



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 2 July 2007

11327/07

LIMITE

**JAI 355
RELEX 521**

NOTE

from : Portuguese Presidency
to : Delegations
Subject : JHA External Relations Multi-Presidency Work Programme

I. Introduction and priorities under the Portuguese Presidency

Justice and Home affairs are becoming politically more and more important as a part of the external relations of the EU. The Strategy for the External Dimension of Justice and Home Affairs - Global Freedom, Security and Justice -, adopted by the Council in December 2005, constitutes a turning point in the JHA area.

The development of the EU area of Freedom, Security and Justice can only be successful if it is underpinned by a close partnership with third countries on counter terrorism, fight against organised crime, corruption and drugs, and on the management of migration flows, without excluding the strengthening of the rule of law, capacity building initiatives and the promotion and respect for human rights and international obligations.

The Portuguese EU Presidency will seek to consolidate the results already achieved in this area and strengthen relations with all relevant external partners.

The strategy for the external dimension of the JHA policy

In December 2006, the Council welcomed the reports on the implementation of the Strategy for the External Dimension of JHA: Global Freedom, Security and Justice presented by the Commission and the Council Secretariat. Despite the short reporting period since the adoption of the Strategy in December 2005, the reports stated overall positive and steady progress across topics and regions.

The Portuguese Presidency agrees with the conclusion of the report that the thematic and geographical priorities set out in the Strategy remain valid for the immediate future. As the co-operation with third countries on freedom, security and justice is a long term effort, based on institution and capacity building, a sustained commitment on both sides is of great importance and is the guideline of the Portuguese Presidency for the JHA external activities.

Global approach to migration

The European Council agreed in December 2005 on the Global Approach to Migration and priority actions focusing on Africa and the Mediterranean for 2006. First action in this regard has been taken by implementing these priority actions in 2006.

The 2006 December European Council evaluated these actions and set the priorities for further implementation of the Global Approach to Migration. The European Council agreed on: 1) Strengthening and deepening international co-operation with third countries of origin and transit, in particular between the European Union and African and Mediterranean countries; 2) Strengthening co-operation among Member States in the fight against illegal immigration; 3) Improve the management of external borders of the European Union; 4) Develop, as far as legal migration is concerned, well managed migration policies; 5) Promote integration and intercultural dialogue; and 6) Realise the Common European Asylum System by the end of 2010. The European Council of 21 and 22 June 2007 called upon Member States and the Commission to ensure that adequate human and financial resources are allocated, within the existing financial framework, in order to enable the timely implementation of the comprehensive migration policy.

On 16 May 2007 the Commission published two communications. The first one on circular migration and mobility partnerships between the European Union and third countries and the second one on the application of the Global Approach to the Eastern and South-Eastern regions neighbouring the EU. The Commission also adopted a proposal for a directive on sanctions against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals. The Commission plans to present in September 2007 two proposals for directives on legal migration and a report on integration, which the Presidency will seek to take forward.

By acknowledging the need for intensified and more co-ordinated co-operation with the Eastern and South-Eastern regions neighbouring the EU, the European Council of 21-22 June 2007 endorsed the GAERC Conclusions of 18 June, including the list of priority measures on the application of the Global Approach to the Eastern and South-Eastern regions neighbouring the EU. This European Council also emphasized the importance to further explore the possibilities of mobility partnerships as well as possibilities for circular migration.

On this basis, the Portuguese Presidency will take forward the implementation of the Global Approach to Migration stressing its comprehensive and also regionally balanced nature. Portugal will make efforts to achieve concrete results concerning the proposed mobility partnerships and on circular migration, in the context of promoting legal migration and underlines the importance of the proposal for a Directive providing rules to avoid the illegal employment of third country nationals.

On the basis of a Commission report, the state of implementation of the comprehensive migration policy will be reviewed by the European Council in December 2007.

This report will include progress on the application of the Global Approach to Migration to Africa and the Mediterranean as well as a first progress on the application of this approach to Eastern and South-Eastern regions neighbouring the European Union.

Furthermore, Portugal will organize the first EUROMED Ministerial Meeting on Migration in order to implement the EU's policy objectives and achieve concrete results.

II. JHA cooperation with third countries

A. Candidate countries

In November, the Commission will present, as part of the Enlargement Package, the yearly Regular Progress Reports on Turkey, Croatia (both negotiating accession since October 2005), and FYROM (which received candidate status in December of the same year). The reports will include the assessment of the three candidate countries' performance in the relevant areas of the *acquis* and of the political criteria. At the same time, the Commission will also present proposals for revised Accession Partnerships with the three, setting out the priorities for reforms in the short and medium term. In addition, the continuous monitoring of political criteria in Turkey and Croatia and the political dialogue with FYROM will also keep under scrutiny important issues relevant for the JHA area.

Turkey

The screening process on Chapter 24 (Justice, freedom and security) was presented on 7 June 2006 but is still being discussed in the Council. The Portuguese Presidency will carry on the discussion in view of reaching an agreement on the opening benchmarks. The screening report on chapter 23 (Judiciary and fundamental rights) will be presented in late June or July. The discussion will take place and hopefully be concluded during the Portuguese Presidency.

The Portuguese Presidency will seek to conclude readmission agreements with Turkey.

Croatia

The screening report of Chapter 24 (Justice, Freedom and Security) was approved by the Council in July 2006 with one opening benchmark. The Commission now considers that Croatia has met the benchmark and has recommended to the Council that negotiations should be opened, but the issue is still under discussion in the Council. The Portuguese Presidency will carry on the discussion with a view to reaching an agreement on the opening of the chapter. The screening report on chapter 23 (Judiciary and fundamental rights) will be presented in late June or July. The discussion will take place and hopefully be concluded during the Portuguese Presidency.

A JHA Subcommittee meeting with Croatia will be held during the Portuguese Presidency. Croatia will also participate, as part of the SAP, in the EU-Western Balkans Forum JHA ministerial meeting.

Eurojust has finalized negotiations on a co-operation agreement with Croatia and will send the draft to the Council for adoption in September 2007.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

In the discussions with FYROM, the EU will continue to assess the progress towards approximating with the EU acquis on Justice and Home Affairs.

The 4th meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Council with FYROM will take place in 24 July and will include an exchange of views on the political criteria. Judicial reform will be a particularly relevant issue in this semester to create the adequate conditions for the foreseen return of files on war crimes by the ICTY to the FYROM jurisdiction.

Agreements on visa facilitation and readmission will be signed and concluded with FYROM, together with four other Western Balkan countries.

B. Other countries with a European Perspective

Western Balkans

The EU has widened its co-operation with the countries in the Western Balkans in order to help them achieve concrete results in all areas of JHA policy. Under the Austrian Presidency, an Action Oriented Paper (AOP) on Improving Cooperation on Organised Crime, Corruption, Illegal Immigration and Counter-terrorism, between the EU, the Western Balkans and relevant ENP countries was adopted. This paper indicates the specific needs for the further support of the Western Balkan countries by the EU and it will serve as a guideline for the Portuguese Presidency. In this context, Portugal will also take further the discussions on relations with the SECI Centre on combating organised crime in Bucharest, including a further meeting of the SECI Support Group established by Council in December 2006.

As requested by the Strategy, a first interim report of the implementation of this AOP based on information provided by some Member States was presented at the December 2006 JHA Council. The Portuguese Presidency will encourage all Member States to report on the ongoing commitments in order to allow a complete picture for the next implementation report.

In close co-operation with Slovenia the Portuguese Presidency will organise a JHA Ministerial meeting of the EU-Western Balkan Forum in Brdo, Slovenia, on 4 and 5 October 2007. This meeting will provide an occasion for an assessment of the progress achieved by the countries of the SAP in JHA matters since the 2006 meeting in Tirana and to discuss how to proceed with the work in these areas that are of vital importance for the region.

Agreements on visa facilitation and on readmission with five Western Balkan countries (Albania, which already had a readmission agreement, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia) were initialled in spring 2007. The Portuguese Presidency will strive for a timely signing (scheduled September 2007), conclusion (foreseen at the end of November) and entering into force of the agreements by the end of 2007.

The Enlargement Package will also include Regular Progress Reports on Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo, as well as proposals for reviewed European Partnerships with all, except Montenegro (its current European Partnership was approved in early 2007).

C. Russian Federation

Co-operation in the JHA area with the Russian Federation is based on the Road-map of the Common Space for Freedom, Security and Justice, which was adopted at the May 2005 Summit. In November 2006, the Council adopted an Action Oriented Paper for the implementation of this common space as part of the JHA External Strategy. Special importance will be attached to stepping up co-operation in the fight against terrorism, while fully respecting human rights and the rule of law, within the framework of this common space. The Portuguese Presidency will continue implementing the measures envisaged in that Paper.

The visa facilitation and readmission agreements between the EU and the Russian Federation entered into force on 1 June 2007.

An EU-Russian PPC in JHA Ministerial Troika format took place under the German Presidency on 23 and 24 of April 2007 in Moscow. The parties welcomed the development of effective cooperation in the fight against terrorism, the agreement of FRONTEX with the Russian Federal Border Guard and the strengthening of co-operation in the sphere of drugs. The need to further strengthen operational co-operation in combating organised crime was stressed as well as possibilities for improving legal and judicial co-operation in criminal and civil matters. Furthermore, the parties agreed on the definition of the procedure for an EU-Russian Federation visa dialogue to examine the conditions for visa-free travel as a long term perspective.

The Portuguese Presidency will hold an EU-Russian Federation PPC in JHA format during its Presidency. The meeting will assess progress in the implementation of the Road-map for the Common Space of Freedom, Security and Justice and will define priorities for future co-operation. Portugal notes that many other bilateral EU-Russian Federation activities will take place, and which involve specifically the Commission, Europol, Eurojust or EMCDDA.

The Portuguese Presidency will strive to ensure that in the negotiations of a new post 2007 agreement, which will replace the current PCA, the negotiations on the JHA Chapter are conducted in an efficient and result-oriented way. Portugal fully supports the negotiations of an Agreement between the Russian Federation and Eurojust, as an international organisation within the framework of such an Agreement. Those negotiations will address issues related to Russian legislation on data protection and its implementation.

The Portuguese Presidency will give priority to:

- Implementation of the JHA Action Oriented Paper based on the Road-Map for the common space of Freedom, Security and Justice;
- Progress in the negotiations of a cooperation agreement between Eurojust and the Russian Federation;
- Monitoring the implementation of the visa facilitation and readmission agreements.

D. Africa

As part of the Global Approach to Migration , adopted by the European Council of 15/16 December 2005 and on the basis of the European Council Conclusions on the evaluation of the Global Approach (14/15 December 2006) and on the EU Strategy for Africa (GAERC, 22 November 2005), the Portuguese Presidency will press ahead with the further implementation of the “Priority Measures for Africa and the Mediterranean Region”.

The EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon in December 2007 will provide an important opportunity to enhance the relationship between the EU and Africa and further build an ambitious and strategic partnership.

It will also continue to enhance international cooperation and strengthen dialogue on migration and development with third countries by actively co-ordinating the work of the so-called specific EU Migration Missions. Following the first three EU Migration Missions to Cape Verde, Ghana and Mauritania the Portuguese Presidency will actively organize future EU Migration Missions to Senegal, Guinea-Conakry and Ethiopia.

In November 2006, the GAERC and the EU-South Africa Joint Cooperation Council welcomed the commitment to establish a strategic partnership between the European Union and South Africa. On 14 May 2007 the EU–South Africa Action Plan was adopted aimed to deepen and broaden co-operation in all areas, including migration and trans-national crime. The Portuguese Presidency, together with its European Partners and South Africa, will work on the implementation of the Joint Action Plan towards the Strategic Partnership.

The Portuguese Presidency will give priority to:

- Promoting the progress of the follow up process of the Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development held on 10-11 July 2006, in Rabat, and implementing the outcome of the EU-Africa Ministerial Conference for Migration and Development, held on 22-23 November 2006 in Tripoli;
- Co-ordinating and participating in EU Migration Missions according to the HLWG paper on EU Migration Missions to African countries, agreed by COREPER on 17 April 2007.

E. Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Barcelona Process) is the central instrument for partnership and dialogue for the EU and Mediterranean countries. It is a comprehensive initiative that also covers co-operation in the field of migration, social integration and security. The Association Agreements with Mediterranean partner States also cover, among others things, co-operation in the area of justice and home affairs.

At the summit meeting held in Barcelona in November 2005, a EuroMed Code of Conduct on the Prevention of Terrorism and a Five-Year Work Programme was adopted, which also contains a chapter on migration, social integration, justice and security. It was agreed therein that – among other concrete measures to deepen co-operation - a ministerial meeting on migration issues be held. The Portuguese Presidency will actively promote and host this Ministerial Meeting on Migration on the basis of the Work Plan approved at Tampere in November 2006 and will hold several preparatory meetings at the level of Senior Officials.

Regarding the implementation of the February 2003 Council Conclusions on flexibility in issuing visas to participants in Euro-Med meetings, the Portuguese Presidency will present new Council Conclusions. These conclusions will be based on the Commission's services assessment confirming the successful implementation by Member States of the facilitation measures on visa issuing procedures and explore ways for the possible extension of similar facilitations to other countries and improvement of the functioning of the whole system.

As regards combating terrorism, the JHA External Strategy originally envisaged drawing up an Action Oriented Plan for this purpose. The Member States provided information on their bilateral projects and cooperation and projects with Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. Based on the Council's decision in December 2006, the Portuguese Presidency, in cooperation with the Commission and the Council Secretariat, will examine questions related to strengthening co-operation in the fight against terrorism and decide on whether to draw up an Action Plan, in close co-operation with COTER.

The Portuguese Presidency will give priority to:

- The organisation of the first Ministerial EUROMED Meeting on Migration;
- Promoting negotiations towards the conclusion of readmission agreements with these countries.

F. European Neighbourhood Policy countries

Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan and Israel

The ENP, which reinforces and complements the Barcelona Process, enables the EU, by negotiating country-specific Action Plans, to work with each partner individually in order to deepen political and economic integration, including co-operation regarding migration, social integration, justice and security.

Already in 2005 Action Plans with Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia, entered into force. Ever since, several meetings took place focusing on issues such as migration, the fight against organised crime, drugs and terrorism, as well as police and judicial co-operation.

Egypt and Lebanon

The ENP Action Plan with Lebanon was adopted at the Association Council on 6 March 2007 and the ENP Action Plan with Egypt was adopted at the Association Council on 24 April, 2007. The Portuguese Presidency will begin implementing the JHA chapters of these Action Plans.

The Portuguese Presidency will give priority to:

- the implementation of the Action Plans with the Mediterranean countries;
- The promotion of negotiations towards the conclusion of readmission agreements, in particular the ongoing negotiations with Morocco.

Ukraine

The JHA Action Plan with Ukraine was adopted as early as December 2001 and was later integrated into the ENP Action Plan in December 2004. On the basis of two expert missions, the JLS Action Plan commenced in early 2006. The negotiations were concluded in November 2006. On 3 May 2007 measures for the implementation of the Ukraine – European Union Action Plan for 2007 were endorsed and the revised EU-Ukraine JLS Action Plan was formally adopted by the EU-Ukraine Co-operation Council on 18 June 2007.

The agreements on visa facilitation and readmission were initialled in October 2006 and signed in the margins of the Co-operation Council on 18 June 2007. They are likely to be concluded in autumn; in the case of the visa facilitation agreement this will depend upon full equal treatment of all Member States in relation to visa-free travel to Ukraine.

On 5 March 2007 negotiations started with Ukraine with a view to a new Enhanced Agreement, replacing the 1994 Partnership and Co-operation Agreement. The process of negotiation will last approximately 18 months. Furthermore a negotiating and reporting structure has been established, in which Justice and Home Affairs – as far as Police co-operation and Co-operation in criminal matters are concerned – will be dealt with by a special working group. A calendar of negotiations until the next Summit, scheduled for 14 September 2007 was agreed. Portugal will strive to ensure that the negotiations on the JHA Chapter are conducted in an efficient and result-oriented manner.

The Portuguese Presidency welcomes the signature, in June 2007, of the Working Agreement/Arrangement on the establishment of operational co-operation between FRONTEX and Ukraine, which marks an important step towards establishing a partnership on border management issues. The objective is to develop good relations and mutual trust as well as to strengthen security at the borders between EU Member States and Ukraine based on security standards and structures of the Schengen Framework.

The fifth meeting on Justice, Freedom and Security between the Troika of the EU and Ukraine took place on 11 June 2007. The meeting discussed priorities for future common work in line with the revised JLS Action Plan.

The Presidency will strive to bring negotiations on a co-operation agreement with Europol to a successful conclusion.

The Portuguese Presidency will give priority to:

- Implementation of the JHA Action Plan;
- Implementation of the visa facilitation and readmission agreements after their entering into force;
- Follow-up to the conclusions of the EU-Ukraine JLS Ministerial Troika of 11 June 2007.

Moldova

The ENP Action Plan with Moldova seeks closer JHA co-operation in the following areas: judiciary, corruption, migration issues (legal and illegal migration, readmission, visa, and asylum), border management, the fight against organised crime, human trafficking, drugs, money laundering and economic and financial crime police and judicial co-operation. The original term of the Action Plan with Moldova expires in February 2008. The Portuguese Presidency will actively support the work related to the implementation of the Action Plan

In February 2007 a strategic co-operation agreement between Moldova and EUROPOL was signed aiming to enhance co-operation in fighting serious forms of international crime including among others, drug trafficking, money laundering and illegal immigration

The EC-Moldova visa facilitation and readmission agreements were initialled on 25 April 2007. The Portuguese Presidency will strive for a timely signing, conclusion and entry into force of the agreements, i.e. by January 2008.

The Portuguese Presidency will give priority to:

- Concluding negotiations on visa facilitation and readmission agreements.

South Caucasus States

The ENP Action Plans with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia were adopted at the Co-operation Council meeting held on 14 November 2006. In January 2007 the EU fact-finding mission visited Georgia aiming to examine the possibilities of implementing the EU-Georgia ENP Action Plan. Under the Portuguese Presidency implementation of the JHA chapter of the Action Plans will begin focusing, in particular, on fighting corruption and money laundering.

G. Norway, Iceland and Switzerland

The Portuguese Presidency will continue the co-operation with these countries regarding the “Schengen-relevant” issues.

Under the Portuguese Presidency, the new Lugano Convention on jurisdiction and enforcement of judgements will be signed, thus updating the main instrument governing relations with these countries in the field of judicial co-operation in civil matters. The Portuguese Presidency welcomes the signing, on 4 June 2007, of the Memorandum of Co-operation between FRONTEX and Switzerland.

Eurojust is negotiating a co-operation agreement with Switzerland. Portugal will support the conclusion of the negotiations, which are progressing in a satisfactory way.

H. Partners of the American continent

USA

The EU and the USA share common concerns on global challenges such as terrorism, organised crime, including drug trafficking, corruption and illegal migration, and benefit from working together on combating these common threats by means of law enforcement and judicial co-operation.

Building on the New Transatlantic Agenda (NTA) adopted at the EU-US Summit in Madrid, in December 1995, EU-USA co-operation in the field of justice, freedom and security has broken new ground during the last years due to the shared interest in tackling security challenges.

The JHA Ministerial Troika under the German Presidency, on 5 April 2007, addressed the issues of data protection, terrorism, trafficking in human beings as well as the Visa Waiver Programme and the issue of reciprocity. The Portuguese Presidency will strive to make progress in relation to these subjects.

EUROJUST and the USA signed a cooperation agreement in 2006.

The EU and the USA agreed to establish a Senior Experts' Contact Group on data protection. The Ministerial Troika in the Portuguese Presidency will build on the work of this group and address issues of mutual concern.

The Portuguese Presidency will give priority:

- To the agreement with the USA on the transmission of passenger name records (PNR), which creates long-term security, guarantees adequate data protection and ensures high security standards while addressing the issue of terrorism,
- Continuing the dialogue on reciprocal visa exempt travel for short stays with the aim of having all EU Member States join the Visa Waiver Programme;
- Continue the work of the high level Contact Group agreed on 6 November EU-USA JHA ministerial to discuss general principles as regards data protection;
- Ratification of EU-USA Agreements of 25 June 2003 on extradition and of bilateral instruments;
- Border and document security: continue work related to introducing biometric passports;

Canada

The EU-Canada Partnership Agenda, adopted at the EU-Canada Summit in March 2004, provides a positive framework aimed at strengthening dialogue and enhancing co-operation between the EU and Canada, covering a wide range of issues from migration to police and judicial co-operation.

With regard to the issue of reciprocity concerning visa free travel, the Portuguese Presidency will continue to ensure effective progress in relation to all EU Member States.

The Portuguese Presidency will give priority to:

- Continue the dialogue on Visa Waiver Programme leading to visa-exempt travel for nationals of all EU-MS and Canada for short stays;
- Further implementation of the Europol-Canada agreement;
- Border and document security: continue work related to the introduction of biometric passports, use of false documents and development of practical co-operation.

Latin America and the Caribbean (EU-LAC)

In addition to other matters, trafficking in drugs will continue to be an important focus as it is a key to the handling of other subjects of mutual interest such as money laundering, organised crime and corruption. The fourth EU-LAC Summit in May 2006 strengthened the determination to intensify co-operation. At the Summit, the proposal to revise the Panama Action Plan of 1999, which aims at strengthening the inter-regional co-operation in the fight against illicit drugs by the end of 2006, was adopted. To this end, several meetings took place during the German Presidency culminating with the High Level meeting of Trinidad and Tobago held last May. Several working meetings are also foreseen during the Portuguese Presidency in order to best implement the new set of priorities for co-operation. The opportunities of a comprehensive bi-regional dialogue and co-operation on migration will be explored at the next EU-LAC Summit in 2008.

I. Global co-operation

Central Asia

Under the Finnish Presidency, key points were developed for the EU policy guidelines vis-à-vis Central Asia. Under the German Presidency the European Council of 21 and 22 June 2007 adopted an EU strategy for a new partnership with Central Asia. This strategy will serve as an overall framework for EU relations with Central Asia, including in the field of, among others, migration. Under the Portuguese Presidency implementation of an EU strategy on Central Asia, supported by the EU Special Representative for Central Asia and the Commission will be taken forward.

JHA cooperation with the region should foster police cooperation initiatives of the EU and inside the region on drug-trafficking and organized crime. Border-management and security initiatives should receive special attention. Multilateral co-operation with OSCE and other actors in the region should be encouraged. A meeting of the JLS Sub-Committee with Kazakhstan is planned during the Portuguese Presidency.

Afghanistan

The Afghanistan Compact and the Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy (iANDS) launched at the London Conference in January/February 2006 provide the framework for EU support for Afghanistan. The EU, together with the international community, will continue to assist Afghanistan in the areas of security, governance, the rule of law, economic and social development and also the drug problem that affects the whole of society, with the aim of strengthening Afghan ownership. The EU-Afghanistan Joint Declaration and the Council Conclusions had already underlined these objectives.

The implementation of the Action-Oriented Paper (AOP) Afghanistan / Drugs, which began under the Finnish Presidency, covers the fields of action of combating the drugs trade and security sector reform that have been prioritised by the EU. With the launch of a € 22 million EU programme for border management in Afghanistan, which is being supported by the UK, an important milestone of the AOP is already being implemented. The EU is thus translating an announcement made at the DOHA II Conference in February 2006 into action. The German Presidency held a Horizontal Drugs Group (HDG) Troika meeting with Afghanistan.

The Portuguese Presidency will work in the existing bodies (primarily the Horizontal Drugs Group HDG) to ensure the further implementation of the AOP Afghanistan / Drugs which was adopted under the Austrian Presidency and to encourage the EU and the EU Member States to support the fight against drugs (in Afghanistan and along the drug trafficking routes) and security sector reform. Furthermore, on 24 and 25 July an ESDP police mission will be sent to Afghanistan to support the work in the area of police co-operation.

India

The first meeting of the EU-India High-level Dialogue on Migration Issues and Visa Policy was held in June 2006, in the framework of the implementation of the Joint Action Plan. The Portuguese Presidency will support further enhancing the EU-India strategic partnership. Progress in the implementation of the Joint Action Plan shall include scheduling of next meetings of the Joint Working Group on Consular Affairs and of the EU-India High-level Dialogue on Migration Issues and Visa Policy.

China

The EU will continue its dialogue with China on illegal migration, including readmission, and trafficking in human beings and co-operation on combating corruption, organised crime and terrorism. Efforts shall be enhanced to progress on the negotiations of the readmission agreement. Activities on facilitating people-to-people exchanges will continue. In line with the Joint Statement of the 2006 Summit and the Council conclusions of December 2006 on the EU-China Strategic Partnership co-operation, the implementation of the Approved Destination Status (ADS) Agreement remains important.

The negotiating mandate to conclude an EU-China Partnership and Co-operation Agreement (PCA) comprises provisions relating to JHA co-operation. The negotiations of the PCA were launched in January 2007. The Portuguese Presidency hopes both sides can move forward on JHA issues.

Pakistan

The first Pakistan-EU joint Committee meeting, held in May 2007, agreed to constitute a Sub-Group on Governance, Human Rights and Migration. Under this Sub-Group it was agreed to constitute a 'dialogue on migration management'. The two sides also discussed the finalizing of the Readmission Agreement between Pakistan and the EU. The Portuguese Presidency is committed to taking forward the dialogue with a view to concluding the Readmission Agreement. The Portuguese Presidency will organize an EU Troika on Drugs with Pakistan.

Japan

The EU-Japan Summit in Tokyo in June 2006 underlined the intention to contribute substantially to the elaboration of the UN counterterrorism strategy and further enhancing co-operation in the fight against terrorism in South East Asia. On 5 June 2007 the 16th Summit between the EU and Japan took place. The launch of preliminary, informal discussions on co-operation between the EU and Japan in the area of legal assistance in criminal matters was welcomed.

J. International Organizations

Council of Europe

Portugal will host a Troika meeting with the Council of Europe on the margins of the CATS meeting, in November 2007.

As a joint initiative of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, the EU Commission and the Portuguese Presidency, the launch of the first European Day Against the Death Penalty, to be held on 10 October, will be marked by an international conference in Lisbon, on the 9 October, which aims also to remember and strengthen the ties that link the EU to fundamental rights and fairness of judicial criminal procedures.

On 25 October, Portugal will commemorate the European Day of Civil Justice. The European Day of Civil Justice, launched jointly by the Council of Europe and the European Commission in 2003, is held on this date every year.

United Nations: High-level dialogue (HLD) on Migration and Development at the UN

On the basis of the Secretary-General's report and taking into account the report produced by the Global Commission on International Migration, the HLD was held on 14 and 15 September 2006, providing an opportunity to discuss all aspects of international migration with the aim of achieving a coherent policy approach, particularly from the point of view of development and general migration policy. The Secretary-General's proposal that a Global Forum on Migration and Development be created was supported by a number of States. It offers an informal platform for exchanging opinions to enable the continuation of the dialogue in the future. During the Portuguese Presidency Belgium will organise the first meeting of the Global Forum scheduled for July 2007.

United Nations: United Nations Convention against Corruption

Portugal will co-ordinate and participate in the preparatory meetings of the Second Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to be held on 18 January 2008, in Bali, during the Slovenian Presidency.

The Hague Conference on Private International Law

On 3 April 2007 the EU became a member of the Hague Conference on Private International Law. Portugal will aim to strengthen relations with the Hague Conference.

In November 2007, the Diplomatic Session of the Hague Conference will take place. Its main objective will be to adopt the Hague Convention on the international recovery of child support and other forms of family maintenance. Portugal attaches great importance to this Convention as a way to achieve greater legal certainty and swift procedures in the field of maintenance in a worldwide context. In its role as EU Presidency, Portugal will therefore strive to co-ordinate the member States' views on this issue and contribute to the successful adoption of the draft Convention.

III. List of External Relations events by date: 1 July 2007 to 31 December 2007:

July

- 13- SOM in preparation of the EUROMED Ministerial Meeting on Migration, Lisbon
- 19/20 - EU/US Informal JHA High Level Meeting, Lisbon

September

- 6 - Meeting of the Technical Committee of the EU/LAC Mechanism on Drugs, Brussels
- 6 – EU/ECOWAS HDG Informal Dialogue on Drugs, Brussels, (tbc)
- 14 - Liaison Officers' meeting, Moscow
- 18 – JHA Subcommittee meeting with Croatia, Brussels
- 19 – Subcommittee No 3, Customs, Cross Border Co-operation, Money Laundering, Drugs, Illegal Migration with Moldova, Brussels
- 28 – EU/USA Policy Dialogue on Border and Transport Security (PDBTS), Brussels, (tbc)

October

- 4/5 - JHA Ministerial Troika Forum EU/Western Balkan States, Brdo (Slovenia)
- 9 - SOM in preparation of the EUROMED Ministerial Meeting on Migration, Brussels
- 11- HDG Troika meeting with Pakistan, Brussels (tbc)
- 11 - HDG Troika meeting with Russia, Brussels
- 18 - EU/Russia Troika on Counter Terrorism, Brussels
- 19 - Liaison Officers' meeting, Kiev, (tbc)
- 26 - Joint meeting of CIREFI experts EU/USA/CAN, Brussels
- 30 – Western Balkans Liaison Officers' meeting, Zagreb (tbc)

November

- 1/2 – EU/Andean Group High Level Group on Drugs, Cartagena (tbc)
- 13 – EUROMED Expert meeting on Terrorism, Brussels
- 14 - Meeting of the Technical Committee of the EU/LAC Mechanism on Drugs, Brussels
- 14 – EU/USA Informal Dialogue on Drugs, Brussels
- 18/19 – EUROMED Ministerial Meeting on Migration, Albufeira

19/23 – Sixth ASEM Meeting of Directors General on the Management of Migratory Flows between Europe and Asia, Seoul

22/23 - EU/Russian Federation Ministerial Troika of the Permanent Partnership Council (PPC-JHA), Brussels (tbc)

23 – Article 36 Committee Troika Meeting with the Council of Europe, Brussels, (tbc)

29 – EU/USA Troika on Counter Terrorism, Lisbon (tbc)

December

4 – Consultative Task Force with Albania (tbc)

10/11 – EU/US Ministerial JHA Troika Meeting in Washington

12 – JHA Subcommittee meeting with Turkey (tbc)

12 – HDG Troika with Iran (tbc)

TBC

- Contact Group on data protection and data sharing with the USA
- Several Subcommittees foreseen in Partnership and other Co-operation Agreements will also be held in the second semester of 2007.