



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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**Opening of consultations with the ACP side on Guinea-Bissau
under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement
– European Union Conclusions –**

The European Union regards the mutiny of 1 April 2010 and the subsequent appointment of its main instigators to high-ranking posts in the military hierarchy as a serious and evident breach of essential elements set out in Article 9 of the Cotonou Agreement. Under Article 96 of the Agreement, the European Union engaged in a political dialogue with the Guinea-Bissau Government which led to the opening of consultations aimed at assessing the situation and possible ways of safeguarding the essential elements referred to in Article 9(2) of the Agreement, namely human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law.

At the opening meeting of the consultations, held in Brussels on 29 March 2011, the European Union noted the swift response and the positive spirit demonstrated by the representatives of the Government of Guinea-Bissau and welcomed the information provided and statements made.

The proposals of the Guinea-Bissau side include measures for progressively ensuring the primacy of civilian authority, improving democratic governance, guaranteeing the safeguarding of constitutional order and the rule of law, and tackling impunity and organised crime.

The undertakings made by the Guinea-Bissau side comprise, in particular:

1. The conduct and conclusion of judicial investigations and proceedings, that are fully independent and carried out under appropriate logistic and security conditions, relating to the assassinations in March and June 2009;
2. The effective implementation of the security sector reform based on the strategy adopted by the national parliament and the legislative package drawn up with the support of the EU's CSDP mission;

P R E S S

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3. The renewal of the military hierarchy to ensure the appointment to senior command of persons not involved in unconstitutional or illegal conduct or acts of violence, in conformity with the conclusions and recommendations of the ECOWAS roadmap for Security Sector Reform;
4. The approval of and assistance to an experts' mission to support security sector reform and the protection of political figures, to be carried out with the support of ECOWAS, the CPLP and/or other partners;
5. The preparation, adoption and effective implementation of national operational plans to implement Security Sector Reform and to combat drug trafficking;
6. The improvement of the administrative and financial management of civilian and military employees, and measures to combat money laundering.

The European Union urges the representatives of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau:

7. to undertake judicial investigations and proceedings into the events of 1 April 2010 to reinforce the efforts to tackle the problem of impunity;
8. to specify a more detailed timetable for the implementation of the above commitments, in conformity with the timeframe set out in the ECOWAS roadmap.

The European Union will continue to monitor respect for these undertakings, step up political dialogue with the authorities and regularly review the progress made, including through monitoring missions. The implementation of these undertakings will reopen the way for the EU to support the process of political and economic reform in Guinea-Bissau. This process will be led by the national authorities in close cooperation with ECOWAS, the CPLP and the African Union, which have taken part in the consultations in an observer capacity, and with the support of other bi- and multi-lateral partners.