



**COUNCIL OF
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JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

EU - CAPE VERDE POLITICAL DIALOGUE MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL

Brussels, 26 January 2010

Introduction

1. Within the framework of the Special Partnership between the European Union (EU) and the Republic of Cape Verde (CV), the third political dialogue meeting at ministerial level between the EU and CV, was held in Brussels on 26 January 2010, under the co-chairing of His Excellency, Mr Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain, on behalf of Her Excellency, Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and of His Excellency, Mr José Brito, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities of Cape Verde. The delegations further consisted on the EU side of Mr Stefano Manservigi, European Commission, Director-General DG DEV and of Mr José Costa Pereira, Council Secretariat, Head of Unit, Africa, and on the Cape Verdean side of Mr Fernando Wahnon Ferreira, Ambassador to the EU, and Mr José Luís Rocha, National Director for Foreign Policy and Cooperation. The complete list of delegates can be found in the Annex to the communiqué.

P R E S S

2. The parties reaffirmed the principle of political dialogue as a fundamental dimension of their Special Partnership (SP), while underscoring their shared values and common interests, in particular as regards the advancement of peace and security, democracy, good governance, the respect of the rule of law, human rights, and development, both locally and globally.

I. EU-CV Relations

Special Partnership

3. Launched at the end of 2007, the SP illustrates the importance accorded by the EU and CV to their relations. It is part of the EU's fundamental support to CV's efforts to consolidate social and economic progress. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the implementation of the SP and agreed to continue their dialogue and to build on their joint activities.
4. The EU welcomed the revised *Plano de Trabalho 2010* (2010 Action Plan) presented by CV's government, which includes a series of key activities in all the pillars of the SP. The parties stressed the importance of the chapter on Institutional and Political Matters, in particular the promotion of different high-level political exchanges, also open to parliamentary representatives, civil society, non-governmental organisations and the business sector. The Plan is a working document, to be adjusted by the parties whenever needed.
5. The EU welcomed CV's announcement of the creation of an executive secretariat in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of CV to provide regular assistance to the SP's implementation. The Ministers stressed the importance of remaining flexible and avoiding constraining mechanisms with regard to the institutional management of the SP. Moreover, CV underlined the need to provide the SP with adequate resources, including CV's access to the EU's development cooperation instruments, and other instruments supporting the EU's external action, as well as EU Member States' support at the bilateral level.
6. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that the EU had already disbursed the first instalment of budget support in view of the progress made with the main pillars of the SP, as regards in particular the adoption of legislation and reforms in the areas of security and stability, in the field of public finance management, together with the implementation of several judicial reforms enhancing good governance. The EU encouraged CV to continue making progress also in other areas of the SP, and in this respect, welcomed the forthcoming creation of a Quality Control Institute.
7. With regard to **regional integration**, CV described the actions it undertook to reinforce its participation in ECOWAS and the initiatives undertaken with regard to integration with the outermost regions of the EU in the North Atlantic, such as the Canary, Madeira and Azores archipelagos.

8. With regard to ECOWAS, the parties welcomed the continuation of negotiations with the EU concerning the Economic and Partnership Agreement (EPA) for the West Africa region, as well as the progress made on the West-African market access offer and the EPA Programme for Development (PAPEDE). They stressed the need to overcome the last few steps in the negotiations as soon as possible. They also welcomed the Road Map for the implementation of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) Regional Indicative Programme for West Africa in which CV can find room to support its West Africa regional integration purpose. The parties agreed on the need to examine, jointly with ECOWAS, the preservation of Cape Verde's special circumstances and specificities in this context.

Mobility Partnership

9. The Mobility Partnership (MP), which is part of the overall framework provided by the SP, is a unique element of the close relationship between the EU and CV. The Ministers welcomed the report submitted by CV, the progress achieved in the implementation of the MP, and called for the parties' continued cooperation to address the challenges and opportunities resulting from migration. The Cape Verdean authorities announced their specific *Plano de Trabalho 2010* (2010 Work Plan) for the MP, which will be presented in the coming days. The parties also welcomed the progress as regards the Migration Profile Report on CV's migration trends and policies. The Profile constitutes a useful policy tool to further help to implement the MP.
10. The Ministers welcomed the start of negotiations between the European Commission and CV on EU-CV joint Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements, and looked forward to their successful and timely conclusion.
11. The parties welcomed the importance of well-managed borders and called in this context for accelerating the process leading to the signature of a working arrangement between CV and FRONTEX, the EU's border security agency. In this respect, CV recalled the need for financial support to achieve greater convergence in terms of the legal framework, inspection and laboratorial facilities, and to develop adequate technical studies.
12. The parties stressed the need for a regional approach to migration and reiterated their engagement to continue the implementation of the Rabat Process on Migration and Development.

Other Matters of Common Interest

13. The parties reviewed the progress made by CV and noted with satisfaction the ongoing consolidation of democracy and efforts for the modernisation of the State, especially in terms of administration, financial management, justice and security, the management of migratory flows and poverty reduction. The parties agreed that gender equality and women empowerment are essential for economic development, poverty reduction and for reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
14. With only 10% of arable land and prone to drought, CV is heavily dependent on food imports and the increased pricing of imported food which impacts its balance of payment. **Food security** is also a crucial aspect of CV's poverty reduction strategy. The development and promotion of the use of new technologies, particularly as concerns water control and irrigation methods, crop intensification and diversification, are some of the areas in which the EU and CV could intensify their future cooperation.
15. The **health** indicators for CV are above the average for the African Continent. However, in recent years there has been an increase in the prevalence of communicable diseases, among them a 2009 Dengue fever epidemic front. There has also been an increase in the level of drug abuse among the youth. In this context, the EU agreed on the need to continue supporting CV with the decentralisation efforts of its health system, as well as with capacity building efforts above all in terms of training of health sector professionals.

II. Horizontal Issues

Global Economic crisis

16. The Ministers agreed that the global economic crisis has an impact not only on the least developed countries but also on middle-income countries such as CV. With a view to avoiding a setback in the economic and social progress achieved in many of these countries in recent decades, it is necessary to maintain coordinated actions at international level to continue reducing poverty and reinforcing the implementation of other important MDGs.
17. Both parties supported the genuine and all-encompassing reform of the international financial system, such as represented *inter alia* by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, with a view to strengthening their ability to respond to future financial crises and in particular to the specific needs of developing countries.

18. CV welcomed the EU's efforts in this respect, *inter alia* the quick delivery of sizeable resources to vulnerable ACP countries under the newly created V-FLEX mechanism and the Union's consideration of ways in which the European Investment Bank (EIB) could continue to focus on its external actions.

Climate Change

19. The Ministers underlined the global nature and the shared responsibility of climate change and the challenges it presents, and acknowledged the need for a multifaceted policy approach. Climate change poses a particular difficult threat to island-nations such as CV, not only in view of possible future sea-level rises, increased sea temperatures and the consequent effects on fishing stocks, but also in the case of CV due to potentially higher exposure to cyclical drought. In this context, they underscored the need for developing countries to be supported in their efforts towards a low-carbon growth path, and to adapt to the already occurring impacts of climate change. The EU is one of the best-equipped regions in the world to provide such support.
20. Referring to the limited outcome of the UN 2009 Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, the Ministers noted that in order for future negotiations to be successful a new approach is needed, including, *inter alia*, a foreign policy angle. They expressed their wish to see future negotiations leading to a binding agreement serving the interests of the Planet in a post-Kyoto Protocol era.
21. The parties stressed the importance of know-how and technology transfers into developing countries with a view to enhancing overall energy efficiency, with a particular focus on renewable forms of energy. The Ministers underlined the importance of the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, hosted in the capital Praia since January 2009, whose main goal is to find sustainable energy lasting solutions for the West Africa region.

III. Regional Issues

West Africa Region

22. The parties assessed the current situation in West Africa, devoting special attention to recent developments in Guinea Bissau, Guinea, and Niger. They once more expressed apprehension for the political and security instability in the region, calling on all those concerned to observe democratic principles and respect the rule of law. They also condemned the use of force or violence as a means of achieving or remaining in power.

23. The Ministers welcomed the peaceful holding of presidential elections in **Guinea Bissau** in July 2009. The parties remained committed to helping President Sanha and the government to ensure and strengthen good governance and stability. CV also welcomed the EU's extension of its Security Sector Reform (SSR) mission in Guinea Bissau until 31 May 2010, and looked forward to the outcome of the EU's strategic review on its future engagement in the country. The EU welcomed CV's willingness to work inside ECOWAS and the AU towards enhanced engagement in Guinea-Bissau.
24. The Ministers strongly condemned the events of 28 September 2009, in **Guinea's** capital Conakry, when more than 150 people were shot by armed forces during a peaceful rally. They expressed support for the recommendations contained in the UN Commission of Inquiry's report on this grave incident, in particular for the UN Security Council to remain seized of this matter, including the possible investigation by the International Criminal Court (ICC). The Ministers also expressed serious concern for the country's future stability, and for the ongoing political, social and economic upheavals weighing down on the Guinean people. They urged the Guinean authorities and the different political forces to strive towards the holding of free and fair elections in the near future, with the support of the International Community (IC), with a view to re-establishing democratic rule and constitutional order in the country. In this respect, the parties welcomed the agreement reached under the auspices of President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso on the process of democratic transition in Guinea.
25. The Ministers emphasised the urgent need to restore constitutional legality in **Niger** through a consensual and inclusive political dialogue. The EU informed CV of the results of the opening of consultations under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement that took place on 8 December 2009 in Brussels. The consultations remain open. While a number of important issues remained outstanding, the EU welcomed the announced suspension of all pending warrants and judicial actions against members of the opposition. The parties expressed support for, and asked ECOWAS to actively pursue its mediation efforts with all Niger's stakeholders, under the aegis of General Abdulsalami Abubakar. Moreover, they urged the authorities and the opposition in Niger to cooperate and work constructively towards a solution to the grave constitutional crisis.
26. The Ministers commended the strong engagement of ECOWAS and the African Union (AU) to restore and sustain political stability in Guinea Bissau, Guinea and Niger. The parties reiterated the importance of African ownership and the need for continued coordination among the IC to tackle the difficult situation in these countries.

27. **Trans-border organised crime** in the region, including **terrorism, arms, drug and human trafficking**, remains a serious source of concern for the EU and CV. These phenomena have implications for security, good governance and the rule of law for the countries in the region and contribute to State failure. CV welcomed the continued engagement of the EU in the implementation of ECOWAS' Regional Response Action Plan against Drug Trafficking and Related Organised Crime in West Africa (2008-2011). In this context, CV informed of the positive outcome of the Vienna Donors Roundtable on 3 December 2009, aimed at garnering support for the Plan. The announced EU support to the Plan was welcomed. CV considered as paramount the creation of a regional agency focusing on anti-drug trafficking actions and initiatives, under the leadership of the ECOWAS Commission, in line with the conclusions of the ECOWAS Praia Conference on drug-trafficking of October 2008. The parties agreed that assistance to law enforcement agencies in the region was an essential element to be considered in the response to these problems.
28. The Ministers addressed the **health situation** in the region, in particular as concerns the spread of HIV/AIDS, and waterborne diseases such as malaria, dengue fever and cholera. The Parties welcomed the outcome of the 5th Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM) Pan-African Conference in Nairobi in November 2009. The major floods that affected the region in September 2009 have once more increased the risk of contagion, providing mosquitoes with the ideal breeding conditions, while also contributing to the spread of cholera due to the disruption to water supplies and sanitation infrastructure. In the case of HIV/AIDS, they agreed on the need to continue providing those infected with accessible forms of treatment and to create targeted public information campaigns. Ministers also expressed concern for the spreading polio epidemic in the region and stressed the need to keep vigilant and sustain vaccination efforts throughout the affected countries with a view to eradicating it.

EU Eastern Partnership

29. The Eastern Partnership (EP) responds to the aspirations of Eastern European and Southern Caucasus countries to come closer to the EU, both politically and economically. The EU informed CV of the successful first meeting of Foreign Ministers in Brussels, on 8 December 2009, in the framework of the EP. The meeting brought together, ministers from all EU 27 Member States, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, as well as EU Institutions. The EU also informed that Association Agreement negotiations with Ukraine are ongoing and talks with Moldova have started this year. Final work on negotiations with Caucasus countries is also ongoing. Moreover, a Comprehensive Institution Building programme will be launched in early 2010 to identify the individual administrative needs of partner countries and assist them in deepening their relations with the EU.

EU Developments

30. The EU informed CV of recent developments in the context of the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. The EU underscored the fact that the Lisbon Treaty provides the Union with the legal framework and tools necessary to meet future challenges and to respond to citizens' demands, as well as to reinforce its role as an actor in the global stage.
31. The EU made particular reference to the appointments of Mr Herman Van Rompuy as President of the European Council, as of 1 January 2010, and of Ms Catherine Ashton as High Representative for the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, since 1 December 2009.
32. The Parties also exchanged views on how the EU-CV SP's institutional framework would be adjusted in view of the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty.

IV. Joint Africa-EU Strategy

33. Two years into the process of implementing the Joint Strategy, and in the perspective of the Africa-EU Summit in 2010, the Ministers underlined the political importance of this ambitious new framework of cooperation and dialogue, notably when addressing the political and security crises in the region, but also when responding to the major global challenges including the follow-up of the UN Climate Change Conference and the international cooperation of the G 20.
34. The Ministers underlined the need to speed up the implementation process of the 1st Action Plan (2008-2010) urging all stakeholders, in particular the Regional Economic Communities, to identify the key deliverables for this year's third Africa-EU summit in Libya. In this context, Ministers drew particular attention to agreeing on a new implementing concept for the coming years. Both parties confirmed their full commitment to actively engage in the implementation of the Strategy.

Next Meeting

35. The parties agreed that the next meeting would take place in CV, in the first half of 2011.

FULL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

EU DELEGATION

Mr Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain

Ms Carmen de la Peña, Director-General, Africa Directorate-General, Spain

Mr Stefano Manservigi, Director-General, Directorate-General Development and relations with ACP States, European Commission

Mr Juan Manuel Molina, Ambassador at Large, Africa Directorate-General, Spain

Mr Josep Coll, EU Head of Delegation in Cape Verde, Directorate-General for External Relations, European Commission

Mr José Costa Pereira, Head of the Africa Unit, General Secretariat of the Council

Mr Fernando Ponz, Deputy Head of Unit for West Africa, Directorate-General Development and relations with ACP States, European Commission

Ms Eva Martinez, Chair of the Africa Working Group, Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU

Mr Joaquín Gonzalez-Ducay, Administrator, Directorate-General Development and relations with ACP States, European Commission

Mr Roberto Rensi, Administrator, Directorate-General Development and relations with ACP States, European Commission

Mr Luís Amorim, Administrator, Africa Unit, General Secretariat of the Council

CV DELEGATION

Mr José Brito, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities

Mr Fernando Wahnou Ferreira, Ambassador to the EU, Mission of Cape Verde to the EU

Mr José Luís Rocha, National Director for Foreign Policy and Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities

Mr Luís Dupret, Director of the Cabinet of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities

Mr Manuel Matos, Plenipotentiary Minister, Mission of Cape Verde to the EU

Mr Eduardo Silva, Head of the Executive Secretariat for the EU-CV Special Partnership, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities

Mr Arnaldo Lopes, Coordinator of the EU-CV Mobility Partnership, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities
