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from	:	Political Committee
to	:	Council
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Subject :		**Establishment of a committee for civilian crisis management**

The Helsinki European Council asked the incoming Presidency, together with the Secretary General/High Representative, to carry work forward in the General Affairs Council on all aspects of the Presidency's reports on the strengthening of the CESDP as a matter of priority, including conflict prevention and a committee for civilian crisis management.

At its meeting of 10 March 2000 in iPSC formation, the Political Committee agreed, within its area of competence, to recommend to the Council to consider the establishment of a committee for civilian crisis management and to continue to define its role and competencies along the lines described in the paper "Establishment of a EU committee for civilian crisis management" (in annex), taking into account the comments of Member States, the Commission and the Legal Services, as well as the first experiences of the coordinating mechanism, with a view to reaching a decision on the establishment of such a committee by or at Feira.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A EUROPEAN UNION COMMITTEE FOR CIVILIAN CRISIS MANAGEMENT

The Helsinki European Council asked the Presidency to carry work forward on a committee for civilian crisis management. A committee on the lines set out below could make a valuable contribution to the EU's crisis management capability.

ROLE OF A CIVILIAN CRISIS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

A civilian crisis management committee could:

- Help ensure a higher degree of inter-pillar coherence in the EU's civilian crisis management;

- Help improve the coordination of resources of the Community, the Union and the Member States through the exchange of information;

- Help ensure improvements in the crisis response capabilities of the European Union, available both for EU operations and those led by other international organisations;

- Help identify opportunities for pooling resources (eg logistics);

- Ensure improved, and joint, application of lessons learned from earlier missions;

- Help disseminate common standards and best practice;

- Help consider the possibilities of developing common methods, procedures and routines;

- Enhance coordination between state actors and NGOs.

Its immediate task would be taking forward the Action Plan for non-military crisis management adopted at Helsinki by

- Supporting and facilitating the day-to-day work of the Council Secretariat coordinating mechanism, which will be a lean, efficient and non-bureaucratic structure, fully interacting with the Commission, in helping to pre-identify the resources available for the Union's crisis response;

- supporting the Presidency and the Secretary General/High Representative in defining concrete targets for the Member States' and EU collective civilian capabilities to respond to crises;

- Setting standards for training and providing a forum for sharing experience and best practice;

- Identifying opportunities for bilateral or multilateral cooperation between Member States.

HOW THE COMMITTEE WOULD FIT INTO THE UNION'S INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The committee should be able to offer expert advice on all aspects of the Union's civilian crisis response, including activities by the Member States and the Community. Decision-making and implementation of non-military crisis management tools under the First Pillar will remain subject to institutions and procedures of the EC Treaty.

It will be of inter-pillar nature and operate within the single institutional framework and in accordance with the principles, mandates and institutional arrangements set out in the Report adopted by the Helsinki European Council. It should operate under Coreper and give advice to the PSC on Second Pillar and Member States' activities.

The committee will be composed of experts on a flexible basis, so that the necessary expertise is available to suit its agenda. Representatives from Permanent Representations as well as experts
from capitals should attend as necessary. It should be governed by the same rules of procedure as apply to existing fused Working Groups.

TITLE

The committee might be called the EU Civilian Crisis Response [Group/Committee].

TIMETABLE FOR ESTABLISHING A COMMITTEE

The interim PSC will offer an opinion on the timing of establishing the committee. The committee will need to be established by a Coreper decision.