

ACP-EC Partnership Agreement - consultations with Zimbabwe*(Doc. 6086/03)*

The Council adopted a Decision extending the period of application of the measures in Decision 2002/148/EC concluding consultations with Zimbabwe under Article 96 of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement.

CFSP**Zimbabwe - Renewal of targeted sanctions***(Doc. 5222/03 - 6256/03)*

The Council adopted, without discussion, a Common Position amending and extending Common Position 2002/145/CFSP and a Regulation extending Regulation 310/2002, which impose targeted sanctions against Zimbabwe.

The sanctions take the form of an embargo on the sale, supply or transfer of arms and technical advice, assistance or training related to military activities, and an embargo on the sale and supply of equipment which could be used for internal repression in Zimbabwe. They also include a travel ban on persons who engage in serious violations of human rights and of the freedom of opinion, of association and of peaceful assembly in Zimbabwe, and a freezing of their funds, financial assets and economic resources.

Both Common Position and Regulation are extended until 20 February 2004. The main change to the Common Position provides - in the event of one or more Member States objecting to the granting by another Member State of an exemption to the travel ban - that the Council may decide to grant the exemption by qualified majority.

It is recalled that the Permanent Representatives Committee agreed in principle on the renewal of the sanctions, at its meeting on 14 February, at the same time as:

- Noting that there are no obstacles to the participation of the Zimbabwean President at the Conference of Heads of State of France and Africa on 20-21 February in Paris, in derogation from the travel ban. The justification for this, under the relevant provision of Common Position 2002/145/CFSP, is the conduct of a political dialogue that promotes democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Zimbabwe.
- Concluding that in the present circumstances, it would not be possible to achieve the broadest participation at the highest level at the EU-Africa Summit convened in Lisbon in April, and that it would therefore be in the best interest of EU-Africa relations to postpone the Summit. The EU Troika will pursue discussions with its African counterparts in order to ensure that the Summit may be held at the earliest possible date, and to continue exchanges on how the dialogue between the EU and its African partners could be further enhanced.