

8528/00

LIMITE

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NOTE

from : Secretariat

to : Committee of Permanent Representatives

Subject : **Adoption of a Council Decision setting up a Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management**

1. The Helsinki European Council gave mandate to the incoming Presidency, together with the SG/HR, to carry work forward in the General Affairs Council on all aspects of the Presidency reports on the strengthening of the CESDP, as a matter of priority, including conflict prevention and a Committee for civilian crisis management.
2. At its meeting of 10 March 2000 in iPSC formation, the Political Committee agreed, within its area of competences, 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", 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.

3. The European Council, meeting in Lisbon on 23-24 March, invited the Council to establish such a Committee by or at Feira.
4. On 12 May 2000, in its iPSC formation, the Political Committee, within its area of competence, agreed on the content of a draft Council Decision setting up a Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management as well as on a set of guidelines for the work of the Committee, and invited the CFSP Counsellors to finalise the two texts. The CFSP Counsellors finalised them on 15 May 2000.
5. Following the Antici Group, the Presidency agreed to include this item in the part II of the Coreper agenda. The Committee is invited to examine the draft decision as set out in document 8515/00 as well as the set of guidelines for the work of the Committee, as set out in the Annex to this note, which should be noted by the Council.

GUIDELINES FOR THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

1. The Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (hereinafter "the Committee") would cover the following tasks:
 - a) It would assist the interim Political and Security Committee, as well as the other appropriate Council bodies in accordance with their respective competencies, in acquiring a comprehensive view of the means available to the EU and to Member States to respond to a crisis.
 - b) It would improve the EU's crisis management capability by:
 - helping to ensure a higher degree of inter-pillar coherence in the EU's civilian crisis management;
 - identifying opportunities for pooling resources (e.g. logistics);
 - ensuring joint application of lessons learned from earlier missions;
 - helping to disseminate common standards and best practices;
 - helping to consider the possibilities of developing common methods, procedures and routines;
 - facilitating co-operation between State actors and NGOs;
 - promoting improvements in the crisis response capabilities of the EU available both for EU-led operations and those led by international organisations including the UN and OSCE;
 - improving co-ordination of resources of the Community, the Union and the Member States through the exchange of information.

c) To that end, it would also facilitate the work of the "Co-ordinating Mechanism" set up by the Helsinki European Council, by contributing to:

- the inventory and evaluation of available capabilities and resources;
- the creation of databases on existing capabilities;
- the identification of measures aimed at increasing the effectiveness and the visibility of the means deployed by Member States and the Communities;
- the elaboration of the "concrete targets" referred to in the Action Plan agreed in Helsinki;
- the effectiveness of the Situation Centre/Crisis cell at the General Secretariat of the Council;
- the process of setting up mechanisms for the exchange of information, co-ordination, and rapid reaction between the Union and the Member States.

2. The Committee should be able to convene at a very short notice. Experts from capitals would, as appropriate, participate in the meetings, in order to provide specialist advice.
3. The Committee will use the information provided by the Commission on the relevant activities it carries out under its authority.
