The SADC-EU Joint Steering Committee agreed on the annexed minutes of its tenth meeting which took place in Windhoek, Namibia, on 24-25 September 1998.
Agreed Minutes of the 10th SADC/EU Joint Steering Committee
Windhoek, 24-25 September 1998

1. The tenth meeting of the SADC/EU Joint Steering Committee took place in Windhoek, Namibia on 24-25 September 1998. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr Herbert Kröll, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Austria and Mr Hanno Rumpf, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Namibia. Attendance list is attached (Annex I).

2. The Austrian delegation briefed the meeting on the practical arrangements for the Third EU-SADC Ministerial Conference to be held in Vienna from 3rd to 4th November 1998.

Following a request from the SADC side, the Committee was informed on the size of delegations permitted to be present in the meeting room (Großer Redoutensaal der Wiener Hofburg). The size will be 1+4 or 5 delegates per delegation. The Austrian delegation recalled its willingness to show flexibility in the case of larger delegations. In this context the meeting underlined the importance of transmitting to the Austrian authorities, as soon as possible, the details of delegations attending the Vienna Conference.

It was recalled that the Austrian Presidency was offering to pay hotel accommodation for the SADC delegations from 2nd to 4th November 1998, up to a limit of 1+2 per delegation. Facilities for the press coverage of the meeting will also be taken care of by the Austrian Presidency.

The Austrian Presidency informed the meeting that a detailed note containing all the necessary practical arrangements would be circulated in about ten days time.

3. The meeting agreed to add a new item 5(e) entitled "management of shared river basins" to the agenda of the Ministerial Conference.
4. The Committee agreed to adapt the draft format in the following way:

- Following the SADC Summit in Mauritius in September 1998 the SADC side will participate with 14 full Member States.
- The length of the introductory speeches will, in principle, be limited to 10 minutes.
- The main interventions in the various clusters will be as follows:

  = Political Dialogue (introduced by Germany followed by South Africa)

  = Regional Integration (introduced by SADC followed by Austria)

  = Co-operation in other fields (introduced by UK followed by SADC)

  = Other issues and future priorities (introduced by SADC followed by the EU Commission).

5. The draft Joint Communique as prepared by the Committee is annexed (Annex II). It was agreed that it would be discussed further with a view to finalising it at the Joint Steering Committee and Committee of Senior Officials meetings immediately preceding the Ministerial Conference in November 1998. This would allow the Conference to incorporate the latest developments taking place in the two regions.

The EU side expressed appreciation for the text presented by SADC concerning the political dialogue. Due to fluidity of the various situations the EU suggested the subject should be revisited closer to the Vienna Ministerial Conference. In the meantime it was agreed to annex the text proposed by the SADC side to these agreed minutes (Annex III).

The Committee also agreed to insert a reference in the final text, based on the conclusions adopted at the Conference of the Non-Aligned countries in Durban in
September 1998, concerning the terrorist bombings that have taken place in Dar es Salaam, Nairobi and Cape Town.

The Committee agreed to add Lesotho to the list of countries whose situations could be reviewed in the final communique.

At the request of the SADC side, the Presidency agreed to transmit written documentation on Sudan, Guinea-Bissau, Togo, the Horn of Africa and possible other regions, to be discussed under political dialogue to the SADC Secretariat in due time.

This documentation is intended to provide SADC with proper information on the special interest of the EU side in discussing these items under political dialogue during the Vienna Ministerial Conference.

6. In reply to concerns expressed by the SADC side based on recent news reports in the local press, the EU side recalled that these statements had been made by the EU Commissioner for Development addressing the European Parliament on 17 September and the ACP-EC Joint Assembly on 21 September 1998. The relevant statements were read out. It was specified that the statements by the Commissioner concerned had been part of an internal reflection process, and that a formal proposal had not been made to, or agreed by, the European Union. At the request of the SADC side the EU undertook to forward an official English translation of these texts. The EU side also undertook to inform the Commission and the Member States about the serious concerns expressed by the SADC side.

7. The SADC side undertook to provide texts, mentioned in the draft Joint Communique, to be presented by SADC by 15th October 1998.

8. The SADC side informed the Committee of its intention to invite Ministers/high-ranking officials from the EU Member States to the Southern African region to observe a landmine clearing exercise.
9. Finally the Joint Steering Committee expressed its thanks to the Namibian Government for organising and hosting this meeting of the Joint Steering Committee and agreed on the following dates and venue for the next Joint Steering Committee and Joint Committee of Senior Officials meeting:

- 11th Joint Steering Committee in Vienna, Austria on 1st November 1998.
- 7th Joint Committee of Senior Officials in Vienna, Austria on 2nd November 1998.
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
10th EU-SADC JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE
Windhoek, 24-25 September 1998

EUROPEAN UNION

Austria

Herbert Kröll, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Franz Palla, Ambassador to RSA, Namibia, Botswana, Mauritius, Swaziland
Permanent Representation to the EU, Brussels
Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany

Uwe Kaestner, Director, African Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Deputy Head of European External Relations Dept, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom

Head of Southern African Dept., Foreign and Commonwealth Office

EU Commission

SADC Regional Desk Officer, Brussels
Regional Advisor, SADC, EU Commission Delegation, Botswana

EU Council Secretariat

Principal Administrator, External Relations, Brussels
Principal Administrator, CFSP, Brussels
Administrator, External Relations, Brussels
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

Namibia

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry
Deputy High Commissioner, Botswana
SADC-EU Desk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Trade and Industry

South Africa

E.A. Broekhuysen, Director, SADC, Department of Foreign Affairs
Deputy Director, Department of Foreign Affairs

Zambia

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
High Commissioner, Botswana
SADC Coordinator, Employment and Labour Sector

SADC Secretariat

Special Advisor, SADC-EU
Advisor SADC-EU
DRAFT JOINT COMMUNIQUE
ON THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE BETWEEN
THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) AND
THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)

VIENNA, AUSTRIA, 3-4 NOVEMBER 1998

1. The Third EU/SADC Ministerial Conference took place in Vienna, Austria from 3rd to 4th November 1998. The Conference was attended by Ministers from the Member States of the EU and SADC, ______, and _______ (see Annex 1 for the list of participants). The Conference was co chaired by __________ and ___________. The Conference was also attended by the European Investment Bank and the ACP Secretariat as Observers.

2. The Conference was officially opened by the EU Chairperson, __________. In his statement, __________. Statements were also made by the SADC Chairperson, by the European Commission and the Executive Secretary of SADC. The speakers summarised the developments and achievements since the last SADC/EU Ministerial Conference held in Windhoek from 14th to 15th October 1996, which had built on the foundation laid by the Berlin Declaration including political dialogue and trade and investment between the two regions.

3. The two sides reaffirmed the importance they attach to respect for human rights, good governance, the rule of law, and the principles of democracy, as reflected in the understanding that these are constant themes underlying the issues considered by the two sides.

4. Both sides agreed on the importance of consolidating the work already undertaken in this dialogue, and to further strengthen relations between the two regions. In this context, they also agreed to consider new themes and activities for future cooperation, as appropriate.

5. Both sides undertook to create conditions which would attract the private sector to become further involved in contributing to the expansion and enhancement of relations between the two regions. They encouraged the private sector to respond positively to these moves.

6. **Overall review of progress since the 1996 Windhoek Conference**

   The Conference reviewed developments and welcomed the progress made, since the Windhoek Conference of October 1996, in the following areas:
6.1 **Political Dialogue**

6.1.1 The Conference reviewed progress and developments in the SADC and EU regions as well as in other parts of the world since the 1996 Windhoek Conference (plus new text from SADC). (It noted particularly the situation in the Great Lakes Region, including the Arusha Peace Process in Burundi, the continuing endeavours in regard to demining, the prevailing situation in Angola and recent developments in Nigeria. [to be updated closer to the Vienna Ministerial Conference, taking into account the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Sudan, Guinea-Bissau, Togo, the horn of Africa and possibly in other regions])

6.1.2 Regarding the membership of SADC, the Conference noted that the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Seychelles had acceded to the Treaty establishing SADC and become full members.

6.1.3 Regarding EU enlargement, the European side briefed the Conference on the latest developments in the enlargement process, i.e. the possible start of detailed accession negotiations for certain chapters, the results of the acquis-screening process, the implementation of the pre-accession-strategy and the progress report [needs to be updated and clarified before the meeting]. The Conference noted the importance of the internal reforms for the enlargement process and the future development of the EU. The EU outlined the process of current internal discussions about the Agenda 2000, especially the fields of the future financial framework 2000-2006, the regulations for agricultural instruments, the structural and cohesion funds and the pre-accession instruments.

6.1.4 The Conference noted that the European Monetary Union would lead to a significant change in the international monetary regime. The Euro would play an increasingly important role as an international transaction, reserve and portfolio currency, thus transforming the European Union's role and status in the world market. Equally, a stable Euro would contribute to more stability in the international monetary system which would be in the interest of SADC, as the EU is one of SADC's major trading partners.

6.1.5 The Conference welcomed the measures taken to promote democracy and good governance, particularly noting the outcome of the EU SADC Conference of Parliamentarians and NGOs in Vienna in October 1998 and other initiatives in this area.

6.1.6 The Conference welcomed efforts to develop African initiatives and capabilities in the fields of conflict prevention and peace-keeping both within the OAU and sub-regional groupings. The EU is prepared to support these efforts. In this context the Conference welcomed the peace-keeping exercises "Blue Hungwe", which took place in April 1997, and "Blue Crane", ongoing at the time of the Conference, as prime examples of capacity building for peace support operations.
6.1.7 The Conference noted with satisfaction the results of the ISS/Saferworld seminar on small arms trafficking held in South Africa in May 1998, and of the preventive diplomacy and peace-building seminar held in Kadoma, Zimbabwe, in August 1998. It endorsed their conclusions and proposed follow up action.

6.1.8 The Conference exchanged views and welcomed the European proposal to hold an EU-Africa Summit in the year 2000 aimed at fostering a more effective and integrated relationship between the European Union and the African continent.

6.2 **Regional integration**

6.2.1 The Conference expressed its appreciation for the progress SADC has continued to make on regional integration and the EU reaffirmed its commitment to continue supporting SADC in its integration process. This would be greatly enhanced by the recent entry into force of the 8th European Development Fund, under which the European Commission was making available to SADC an indicative envelope of 121 ME CU for a programme of regional financial and technical cooperation. This was in addition to other financing from which the countries of Southern Africa could benefit under other Community financial assistance programmes.

6.2.2 The Conference stressed the particular importance that the implementation of a free trade area within SADC will have on the economies of all member countries and on the region as a whole in particular as regards accelerated growth and sustainable development.

6.2.3 The Conference noted the decision of the SADC Summit in Mauritius to re-orient the role of SADC to include a focus on policy formulation, coordination and harmonisation, the greater involvement of the private sector and other stakeholders in SADC affairs, the necessity of continuing with the system of sectoral coordination by Member States and the rationalisation of sectors where appropriate, as well as rationalisation of the existing SADC project portfolio, using agreed project identification and appraisal criteria.

6.2.4 The Conference welcomed the creation of a new sector of Legal Affairs to deal with, among other things, cooperation in the administration of justice, harmonisation of Member States' legal and judicial systems and the provision of legal support services to other sectors and the SADC Tribunal.

6.2.5 The Conference noted with appreciation that of the nine (9) signed protocols, three protocols on Immunities and Privileges; Transport, Communication and Meteorology; and Energy, had received the required number of ratifications to enter into force.

6.2.6 (The Conference noted the progress made in the ratification of the Trade Protocol).
6.2.7 The Conference welcomed the signing of the Protocol on Tourism, which aimed at, among other things, ensuring balanced and complementary development of the Tourism Industry in the SADC region through collective efforts. The Conference also welcomed the signing of the Addendum to the 1997 SADC Declaration on Gender and Development: Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women and Children.

6.2.8 The Conference recognised that further work was needed on the ratification of those protocols which have not yet entered into force.

6.2.9 The Conference noted with satisfaction that work was under way to finalise Protocols on:
(a) The SADC Tribunal
(b) Finance and Investment
(c) Industrial Development
(d) Culture and Information
(e) Health
(f) Facilitation of the movement of persons in SADC

6.2.10 The EU reiterated its willingness to improve the mechanisms for trade and investment promotion between the EU and SADC (plus new text from SADC).

6.2.11 The Conference noted that a seminar on trade liberalisation had taken place in Dar Es Salaam in May 1998. The objective of the seminar was to encourage dialogue and cross-fertilisation of ideas between the EU and SADC on the practicalities of meeting trade liberalisation aspirations. The Conference underlined the particular usefulness of this seminar, which focused on the practical problems of implementation. It welcomed the specific recommendations made at the seminar, encouraged private sector participation in the trade liberalisation process and agreed on the need for further activities of this kind.

6.2.12 Conference on Transport in Maputo in October 1998. [Presidency to provide details after event].

6.3 Cooperation in other fields

The two sides welcomed that, since the Windhoek Conference, the EU and SADC had worked together on other areas of mutual interest, notably the following:.
6.3.1 Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking

A SADC-EU Drug Control Conference was held in Gaborone in February 1998. This indicated a broad recognition of the seriousness of the issue and a real need to address both supply and demand reduction, in the wider context of sound social and economic development.

The Conference noted that SADC Member States were committed to completing expeditiously the ratification of the SADC Protocol on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking. The EU reaffirmed its commitment to support the implementation of the SADC Regional Drugs Control Programme.

6.3.2 Landmines

The Conference highlighted the growing awareness of the tragic impact of landmines on the populations in many regions of the world struggling to recover from the effects of armed conflict.

The Conference enthusiastically welcomed the fact that the Ottawa Convention banning the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines and their Destruction had entered into force following the 40th ratification coming from the OAU Chairman, Burkina Faso.

The Conference welcomed the follow-up to the landmines clearance issue since the previous SADC-EU Windhoek Conference, including mine awareness campaigns and other international responses. It noted that an EU-funded SADC landmines initiative, coordinated by the SADC Committee of Demining Experts, was currently under implementation, focusing inter alia on the use of regional technology.

It further noted that since 1995 some ECU 25 million has been allocated by the European Union for landmine clearance actions within countries of the SADC region.

(SADC invitation)

6.3.3 Combating HIV/AIDS. [SADC to provide details.]

6.3.4 Integration of Demobilised Soldiers in Society

The two sides recognised the complexity of this issue; and that an adequate response to the problem would require the successful implementation of other relevant programmes including trade and investment, good governance, and social/economic issues, as well as appropriate resources. The Conference welcomed SADC's decision to assign the management and coordination of the activity related to demobilised soldiers to the Committee of Demining Experts.
6.3.5 Management of Shared River Basins

The Conference noted progress made in the ratification of the Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems. The Conference also noted that the recommendations and conclusions of the Maseru Conference on the Management of Shared River Basins would enhance the implementation of the Protocol. The Conference further noted that a SADC/UNDP Roundtable Conference on water had just taken place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 27th to 28th October 1998. The objective of the Conference was to provide a systematic and structured forum for discussion and resource mobilisation between SADC and its development partners.

6.4 Other issues

6.4.1 SADC External Debt Problem (SADC to submit proposals before 15 October)

6.4.2 Perspectives post Lomé (SADC and the EU to submit proposals before 15 October)

6.4.3 Plight of the Child  Child abductions/child soldiers (SADC and EU to provide details including a possible SADC reference to the addendum to the 1997 SADC Declaration on Gender and Development: prevention and eradication of violence against women and children)

7. Future priorities

The Conference agreed on the following future priorities:

- strengthening democracy, including support for the electoral process in the SADC region

- enhanced cooperation for conflict prevention and peace-keeping in particular through networking of partner institutions in the political and security fields, the exchange of experts, and the establishment of consultation mechanisms for crisis prevention, resolution and management

- intensify the common fight against organised crime especially through
  = training measures aimed at combating crime
  = tackling illicit drug trafficking
  = measures against illicit trafficking in small arms
  = preventing money-laundering

- clearance of landmines and mine awareness campaigns

- promoting regional integration in particular through technical assistance to address issues relating to the SADC Free Trade Area and regional cooperation in air traffic security in Southern Africa

- promotion of trade and private investment and the role of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the SADC region
- water and energy resources management
- combating HIV/AIDS

8. The Conference agreed to hold its next Ministerial meeting in the SADC region on a date to be mutually agreed.

9. [Concluding remarks from SADC]

10. [Concluding remarks from EU]

11. Finally, the Conference expressed its appreciation and gratitude to the Government and people of Austria for the hospitality extended to the delegates and for the excellent arrangements and facilities provided for the Conference.
SADC Text Proposals
under point 5 of the Draft Joint Communique - Political Dialogue

The Conference reviewed progress and developments in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the European Union (EU) regions as well as in other parts of the world since the 1996 Windhoek Conference.

The Conference noted with concern the civil disturbances and loss of life following the general elections in Lesotho, and welcomed the mediations and peace keeping efforts being made by SADC to resolve the problem.

The Conference also noted with great concern the deterioration in the political situation in Angola due to UNITA’s belligerent non-compliance with the major provisions of the Lusaka Protocol, which commits UNITA to full demilitarisation of its armed forces and participation in a Government of National Unity and Reconciliation and a unified national defence force.

The Conference welcomed the decision of the Angolan Government and SADC to pursue dialogue with UNITA Democrats in order to foster peace and reconstruction of Angola. The Conference also welcomed the decision of SADC to ensure flight regulation and improved control of airports and airspace with a view to monitoring the situation in Angola.

The Conference expressed great regret at the outbreak of war in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as a result of attempts by rebels and their allies to forcefully remove from power the Government of President Kabila. The Conference welcomed the efforts being made by SADC and its Member States aimed at restoring peace, security and stability in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Conference called on all political actors in the DRC to commit themselves to orderly and peaceful transition to multi-party democracy, primarily through constructive dialogue and negotiations.

The Conference noted with great regret that the Great Lakes region continues to pose serious security situation and refugees problems to the regions of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa. The Conference called upon the international community to provide the necessary diplomatic and logistical support to efforts by regional leaders in the Great Lakes region to encourage the Governments of Burundi and Rwanda to start a genuine process of negotiations leading to a new political dispensation guaranteeing liberty, democracy and security for all their citizens.

Regarding the membership of SADC, the Conference noted that the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Seychelles had acceded to the Treaty establishing SADC and become full members.
Regarding EU enlargement, the European side briefed the Conference on the latest developments in the enlargement process, i.e. the possible start of detailed accession negotiations for certain chapters, the results of the acquis-screening process, the implementation of the pre-accession strategy and the progress report (to be updated before the meeting). The Conference noted the importance of the internal reforms for the enlargement process and the future developments of the EU.

The EU outlined the process of current internal discussions about the Agenda 2000, especially the fields of the future financial framework 2000-2006, the regulations for agricultural instruments, the structural and cohesion funds and the pre-accession instruments.

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The Conference welcomed the measures taken to promote democracy and good governance, particularly noting the outcome of the SADC/EU Conference of Parliamentarians and NGOs in Vienna in October 1998 and other initiatives in this area.

The Conference welcomed efforts to develop African initiatives and capabilities in the fields of conflict prevention and peace-keeping. In this regard, the Conference welcomed the peace-keeping exercises "Blue Hungwe" which took place in April 1997 and "Blue Crane" which was ongoing at the time of the Conference, as prime examples of capacity building for peace support operations.

The Conference noted with satisfaction the results of the ISS/Saferworld seminar on small arms trafficking held in South Africa in May 1998 and the preventive diplomacy and peace-building seminar held in Kadoma, Zimbabwe in August 1998. It endorsed their conclusions and proposed follow-up action.

The Conference exchanged views and welcomed the European proposal to hold an EU/Africa Summit in the year 2000 aimed at fostering a more effective and integrated relationship between the European Union and the African continent, especially in the context of the Abuja Treaty.