

Official Journal

of the European Communities

ISSN 0378-6978

L 312

Volume 39

2 December 1996

English edition

Legislation

Contents

Acts adopted pursuant to Title V of the Treaty on European Union

96/669/CFSP:

- ★ Joint action of 22 November 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union on the Great Lakes Region 1

96/670/CFSP:

- ★ Council Decision of 22 November 1996 adopted on the basis of Article J.4 (2) of the Treaty on European Union on the elaboration and implementation of a Joint Action by the Union in the Great Lakes Region 3
- ★ Statement by Denmark concerning the Council Decision on the implementation of the European Union Joint Action on the Great Lakes Region 4

(Acts adopted pursuant to Title V of the Treaty on European Union)

JOINT ACTION

of 22 November 1996

adopted by the Council on the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union on the
Great Lakes Region

(96/669/CFSP)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

HEREBY ADOPTS THIS JOINT ACTION:

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article J.3 thereof,

Article 1

Having regard to the conclusions of the European Council meeting in Florence on 21 and 22 June 1996,

Having regard to the common position of 24 October 1994 on the objectives and priorities of the European Union *vis-à-vis* Rwanda,

Having regard to the declarations adopted at its meeting on 28 October 1996 and at the special meeting of the Ministers for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid on 7 November 1996, devoted to the situation in eastern Zaire,

Whereas on 9 and 15 November 1996, respectively, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolutions 1078 and 1080; whereas those Resolutions must be implemented;

Recognizing the importance of the contribution of the African States to resolving the crisis in the Great Lakes Region;

Whereas the European Union is already involved in the search for a solution to the crisis through the constructive action of its Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region;

Whereas the European Union must integrate its efforts to resolve this crisis with the action undertaken by the international community in accordance with the relevant Security Council Resolutions;

Whereas the Council today adopted a concomitant Decision requesting the Western European Union to elaborate and implement the specific aspects of this joint action which have defence implications,

The European Union supports the urgent implementation of the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions, with a view to enabling the delivery of humanitarian aid to eastern Zaire and facilitating the return by free consent of refugees to their country of origin and the return of displaced persons. The Community and its Member States will contribute to implementing those Resolutions in ways which they deem appropriate, and which they will coordinate in the manner set out in this Joint Action. The European Union reaffirms the priority which must be given to the return of the refugees to their country of origin and the need to overcome all obstacles to that end. It confirms its willingness to assist Rwanda to create the essential conditions for the return of the Rwandan refugees.

Article 2

In the context of support for United Nations coordination, the Council notes that the Commission will ensure coordination of the efforts of the Community and its Member States with a view to providing and delivering humanitarian aid to the refugees and displaced persons in eastern Zaire as a matter of urgency.

Article 3

Taking into account their voluntary contributions in humanitarian and military aid, the Member States will consult and cooperate within the Council on their voluntary contributions in support of African participation in the multinational force, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

Article 4

As regards the financing of the Community contribution to the objectives of this Joint Action, the Council notes that the Commission will examine the possibilities and make appropriate proposals.

Article 5

The European Union will intensify its efforts to restore stability in the Great Lakes Region, in particular by encouraging the setting up of democratic institutions and respect for human rights. It reaffirms that the holding of an international conference on peace, security and development in the Great Lakes Region, under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, has a decisive role to play in finding a lasting settlement of the crisis in the region. It invites all

the parties to redouble their efforts so that such a conference may be held.

Article 6

This Joint Action shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

Article 7

This Joint Action shall be published in the Official Journal.

Done at Brussels, 22 November 1996.

For the Council
The President
J. BURTON

COUNCIL DECISION

of 22 November 1996

adopted on the basis of Article J.4 (2) of the Treaty on European Union on the elaboration and implementation of a Joint Action by the Union in the Great Lakes Region

(96/670/CFSP)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article J.4 (2) thereof,

Having regard to the Declaration on Western European Union (WEU), set out in the Final Act signed when the Treaty on European Union was adopted,

Whereas the Council today adopted on the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union a Joint Action on the Great Lakes Region,

Whereas the implementation of this Joint Action has defence implications and may, in particular, require the use of military means; whereas, in these circumstances, use should be made of the Western European Union,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The European Union hereby requests the WEU to examine as a matter of urgency how it can, for its part,

contribute to the optimum use of the operational resources available.

Article 2

This Decision is notified to the WEU in accordance with the conclusions adopted by the Council on 14 May 1996 on the forwarding of European Union documents to the WEU.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

It shall be published in the Official Journal.

Done at Brussels, 22 November 1996.

*For the Council**The President*

J. BURTON

STATEMENT BY DENMARK**concerning the Council Decision on the implementation of the European Union Joint Action on the Great Lakes Region**

In accordance with Section C of the Decision adopted at the European Council held in Edinburgh on 11 and 12 December 1992, Denmark does not participate in the elaboration and the implementation of decisions and actions of the Union which have defence implications.

The Danish Government has decided that Denmark does not participate in the Council Decision requesting the WEU to elaborate and implement the action of the Union in the Great Lakes Region.

In accordance with the Edinburgh decision Denmark will not prevent the development of closer cooperation between Member States in this area. Accordingly, the position indicated does not prevent the adoption of the Council Decision.
