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**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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Brussels, 12 March 2003 (OR.en)

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**6847/1/03
REV 1**

LIMITE

**CAB   2
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NOTE

from :	The General Secretariat of the Council
to :	The Security Committee
Subject :	Release of EU classified information to third states and international Organisations – Levels of security co-operation

1.   The Council's security regulations (Part II, Section XII) require the Council to determine the level of security co-operation which is possible with third states or international organisations with which it is called upon to exchange EU classified information on a regular basis. Levels are determined on the basis of the quality of the security regulations applied: Level 1 (security regulations very close or comparable to the EU's); Level 2 (security regulations markedly different from the EU's); and Level 3 (security regulations which cannot be assessed).

2.   At its meeting on 17 October 2002, the Security Committee considered security co-operation levels to be applied to certain third States and international organisations and agreed that:

   –   Canada, Iceland, Norway and the USA, as NATO members, should be accorded level 1 co-operation status;

   –   The international organisations UN, OSCE and ESA should be accorded level 3 co-operation.

   –   Level 1 co-operation status should be attributed to Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey.

3. With regard to Cyprus and Malta, and in the light of the outcome of the recent security evaluation inspection in these countries, it is suggested that:

    −   Cyprus be accorded level 1 co-operation status as recommended in the report on the verification of its security environment conducted under the Council's security regulations.

    −   Malta be accorded level 1 co-operation status, with the caveat that no EUCI above EU RESTREINT may be transmitted electronically to or within Malta until the INFOSEC recommendations are fully implemented. On the basis of the above, the EU evaluation team considers that a second evaluation inspection will need to be undertaken in the latter part of the year in order to assess Malta's implementation of the recommendations, especially those relating to INFOSEC, contained in this report.

4. With the conclusion of the EU-NATO security agreement, it is proposed that NATO be accorded level 1 status.

5. In the course of the implementation of the Joint Action 2002/210/PESC on the European Union Police Mission (EUPM), there is a need to share classified information with other contributing third States (Russia, Ukraine and Switzerland) as well as the host State, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).

6. By the same token, following the recent adoption of the Concil Joint Action on the EU Military Operation in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), there is a need to share classified information with the host State, the FYROM.

7. The Security Committee is accordingly invited to:

    −   recommend the appropriate levels of security co-operation to be allocated to Russia, Ukraine, Switzerland, BiH and FYROM;

    −   consider the list attached in the annex with a view to forwarding it to Coreper and the Council.

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SUGGESTED SECURITY COOPERATION LEVELS

WITH THIRD STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Acceding and Candidate States	Co-operation Level
Bulgaria	Level 1
Cyprus	Level 1
Czech Republic	Level 1
Estonia	Level 1
Hungary	Level 1
Latvia	Level 1
Lithuania	Level 1
Malta	Level 1 [*]
Poland	Level 1
Romania	Level 1
Slovakia	Level 1
Slovenia	Level 1
Turkey	Level 1

Other States (NATO Members)	
Canada	Level 1
Iceland	Level 1
Norway	Level 1
United States	Level 1

Other States (non NATO Members)	
Russia	
Ukraine	
Switzerland	
BiH	
FYROM	

International Organisations	
NATO	Level 1
OSCE	Level 3
UN	Level 3
ESA	Level 3

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[*]   This co-operation level is subject to the caveat that no EUCI above EU RESTREINT may be transmitted electronically to or within Malta until the INFOSEC recommendations contained in the EU inspection report are fully implemented.