



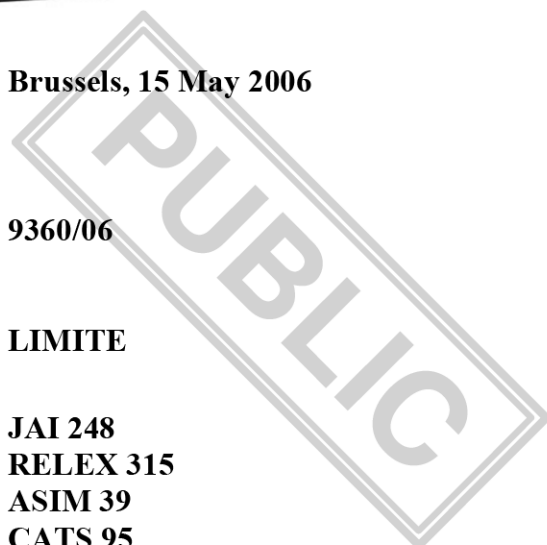
**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 15 May 2006

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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 improving co-operation, on organised crime, corruption, illegal immigration and counter-terrorism, between the EU and Western Balkans**
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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;

¹ Doc. 15446/05

- Increasing EU support to combating drug production in and trafficking from Afghanistan, including transit routes;
- 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 by both 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 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 - they should define priorities and identify ways to optimise the use of EU instruments (for the respective country, region or topic).

III. The AOP on Western Balkans

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

The structure of these papers is based 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 Western Balkans and relevant ENP countries met on 9 February, 8 and 31 March, 21 April and 11 May 2006. It started work on the action oriented paper within the above stated lines. The Group established a draft on the first part of the paper, namely on improving co-operation, on organised crime, corruption, illegal immigration and counter-terrorism, between the EU and Western Balkans. This text is set out in document 9272/06.

At its next meeting the Group will start the work on the second part – on relevant ENP countries.

IV. Summary

The JHA Council is therefore invited to take the following **conclusions**:

- *The Council approves the text of the **Action Oriented Paper improving co-operation, on organised crime, corruption, illegal immigration and counter-terrorism, between the EU and Western Balkans** as set out in document 9272/06.*

- *The Council welcomes the **follow-up procedures** foreseen by this Action Oriented Paper, namely that – whenever needed – meetings should take place in order to monitor the process in implementing this paper.*
- *The Council invites the Presidency to **conclude its work** on the second part of this AOP, namely **on relevant ENP countries**. In this context the Council calls the Presidency to come forward with a **report on the state of play** on this work for its next meeting.*
