
to : COREPER/COUNCIL
Subject : State of Play in Implementing the Strategy for the External Dimension of JHA :
Global Freedom, Security and Justice :
- Action-Oriented Paper Increasing EU support for combating drug
production in and trafficking from Afghanistan, including transit routes.

I. Background

On 1 December 2005 the JHA Council endorsed the Strategy for the External Dimension of JHA and decided to forward it to the General Affairs Council for adoption¹.

This Strategy calls for work on action-oriented papers (AOPs) on five specific issues:

- Strengthening counter-terrorism co-operation with North Africa;
- Improving co-operation on organised crime, corruption, illegal immigration and counter-terrorism between the EU, Western Balkans and relevant ENP countries;
- Increasing EU support for combating drug production in and trafficking from Afghanistan, including transit routes;

¹ Doc. 15446/05 JAI 488 RELEX 741

- increasing and enhancing dialogue and co-operation on migration issues with countries of origin and transit in Africa;
- implementing with Russia the Common Space of freedom, security and justice.

Each of these AOPs should include

- i) an analysis of the issue and the EU's objectives, drawing on relevant information from the EU's institutions and from Member States;
- ii) a summary of current action being carried out both by the Commission and by Member States and
- iii) identification of what needs to be done at the political, technical and operational levels in order to meet EU objectives.

These AOPs will be produced by the Presidency working with the Council Secretariat and Commission, and supported in particular by groups of interested Member States, with input by the relevant functional and geographical working groups and committees.

II. General remarks on the action-oriented papers

At a political and strategic expert level the implementation of the JHA-External Strategy has already been discussed.

At the informal JHA Council in Vienna on 12-14 January there was a consensus to start work on these AOPs.

There was a broad consensus, covering different points:

- It was stated that the action-oriented papers should draw on existing assessments and build on current action
- and - on this basis - the action-oriented papers should define priorities, identify ways to optimise the use of EU instruments (for the respective country, region or topic) and contain concrete incentives to enhance cooperation.

III. The AOP on Afghanistan

For the work on the action-oriented papers the Presidency therefore decided to establish different "Groups of Friends of the Presidency".

For the structure of these papers the Presidency based its work on the structure foreseen by the Strategy for the External Dimension of JHA, especially by focusing on the three main issues:

- analysis of the issue and the EU's objectives,
- summary of current action and
- identification of what needs to be done.

The Group on Afghanistan / Drugs met on 27 February, 27 March and 24 April 2006. It started work on the action-oriented paper within the aforementioned lines. The Group established a draft paper. At its meetings on 11 and 12 May 2006 the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs drew up the final version that is in document 9370/06 JAI 249 RELEX 319 CORDROGUE 42 COASI 74.

IV. Conclusion

The JHA Council is therefore invited to reach the following **conclusion**:

*The Council approves the text of the **Action-Oriented Paper Increasing EU support for combating drug production in and trafficking from Afghanistan, including transit routes, as set out in document 9370/06 LIMITE JAI 249 RELEX 319 CORDROGUE 42 COASI 74.***