

Information note on the organisational measures for the ESDP in the General Secretariat of the Council (22 November 2000)

Caption: Following the Santa Maria da Feira European Council held on 19 and 20 June 2000, with a view to putting in place permanent political and military structures related to the European security and defence policy (ESDP), the General Secretariat of the Council adopts a number of measures concerning, in particular, physical and IT security, reconstruction work on a new building and the planning of staff requirements.

Source: Information note from General Secretariat of the Council to Permanent Representatives' Committee/Council. Subject: ESDP: Organisational and implementing measures in the General Secretariat of the Council, 13798/00, CAB 12. Brussels: Council of the European Union, 22.11.2000. 2 p.

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Information note from the General Secretariat of the Council to the Permanent Representatives' Committee/Council (22 November 2000)
ESDP: Organisational and implementing measures in the General Secretariat of the Council

1. In the light of the mandate given by the Feira European Council on strengthening the ESDP, in particular as regards the establishment of permanent political and military structures to be put in place as soon as possible after the Nice European Council, the Council Secretariat has carried work forward in a number of areas (security, building, staff requirements) with a view to providing the necessary organisation and infrastructure to support those structures.

2. On **security**, the situation is the following:

- Interim Security Arrangements between NATO and the GSC were concluded on 26 July 2000 by exchange of letters signed by the respective Secretaries-general; those Arrangements are fully operational and classified documents have been exchanged between the two organisations.

- In September 2000, the GSC submitted a draft for the "Council Security Regulations". Substantial progress on this draft has been made in the Antici Group, acting on a mandate from Coreper. The regulations define the basic principles and minimum standards of security and cover areas such as the organisation of security within the GSC, the classification of documents, staff screening, physical and IT security. They are a prerequisite for the conclusion of a permanent security agreement with NATO. Work on the text is likely to be finalised under the French Presidency, with formal adoption in January 2001.

- Work is also in progress on a "framework decision" (draft submitted by the GSC) designed to sanction under criminal law the breach of secrecy in the ESDP area. It is now up to delegations to take a position on this instrument and to decide whether a formal initiative to this effect should be introduced by one or more Member States.

- A "Security Plan" is gradually being implemented by the GSC, initially through the following measures: strengthening and reorganisation of the Security Office (redefinition of its missions, establishment of new specialist units); review and reinforcement of physical security measures; creation of an "Information Systems Security" unit (INFOSEC) directly attached to the Secretary-General/High Representative and to the Deputy Secretary-General.

3. On the **Kortenberg building**:

- Following the mandate given to the Secretary-General by the Council on 20 March 2000, the GSC signed in July 2000 the lease for the new building (Kortenberg 150 and 158) designed to house the ESDP - related services, both military and civilian. Project studies were launched in July 2000 and have now been completed. Most procurement procedures have also been completed (except for some sub-contractors) and reconstruction work started at the beginning of November.

- Work is expected to be completed in March 2001, but the exact delivery date will be known at a later stage. The SGC is currently planning on entering the building around Easter 2001. Security requirements and features have been identified with the assistance of experts from the Member States (military and civilian) and of a NATO cleared security consultant. Informal consultations are taking place between the GSC and NATO Security Offices. Current cost estimates remain within the allocated funds for the 2000 and 2001 budgets.

4. On **staff requirements for political - military functions**:

- An analysis of the functions to be covered in the POL/MIL area and of the corresponding required expertise has led the GSC to identify a requirement for approximately 40 A- equivalent staff to cover

POL/MIL functions. The POL/MIL structure would form part of Directorate General E (External economic relations - CFSP) and be placed under the authority of its Director General, assisted by a Deputy Director General responsible for the three directorates covering the following areas: political affairs, operations and exercises, other tools for external action. The staffing requirements are to be covered by a combination of the following: existing staff, exchanges with the Member States, national experts on secondment, recruitment. Additional posts at different grades, including at high level, will be necessary.

- Support staff belonging to the B category (and possibly to the C category) will also be required, in particular in connection with the Kortenbergh building and with IT security.

- A Supplementary and Amending Budget will be presented early next year to this effect. It will include a detailed description of the above requirements.

- The relevant procedures for implementing the above actions will be launched shortly and should be completed within the first half of 2001.