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ACRONYM CODIV COTEL
SUBJECT CODIV COTEL - Partial Declassification of COREU:COHOM CONUN COPOL COASI
COEST COTRA COMAG COAFR COLAT COSCE - Meeting of COHOM, 10-11 May 2011 - Final
Report
TEXT

**SUBJECT: CODIV COTEL - Partial Declassification of COREU:COHOM CONUN COPOL
COASI COEST COTRA COMAG COAFR COLAT COSCE – Meeting of
COHOM, 10-11 May 2011 – Final Report**

The General Secretariat of the Council would like to inform all Partners that
COREU message:

- SEC/0383/11 COR1

has been partially declassified as indicated below:

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COSCE – Meeting of COHOM, 10-11 May 2011 – Final Report**

THIS PART IS NOT DISCLOSED

5. Business and Human Rights

The EEAS and the United Kingdom, which is burdensharer for this issue in Geneva, provided an update on developments regarding business and human rights at the HRC since the last discussion in COHOM in December 2010. Regarding the Guiding Principles, following the COHOM Conclusions, Geneva experts prepared an EU preliminary position supporting the Principles and prepared EU comments to the draft Guiding Principles, that were transmitted to the UN Secretary-General Special Representative on business and human rights in January 2011. The point was made that the final version of the Guiding Principles, published on 31 March, took to a large extent the EU's comments onboard. Specific emphasis was also put to the various proposals concerning the successor mechanism that will follow up to the work of the Special Representative. In the discussion, several partners referred to activities at the domestic level to implement the UN Framework on business and human rights prepared by the Special Representative.

COHOM also received an update by the European Commission on recent initiatives on corporate social responsibility (CSR), notably the preparation of a draft communication on CSR, which will contain a substantive chapter on human rights.

Operational conclusions:

- COHOM expressed strong support on the approach taken by the main sponsors of the resolution on business and human rights at HRC 17. In particular, the EU will support the endorsement of the “Guiding Principles” and the establishment of a strong follow-up mechanism to the Special Representative with the following elements:
 - focus on implementation and dissemination;
 - strong preference for an individual Special Rapporteur;
 - mandate should fit into the broader UN system; support for proposal to request for a report of the UN Secretary-General on this matter;
 - keep multi-stakeholder dimension through establishing a multi-stakeholder annual forum, with links with the new mandate to be defined;
 - clear reservations on the idea of a possible UN voluntary fund; this question could be addressed at a later stage on the basis of the SG’s report;
 - COHOM agreed that business and human rights will form part of the outreach at capital and Geneva level on HRC 17.
- COHOM also agreed that the EU should make a strong effort to communicate its position with third countries, through outreach efforts both in Geneva and in capitals.
- COHOM welcomed the presentation of the COM on recent developments and expressed support for the work on the upcoming draft communication on CSR, which will include a strong human rights component.
- COHOM stressed the importance to continue to raise issues related to business and human rights in the context of human rights dialogues and consultations and to engage on these questions with other relevant working parties.

THIS PART IS NOT DISCLOSED

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