



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council conclusions on Zimbabwe

*2996th FOREIGN AFFAIRS Council meeting
Brussels, 22 February 2010*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- “1. The Council emphasises its readiness to work closely with the Government of National Unity in Zimbabwe in addressing the challenges the country faces and in the implementation of its commitments as set out in the Global Political Agreement of September 2008.
2. The Council recognises the Government of Zimbabwe's ongoing efforts to implement the GPA, and the progress achieved after one year in office, in particular in the economic sphere. The Council welcomes agreement on 21 December 2009 by the signatories of the GPA to establish the Commissions on Human Rights, Electoral Affairs and Constitutional Reform. The EU is actively supporting the GPA implementation through a specific cooperation programme.
3. Nevertheless, the Council notes with concern insufficient progress with regard to the rule of law, respect for human rights, constitutional reforms, power sharing on equal terms, national reconciliation, security sector reform and the protection of investors.
4. In light of the above, the Council has decided to revise and extend for another year appropriate and restrictive measures. Nevertheless, it stands ready to keep them under constant review and to revoke them in response to further concrete developments in the implementation of the GPA.

P R E S S

5. The Council reaffirms its commitment to a successful political dialogue. The launch of the Article 8 Political Dialogue in Brussels on 18 June 2009 and the EU troika visit to Zimbabwe in September 2009 were important steps in the process of normalisation of EU-Zimbabwe relations. The Council calls for regular and timely continuation.
6. The Council welcomes the recent handing over of the Global Political Agreement Commitment Plan by the Government of Zimbabwe as it constitutes a basis for a continued Political Dialogue.
7. The Council also welcomes the intensified regional diplomacy and encourages the SADC, the AU and States in the region to continue to make all efforts to create a constructive environment in which issues outstanding can be resolved.
8. The European Union remains the largest provider of assistance to Zimbabwe in particular through its transitional support for agriculture and food security, social sectors, including health and education, and for GPA implementation. The EU disbursed 274 million Euros in Zimbabwe in 2009.”
