

EXTRACT FROM PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS

SEVILLE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

21 AND 22 JUNE 2002

IV. JOHANNESBURG

40. The European Council recalls the Council conclusions on the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), in particular those of 4 March, 30 May and 4 and 17 June 2002, and endorses the European Union's overall positions in this connection. It stresses the European Union's commitment to a successful outcome at the WSSD and its willingness to continue playing a leading role in the preparation of the summit, with a view to reaching a global deal building upon the successful steps of Monterrey and Doha.
41. The European Union is determined to secure a comprehensive and timely conclusion to the Doha Development Agenda, in order to increase the benefits of trade liberalisation as an engine for the sustainable development of developing countries, and supports efforts to create regional free-trade areas between them.
42. The European Council welcomes the increased ODA commitments announced by Member States and other donor countries in Monterrey as important contributions to alleviating poverty and meeting the Millennium development goals. It insists on the need to give those commitments concrete form. The European Council also stresses the need to ensure the successful replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, to enable it to meet the funding requirements of new and existing areas of action.
43. The European Union will invite other developed countries to join its positive agenda on globalisation, trade and finance, in order to help developing countries benefit from access to developed-country markets so that globalisation can work to the advantage of all. The European Union undertakes to step up its action in practice in all these areas.
44. The European Union emphasises that good governance at national level is essential for sustainable development and that all States should strengthen their government institutions, by promoting the rule of law, improving legal structures and providing access to information.
45. In a spirit of partnership and responsibility, the European Union will encourage initiatives, particularly in the areas of drinking water and sanitation, energy (including renewable energy) and health. When implementing these initiatives, the European Union will pay particular attention to Africa, working closely with its partners to lend impetus to the NEPAD initiative. The European Council stresses the European Union's desire to adopt in Johannesburg clear and concrete political commitments with a precise time frame, relying for their achievement on effective partnership.
46. The European Council stresses the importance, in the context of sustainable development, of maintaining the objective of food security as a basic component of the fight against poverty, as the World Food Summit in Rome has just reiterated.