



THIRD ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Developments in other organizations**

**Overview of developments in other international organizations and bodies relevant to the work of the Working Party**

**Addendum**

**Contents**

	<i>Page</i>
1. Africa-European Union (EU).....	1
African Heads of State and EU Meeting (Brussels, Belgium, 10 October 2001).....	1
2. Asia and Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) .....	1
APEC Summit (Shanghai, China, 21 October 2001).....	1
3. Twelfth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour (Ottawa, 17-19 October 2001) .	2
4. European Union (EU).....	4
Informal European Council (Ghent, Belgium, 19 October 2001).....	4



## 1. Africa-European Union (EU)

### ***African Heads of State and EU Meeting (Brussels, Belgium, 10 October 2001)***

Text adopted: ■ Common Statement

1. In their *Common Statement*, the EU Presidency, the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, the European Commission, the Chairman of the African Union and the Heads of State of South Africa, Nigeria, Senegal, Algeria and the Representative of the Head of State of Egypt –
  - agreed to have twice a year a meeting between the New African Initiative (NAI) Steering Committee and the EU, and to establish a permanent link between different NAI task forces and the EU Commission;
  - agreed to further consult on the next WTO round in order to ensure that it addresses squarely the development dimension of trade;
  - agreed to relate also to the G8 Task Force, under Canadian Presidency.
2. The European side declared themselves impressed by the strong political will of the African leaders to further peace, stability, democracy and development on the African continent, by the strong personal commitment and involvement of the African leaders to ensure the success of the New African Initiative and by their candour in recognizing the challenges ahead; and expressed strong support for the New African Initiative and agreed to take it further.

## 2. Asia and Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

### ***APEC Summit (Shanghai, China, 21 October 2001)***

Text adopted: ■ APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration

3. In their *Declaration*, the Heads of State and Government of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) –
  - wished to send a clear and strong message on the collective resolve of the Asia-Pacific community to counter terrorism and expressed their determination to reverse the current economic downturn and maintain public confidence at a time of uncertainty by fighting protectionism and committing to the launch of the new WTO round at the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference;
  - recognized in this regard that the current slowdown in the world economy has added to the urgency of such a new round. They agreed that, once launched, the new round should be concluded expeditiously. They emphasized the need for a balanced, sufficiently broad-based agenda, which is achievable. They agreed that the agenda for the new round should include further trade liberalization, the strengthening of WTO rules, implementation issues, and reflect the interests and concerns of all members, especially those of the developing and least developed ones. They also agreed that

such an agenda should address the challenges of the twenty-first century and support the goal of sustainable development;

- were convinced that globalization is a powerful vehicle that stimulates economic growth, and holds great promises for delivering higher living standards to people and improving social well-being for their communities;
- realized that there is an ongoing public debate on the benefits and costs of globalization; and believed that such debates are healthy when they are informed by rigorous and comprehensive analysis of the impact of globalization;
- stated that the time has come for APEC to come forward and lead the public debate in a constructive manner; and instructed officials to convene an APEC Dialogue on Globalization and Shared Prosperity, focusing on, among other issues, structural adjustment and its impact;
- stressed the importance of reaching out to business and other stakeholders to communicate APEC's objectives, activities and benefits to ensure that they participate in and benefit from the APEC process and globalization at large;
- stressed that developing social safety nets is a high priority, as it can make an important contribution to reducing the harmful effects of economic shocks on vulnerable groups;
- stressed that, despite its broad potential to raise productivity, stimulate innovation in economic organization and entrepreneurship, the opportunities arising from the New Economy are not sufficiently shared among or even within economies; they emphasized the importance of capacity building, both human and institutional, as a key answer to the challenges and opportunities of globalization and the New Economy.
- instructed Ministers and Officials to build on APEC's Integrated Plan of Action for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and place special emphasis on micro-enterprises.

Internet: *Economic Leaders' Declaration*: <http://www.apecsec.org.sg/virtualib/econlead/china.html>

### **3. Twelfth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour (Ottawa, 17-19 October 2001)**

Text adopted: ■ Ottawa Declaration and Plan of Action

**4.** In the *Ottawa Declaration* the Ministers of Labour of the Organization of American States –

- recognized the progress achieved in understanding existing and emerging issues related to the labour and social dimensions of globalization;
- noted the substantial efforts being made in subregional groupings of nations to address the labour dimensions of economic integration;
- agreed that it is fundamentally important that the economy and businesses benefit the whole population and that they apply the ILO concept of “decent work” for the well-being of their citizens;

- agreed to promote and respect the basic rights of workers in accordance with what has been established in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-Up, stating that they would promote the ratification of fundamental ILO Conventions and calling on the ILO to increase assistance to member States in order to attain these objectives;
- recognized, among others, the importance of taking action to create employment as an effective means of combating poverty and of strengthening cooperation and social dialogue on labour matters between government, workers, employers and their organizations;
- stated they would provide migrant workers in their countries with the same legal protections that they provide to their own nationals in respect of working conditions;
- would promote improved collaboration and coordination on the labour dimensions of the Summit of the Americas process between Labour Ministries and other appropriate ministries as well as with key international institutions within the Americas that have a critical role to play in the improvement of labour conditions, in particular the OAS, ILO, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) as well as the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the World Bank;
- stated that they would continue to work towards the elimination of child labour and, as a priority, promote hemisphere-wide ratification and implementation of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), and take immediate action to eliminate the worst forms of child labour;
- committed themselves to integrate a gender perspective into the development and implementation of all labour policies;
- welcomed and valued the contributions of civil society, including business and labour organizations and in particular those of the IACML Trade Union Technical Advisory Council (TUTAC-COSATE) and Business Technical Advisory Committee on Labour Matters (BTACLM-CEATAL)
- resolved –
  - (a) to develop and implement a Plan of Action based upon this Declaration and the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas; calling upon member States and relevant international organizations to make voluntary contributions to support activities and projects under this plan, and to facilitate the participation of TUTAC and BTACLM;
  - (b) to establish two working groups:
    - (i) one would examine the labour dimensions of the Summit of the Americas process, including, inter alia, the questions of globalization related to employment and labour, and prepare a report containing recommendations for consideration at the XIIIth Conference. This working group would include various international organizations, in particular the ILO, the IDB and the World Bank;
    - (ii) the other working group would continue to focus on building the capacity of labour ministries and their institutions to effectively implement labour laws, and would make special efforts to promote the ILO Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-Up within

the hemisphere. This group would also include various international organizations, in particular the ILO.

**Internet:**     *Website:* <http://xii-ciamt.org/english/index.html>  
                  *Declaration:* [http://xii-ciamt.org/english/conference/xii-iacml\\_declaration.html](http://xii-ciamt.org/english/conference/xii-iacml_declaration.html)

#### **4. European Union (EU)**

##### ***Informal European Council (Ghent, Belgium, 19 October 2001)***

**Text adopted:**     ■     Declaration

**5.** In their *Declaration*, the Heads of State and Government of the European Union (EU) and the President of the European Commission reviewed the economic situation in the aftermath of the events of 11 September. Taking note of the Commission's report, they –

- stressed that the economic slowdown has been accentuated by these events but expressed their confidence that the sound economic fundamentals of the Union and the fiscal consolidation already achieved will help to ensure that the impact will be limited and temporary;
- expressed the need to work actively towards launching of the WTO negotiations. They believed that current economic uncertainty means that trade liberalization founded on a rules-based multilateral system and associated with a real development dimension is more important than ever, economically and politically.

**Internet:**     <http://europa.eu.int/geninfo/keyissues/110901/>

Geneva, 31 October 2001.