

NOTE

from:	Secretariat
to:	Working Group VII on "External Action"
Subject:	Summary of the meeting held on 13 November 2002

Opening of the meeting and introductory remarks by the Chair

1. The Chair of WG VII, Vice-President Jean-Luc Dehaene, introduced the draft final report (WD 21) that had been circulated to members on 8 November. The Chair explained that the content of the report could be divided into three categories:
 - A first category of positions, opinions and observations on which a certain degree of consensus had been reached in the Group;
 - Secondly, a certain number of issues discussed in the Group upon which there was not yet an agreement and that required further discussion with the aim of reaching an agreed position;
 - Thirdly, certain subjects addressed in the mandate of the WG, which had not been discussed in detail in the Group. The draft report contained nevertheless provisional texts in relation to these issues, with a view to stimulating their discussion of these, without prejudice to its outcome.

2. The Group held a first exchange of views regarding the draft report. The text was overall well received as a good basis; a number of suggestions for amendment, and further elaboration of texts regarding the issues that had not previously been discussed in detail in the Group, were proposed. Certain members provided text proposals already in the course of the meeting and others announced that they would transmit suggested amendments to the Secretariat.
3. The Chair concluded the discussion inviting members to provide written comments in the form of drafting proposals at the latest by Tuesday 19 November (members are kindly invited to send texts to verena.schubert@consilium.eu.int).
4. Members were invited to comment in particular on sections I-IV and V b)-VII, and to submit their positions in relation to the specific parts of the mandate that had not been subject to an in-depth discussion in the Group. The discussion on institutional arrangements (V a) had already clarified a number of elements, but members were of course welcome to provide any further comments or clarifications of their positions in this field if they deemed it necessary.
5. The Chair concluded that the Secretariat would prepare a revised draft report on the basis of both the discussion at this meeting and of written comments. The revised draft would be circulated to the Group in advance of the next meeting, which will take place on 27 November.
