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

## COMMON POSITION

of 2 June 1997

defined by the Council on the basis of Article J.2 of the Treaty on European Union, concerning  
conflict prevention and resolution in Africa

(97/356/CFSP)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

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

Having regard to the conclusions of the European Councils of Essen and Madrid,

Having regard to the Charter of the United Nations,

Whereas prevention and resolution of conflicts in Africa constitute priorities for the European Union;

Whereas the primary responsibility for prevention and resolution of conflicts on the African continent lies with the Africans themselves;

Whereas the prevention and resolution of conflicts have been the subject of dialogue with the Organization of African Unity (OAU);

Whereas the UN Secretary-General has also put forward proposals on improving preparedness for conflict prevention and peacekeeping in Africa;

Whereas some other concrete proposals have already been made concerning the reinforcement of African peacekeeping capabilities,

HAS DEFINED THIS COMMON POSITION:

### Article 1

1. Pursuant to the objectives of the common foreign and security policy, as defined in Article J.1 of the Treaty, the European Union shall actively support efforts in favour of the prevention and resolution of conflicts in Africa.

2. The Union shall pursue its policies and actions within the appropriate political and legal framework

(United Nations, OAU, subregional organizations), where necessary, and in close cooperation with the relevant bodies.

3. The policy of the Union is to facilitate African capacity and means of action in the field of conflict prevention and resolution, in particular through support for the OAU and subregional organizations and initiatives.

4. The Union shall develop a proactive, comprehensive and integrated approach, which shall also serve as a common framework for actions of individual Member States.

### Article 2

While recognizing the need to respond to existing crises, the Union's policy shall also focus on preventing the outbreak or recurrence of violent conflicts, including at an early stage, and on post-conflict peace-building.

### Article 3

In order to contribute better to the prevention and resolution of conflicts in Africa, the Union shall seek:

- to improve linkage between its efforts (policies and actions) and those of the Africans, and
- to use the various instruments available coherently to promote effective conflict prevention and resolution.

The Council notes that, in accordance with the relevant procedures, steps will be taken to ensure coordination of the efforts of the European Community and those of the Member States in this field, including with regard to development cooperation and the support for human rights, democracy, the rule of law and good governance.

*Article 4*

Recognizing that the availability of arms in quantities exceeding needs for self-defence may be a factor contributing to situations of instability, the Member States shall:

- reaffirm their commitment to exercise continuing responsibility with regard to arms exports, taking full account of the eight criteria for arms exports established by the European Council<sup>(1)</sup>,
- strengthen their efforts to 'prevent and to combat illicit trafficking of arms, and
- encourage African States to submit annual returns to the UN Register of Conventional Arms as a means of promoting transparency and building confidence.

*Article 5*

Where any Union initiative undertaken in furtherance of the objectives defined in Article 1 has defence implications, the Union shall request the Western European Union to elaborate and implement this initiative as regards these defence implications, in particular the use of military means, in accordance with Article J.4 (2) of the Treaty.

*Article 6*

On the basis of a report by the Presidency, in association with the Commission, this common position, together with the Council's conclusions of the same date, shall be reviewed after one year.

*Article 7*

1. The Union is ready to assist in building the capacities for conflict prevention and resolution in Africa on the basis of concrete project proposals, in particular through the OAU and African subregional organizations.

2. The Council shall decide on the principle, arrangements and financing of such projects, on the basis of an assessment to be carried out by a Union fact-finding mission.

3. The Council takes note of bilateral contributions by Member States as well as of the intention of the Commission to propose Community action in support of the objectives of this common position.

*Article 8*

This common position shall take effect on the day of its adoption.

*Article 9*

This common position shall be published in the Official Journal.

Done at Luxembourg, 2 June 1997.

*For the Council*

*The President*

H. VAN MIERLO

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<sup>(1)</sup> The European Council of Luxembourg, June 1991 and the European Council of Lisbon, June 1992.

**Statement by Denmark to be entered into the Council minutes concerning the common position  
on conflict prevention and resolution in Africa**

In accordance with Section C of the Decision adopted at the European Council 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 will not participate in future Council decisions based on Article J.4 (2) of the Treaty on European Union as follow-up to the common position on conflict prevention and resolution in Africa.

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 above does not prevent the adoption of the common position on conflict prevention and resolution in Africa.

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## COMMON POSITION

of 2 June 1997

defined by the Council on the basis of Article J.2 of the Treaty on European Union,  
on Albania

(97/357/CFSP)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

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

Whereas Albania is included in the regional approach defined by the Council in its conclusions of 26 February 1996;

Recalling the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Albania, on trade and commercial and economic cooperation<sup>(1)</sup>;

Whereas the Council on 24 March 1997 reaffirmed the determination of the Union to play an important role in helping Albania to return to political and economic stability;

Whereas the Council decided that the Union would cooperate within the coordinating framework of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE); whereas the OSCE Permanent Council in Europe decided on 27 March 1997 to establish an OSCE presence in Albania;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council in its Resolution 1101 of 28 March 1997 welcomed the offer made by certain Member States of the UN to establish a temporary and limited multinational protection force in Albania; whereas the Multinational Protection Force (MNPF) has become operational;

Whereas the Council on 29 April 1997 expressed its support for the efforts undertaken by the Western European Union (WEU) and the Council of Europe to contribute to the re-establishment of a viable police force in Albania,

HAS DEFINED THIS COMMON POSITION:

*Article 1*

The European Union shall help Albania, within the coordinating framework of the OSCE, through its own action and presence on the ground, to promote the

democratic process, the return to political stability and internal security as well as the holding of free and fair elections. It shall continue to provide humanitarian aid and support economic reforms.

In this context, the Union is coordinating with other international organizations, including the WEU and the Council of Europe.

The Union is coordinating with the Multinational Protection Force, in order to facilitate the safe and prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance and to help create a secure environment for the missions of international organizations in Albania.

*Article 2*

The Council takes note that the Commission, on behalf of the European Community:

- is responding to the immediate needs of the Albanian people, supplying food and medicines through the European Community Humanitarian Office,
- is considering focusing Phare assistance on areas directly related to the consolidation of democracy, the relaunching of economic activity and the strengthening of public administration in Albania,
- is coordinating the provision of financial assistance with international financial institutions,
- is ready to contribute to the initiative of the WEU and the Council of Europe, within the framework of the Mandate for a Multinational Advisory Police Element, aimed at the re-establishment of a viable Albanian police force,
- is ready to support the election assistance and monitoring activities of the OSCE.

*Article 3*

The Union is ready to assist in the holding of early free and fair parliamentary elections, in particular through monitoring.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 343, 25. 11. 1992, p. 2.

It attaches special importance to the role of free Albanian media in the pre-election information effort.

In this context, the Union shall decide as soon as possible on the arrangements for its contribution.

*Article 4*

The Union is ready to consider the convening, at an appropriate time and under appropriate circumstances, of an international conference on Albania at which international financial institutions, the OSCE, the United Nations as well as third countries will be invited to participate.

*Article 5*

This common position shall take effect on the day of its adoption.

*Article 6*

This common position shall be published in the Official Journal.

Done at Luxembourg, 2 June 1997.

*For the Council*

*The President*

H. VAN MIERLO

## COUNCIL DECISION

of 2 June 1997

concerning the extension of common position 95/544/CFSP on Nigeria

(97/358/CFSP)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

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

Having regard to common position 95/544/CFSP of 4 December 1995 defined by the Council on the basis of Article J.2 of the Treaty on European Union, on Nigeria<sup>(1)</sup>,Having regard to Council Decision 96/677/CFSP of 25 November 1996 concerning the extension of common position 95/544/CFSP on Nigeria<sup>(2)</sup>, which extended that common position for a period of six months ending on 4 June 1997,

Considering that, in the light of the considerations in paragraph 3 of common position 95/544/CFSP, the said common position should be further extended,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

Common position 95/544/CFSP shall be extended until 4 December 1997.

*Article 2*

This Decision shall be published in the Official Journal.

Done at Luxembourg, 2 June 1997.

*For the Council**The President*

H. VAN MIERLO

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 309, 21. 12. 1995, p. 1.<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No L 315, 4. 12. 1996, p. 3.