



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 10 December 2009

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**PESC 1726
COAFR 402
COMEM 246
COMAG 28
ACP 285**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

Subject : The Horn of Africa
- Council conclusions

At its meeting on 8 December 2009 the Foreign Affairs Council adopted the conclusions on the Horn of Africa as set out in the Annex.

Council conclusions on the Horn of Africa

1. The Council attaches importance to the EU's relationships with the countries of the Horn of Africa, underlines the potential of the region and reiterates the EU's commitment to further deepening these relations. It declares the EU's readiness to support the region in meeting its challenges, in close cooperation with the countries concerned as well as with regional and international partners. The Council recalls that the challenges being faced by countries in the region are of different character, but closely interlinked and therefore require a regional approach.
2. The Council remains concerned about the human suffering and the slow pace of development caused by unresolved conflicts in the Horn of Africa and the threat these conflicts pose to regional security. Some of the crucial challenges that need to be addressed within a strategic framework are the human rights situation, protection of civilians in armed conflict, poor governance, environmental degradation, insecure livelihoods and marginalisation of populations.
3. The fragile situation in the Horn of Africa has consequences for the neighbouring countries and the international community as a whole, including the EU. Efforts by the countries in the region to resolve outstanding disputes with full respect for international law and to strengthen their engagement for a peaceful, democratic and sustainable development are crucial. These must be accompanied by concerted and strategic international support.
4. The EU has today adopted a policy on the Horn of Africa, which focuses on mediation efforts and dialogue in support of conflict prevention and resolution, the implementation of peace agreements, elections and political processes for democratic transformation as well as on economic integration, climate change and sustainable development. Crisis management activities, including the fight against piracy, are also proof of the EU's commitment to the region.
5. This policy, together with the Commission communication on the Horn of Africa from 2006, lays the basis for a comprehensive EU strategy for relations with the Horn of Africa, encompassing all EU instruments.