



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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LIMITE

**PESC 327
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NOTE

from :	Presidency
to :	Delegations
Subject :	Action plan for the establishment of permanent structures

1. In the Presidency report on strengthening the Common European Security and Defence Policy, approved at Feira, the next Presidency is entrusted with the task of reporting on "the establishment of the permanent political and military structures to be put in place as soon as possible after the Nice European Council." In parallel with the development of military capability, which will be covered by elaboration of the headline goal and the Commitment Conference, the aim is to set up within the EU bodies and procedures which will enable it to manage a crisis effectively, i.e. to have the means for assessing a crisis situation, for decision-making, political management and strategic direction of an operation. If the Union is to achieve effective operational capacity, decisions must be taken in the following areas:

I. At internal level

1. A European Union security plan and the introduction of the relevant measures for making premises secure, circulating information and staff screening which this plan implies.

The Secretary-General will submit a report to the Member States on this question. During July the IPSC will study the parts of the report which concern it. The relevant decisions will have to be taken in the competent bodies.

The aim is to implement the security plan as soon as possible.

2. The provisions setting up the permanent political and military bodies provided for in the Helsinki report, namely:
 - a "Standing Political and Security Committee (PSC)": for this purpose the Presidency, in cooperation with the Secretary-General/High Representative, will submit proposals on the membership and working of the PSC, including its relations with the Political Committee, Coreper, and the Secretary-General/High Representative.
 - the "Military Committee" (MC): the Presidency, in cooperation with the Secretary-General/High Representative will submit a proposal on its membership, working and relations with the PSC and Military Staff.
 - the Military Staff (MS): on the basis of the "Toolbox Paper" noted at the Lisbon European Council and work in progress in the relevant EU military bodies, proposals will be made on the operation of the Military Staff (in particular as regards the tasks identified at Helsinki): early warning, situation assessment and strategic planning) and its establishment plan.
3. The Secretariat, in cooperation with the Presidency, should make proposals on procedures for civilian and military crisis management (including the operation of the Situation Centre and links between EU civil and military bodies, the role of the Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management and the operation of the civilian coordinating mechanism). The proposals will then be discussed in the relevant bodies.

Finalisation of these procedures, which are intended to enable the EU to manage all aspects of a crisis, be they civil or military, in a coherent manner with due regard for the institutional framework, is of crucial importance for the EU's operational capability.

4. Ways of incorporating into the EU appropriate WEU functions in the area of the Petersberg Tasks in accordance with the decisions taken in Feira will also be the subject of proposals by the Presidency, in cooperation with the Secretary-General/High Representative.

II. At external relations level

Decisions will also have to be taken on the two aspects included in the Feira report:

- arrangements with NATO on each of the three points highlighted: security, Berlin plus, and permanent consultation arrangements;
- implementation of definitive arrangements with third countries.

- III.** As far as possible, all of this work should be carried out concurrently, and all of these aspects approved simultaneously, since they will also contribute to the establishment of the EU's military capability as soon as possible after the Nice European Council.
