



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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“I/A” ITEM NOTE

from: ACP Working Party
on: 7 June 2011
to: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Consultations with the Republic of Niger under Article 96 of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement
– Draft letter addressed to the President of the Republic of Niger

1. Since November 2009, the Republic of Niger has been subject to the consultation procedure provided for in Article 96 of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement. In this context, on 27 September 2010, the Council established a set of appropriate measures linked to the undertakings given by the Government of Niger at the time of the consultations.¹
2. The investiture of the new President of the Republic in April 2011 completed the implementation of the measures provided for in the political transition and in particular the undertakings given by the Government of Niger on the occasion of the consultations under Article 96.
3. In this context, it is now possible to fully resume cooperation between the European Union and Niger and to bring relations with Niger back into the framework of a deep political dialogue as provided for in Article 8 of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement.

¹ Decision 2010/588/EU (OJ L 260, 2.10.2010, p. 6).

4. On 7 June 2011, the ACP Working Party drew up a draft letter to the President of the Republic of Niger announcing the foregoing. The draft letter is annexed to this note.
5. COREPER is invited to recommend that the Council approve the draft letter as an "A" item on its agenda.

Draft letter addressed to
His Excellency Mr Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger

Sir,

It was with great satisfaction that we observed the restoration of constitutional order in the Republic of Niger following the implementation of all the measures provided for in the political transition and in particular by the roadmap agreed with the European Union in July 2010. Therefore, pursuant to the Decision of the Council of the European Union of 27 September 2010 concerning the conclusion of consultations with the Republic of Niger under Article 96 of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, we have the pleasure of confirming the full resumption of cooperation between the European Union and Niger, with immediate effect.

After an exemplary democratic transition, Niger is facing many challenges to ensure its security and development. These challenges necessitate strong institutions that are able to take transparent and effective action and meet the population's expectations and requirements, including in the most remote regions. Establishing conditions conducive to economic and human development, to the eradication of poverty and to your country's stability is of great importance to both your fellow citizens and the European Union, which is determined to contribute to supporting the efforts made by the institutions of the Republic of Niger.

We therefore suggest deepening the already excellent political dialogue provided for in Article 8 of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, the main objectives of which will be to strengthen democracy, prevent unconstitutional changes of government, ensure good political and economic governance and strengthen the rule of law and human rights (in particular those of women). The security threats which have emerged in Niger show the importance of discussion, in the context of this dialogue, of issues concerning the link between security and development. Procedures for this dialogue could be defined by mutual consent between your government and the heads of the diplomatic missions of the European Union to the Republic of Niger.

In conclusion, we would like to renew the assurance of the European Union's willingness to cooperate with you to achieve the common objectives of development, peace and stability both in Niger and in the other countries of the subregion.

(Complimentary close)

For the Council

For the Commission
