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date of receipt : 19 September 2001  
to : Javier SOLANA, Secretary-General/High Representative

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Subject : Communication from the Kingdom of Belgium, the French Republic, the  
Kingdom of Spain and the United Kingdom:  
- Initiative of the Kingdom of Belgium, the French Republic, the Kingdom of  
Spain and the United Kingdom for the adoption by the Council of a draft  
Framework Decision on joint investigation teams

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Delegations will find attached an explanatory note on the above initiative from the Kingdom of Belgium, the French Republic, the Kingdom of Spain and the United Kingdom.

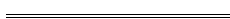
**Explanatory note**  
**on the initiative by the Kingdom of Belgium, the French Republic,**  
**the Kingdom of Spain and the United Kingdom**  
**for the adoption by the Council of a draft Framework Decision**  
**on joint investigation teams**

The aim of the draft Framework Decision on joint investigation teams is to bring into force, ahead of time, Article 13 of the Convention of 29 May 2000 on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Member States of the European Union, which provides for the establishment and operation of joint investigation teams <sup>1</sup>.

One of the benefits of the creation of joint investigations teams will be a greater capacity to combat terrorism, and thus to respond to the events of 11 September 2001 and to point 43 of the conclusions of the Tampere European Council.

Following discussions in Coreper, it was decided that the scope of this Framework Decision should correspond to that of Article 13 of the Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Member States of the European Union, and not be restricted to terrorism and trafficking in human beings and drugs.

For all other questions, we would refer you to the explanatory report on the Convention of 29 May 2000 <sup>2</sup>.



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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 197, 12.7.2000, p. 7.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 379, 29.12.2000, p. 7.