Advancing African agriculture - Proposal for agricultural development and food security in Africa

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The Council adopted a series of conclusions on a communication from the Commission on agriculture in Africa. These may be summarised as follows:

- the Council welcomes the objectives and principles set out for cooperation on agricultural development at regional and continental levels in Africa. It recalls that agriculture is the main economic base for the majority of Africans and accounts for about one-third of Africa's gross domestic product;

- in its conclusions (see also Council document 14914/07), the Council recognises the crucial importance of broad-based sustainable agricultural growth for poverty reduction and food security and for attaining the UN's Millennium development goals in Africa. In this regard, it welcomes the decision by African heads of state to increase the share of national budgets allocated to agriculture and rural development and appeal to them to honour their commitments;

- the Council also welcomes the increased attention given to agriculture, food security and rural development for Africa under the EU's 10th European Development Fund (EDF);

- with respect to cooperation on agricultural development at the continental and regional levels, the Council endorses the Commission’s communication. Specific areas on which to focus collaboration will be decided in consultation between the EU and the African Union.