



**RAAD VAN  
DE EUROPESE UNIE**

**Brussel, 3 december 2002 (06.12)  
(OR. en)**

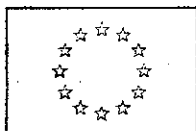
**15143/02**

**RELEX 265  
DEVGEN 186**

**NOTA I/A-PUNT**

van:	het secretariaat
aan:	het Coreper/de Raad
Betreft:	Feitendossiers per land

1. De Groep Raden buitenlandse betrekkingen heeft op 4 en 12 september 2002, en de Groep Ontwikkelingssamenwerking op 13 september 2002, een Commissievoorstel betreffende een model voor de feitendossiers per land besproken.
2. Op 25 november 2002 heeft de Groep Raden buitenlandse betrekkingen een herzien ontwerp besproken. Namens de groep heeft het voorzitterschap toen enkele wijzigingen van het ontwerp aanbevolen. Het voorgestelde model zou uiterlijk eind 2003 opnieuw moeten worden bekeken in het licht van de ervaring die dan met de toepassing ervan is opgedaan.
3. Gelet op het bovenstaande wordt het Comité verzocht de Raad aan te bevelen nota te nemen van het in bijlage dezes opgenomen voorstel voor een model voor de feitendossiers per land.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
EXTERNAL RELATIONS DIRECTORATE GENERAL  
PRINCIPAL ADVISER  
Economic Analysis

Brussels,  
04/MIG/AB D(30/10/2002)

### **Subject: Country Fact Files: A Proposed Format**

#### **Deciding on a format for a Country Fact File: The process**

1. General Affairs Council expresses the need for Country Fact Files (February)
2. Country Fact File Format drafted by European Commission (June)
3. First draft of format presented to the Foreign Relations Counsellors and Development Group in the Council (September)
4. First draft is presented to the High Level Working Group on Asylum and Migration in the Council (September)
5. Revised version of the format is presented to a joint Relex Counsellors and Development group in the Council (October - envisaged)
6. The format is presented in the COREPER (December - envisaged)
7. The format is approved by the GAC (December - envisaged)
8. A first generation of Country Fact Files is produced on the initiative of the European Commission (January 2003 - envisaged). The first set of Country Fact Files will be completed in January and then regularly updated in October)

#### **Preamble: Why a Country Fact File?**

The purpose of the fact files is to **strengthen the coordination and improve complementarity and coherence of the external actions of the Union**. The intention is to have a document that is short, inclusive and with specific information. The fact file will try to list all EU policies affecting the EU and the country concerned, although emphasis will be on Development cooperation. The Fact File may be seen as one building block among others in place to help reach overall EU objectives in many areas.

The need for fact files has been expressed at the highest political level. Thus:

*Summary of GAC conclusions 18/19 February*

"In the course of the discussion, Ministers addressed questions such as integrating development and foreign policy objectives; improving flexibility and responsiveness to new situations; balancing the need for speedy delivery of external assistance and the quality of such assistance; and how to improve the impact of the Union's external action in different regions....."

".....The Presidency noted the importance the Council attached to collaboration between the various Council formations, the Secretary-General/High Representative and the Commission in order to make progress in improving the effectiveness of external action. The reform of external aid management by the Commission - on which the latter reported today - goes in the same direction and enjoys the Council's support. The Presidency suggested in particular that the Secretary-General/High Representative and the Commission continue to:

- reflect on the concept of regional strategies;
- examine the development of **the country fact-files ("fiches-pays")** and undertake case studies in which the coherence of action by the EU and Member States as well as coordination in the field could be better assessed;
- study ways of building on the process of decentralisation already initiated by the Commission to strengthen the role of its delegations in EU external action."

*A letter from Mr. Patten sent to the GAC following the conclusions of the Orientation Debate in February.*

"We now have the first results of a pilot exercise involving four countries: Argentina, China, Morocco and Columbia. **These need to be consolidated – in discussion with Member States - with a view to refining a common format for general use in future.** At the same time, we need to consider whether there are lessons to be learned from the somewhat variable experiences we have encountered in establishing the two-way information flows that are vital for the success of this exercise. You may want to consider whether a joint meeting of Relex Counsellors and development experts would be the best way to take forward work in this area.

The Presidency conclusions also invite the Commission to study ways of strengthening the role of our delegations in EU external action as we devolve responsibilities for managing EC financial assistance to the field. Effective co-ordination on the spot will be a vital ingredient in this respect and the positive experiences in the preparation of the latest round of country strategy papers are encouraging."

### **Fact files: general instructions**

1. The document should not be more than five pages long.
2. The document should be entirely self-standing, i.e. no annexes and no footnotes.
3. The document should only contain essential, factual information with a few necessary judgements. One can not expect much analysis on important topics, or full reflection of important documents. Much of the information has to be in the form of references, for an interested reader to look for elsewhere.
4. The document should emphasise the links between the country and the EU.
5. To allow for the widest possible circulation and use, the document should not include any classified information. Confidential or classified data should, if deemed necessary with respect to a specific country, where appropriate and possible, be provided in a separate file for specific users.

### **Interpreting the Format**

The details of the Format are given in normal font. Instructions to the fact file are underlined, and *fictitious examples to illustrate what is expected are found in italics*.

The page-length estimate for each section is only an indication. For example section 6, "*Relations with the EU: Legal framework; i.e. agreements, policies and statements*" will not require 1.5 pages for many countries; in some countries however it may require more space.

The purpose of the fact file is to share information, to facilitate coordination and enhance complementarity between MS and the Community, and between the MS themselves. The purpose is also to provide the interested public with information about the activities of the European Union, with due respect to the procedure under point 3. The MS will have to support the Commission in completing the fact file. Ideally this will take place in the field.

It is also suggested that the country fact file should be updated once a year.

Given the structure of the statistical calendar, and other needs, it is proposed that the fact file should be completed and updated in September/October.

### **Drafting a Country Fact File: Steps, time plan and responsibilities**

1. The EC has the responsibility to initiate the drafting process of the Country Fact File (CFF).  
Country desk officers in geographical units in DG Relex and DG Development will send the format to the delegations to start the drafting process (1<sup>st</sup> October).
2. The delegation will, to the extent possible, fill out the fact file. The draft fact file is then sent out by the EC delegation to other Member State Consulates or Embassies in order to complete the

format. The EC has a coordinating role in the process but the actual preparation of the fact file is a joint responsibility between the Member States and the European Commission and should take place through coordination mechanisms already available in the field.

3. The EC Delegation sends back the draft Country Fact File to the Commission HQ. The European Commission sends the draft CFF by COREU and similar transmission procedures to Member State representations in Brussels for comments, amendments and complementary information. The content of the CFF to be published is discussed at this step of the procedure.
4. After completion of this iterative process, final agreed versions of the Fact Files will be made available to Member States and given a wider circulation if appropriate, e.g. published on the web.
5. It is proposed that the Fact File format should be reassessed in light of the experience of producing the first generation of Country Fact Files. This assessment could take place in the end of 2003.

The proposed Country Fact File format is attached in Annex 1.

## Appendix 1

The details of the Format are given in normal font. Instructions to the fact file are underlined and *fictitious examples to illustrate what is expected are found in italics.*

### Country Fact File for ( - )

#### 1. Introductory statement (For 1. and 2. taken together max. ½ page)

*( - ) is a middle income country with a population of 60 million people and an income of 2010 \$ per capita. It has strong trading links with the EU. 40% of its exports go to the EU, 60% of its imports comes from the EU. It receives substantial aid from the Community and the member states. The country's economic performance is weak and getting weaker, social problems and social tensions are increasing.*

#### 2. Current issues between EU and ( - )

Specify any unresolved issues between EU and ( - ) e.g. political matters, trade disputes, cooperation disagreements, difficulties in controlling immigration, counter terrorism, crimes etc.

#### 3. Basic data (All data 1999) (max. ¼ page)

Population.....60 millions

GDP/capita.....2010 USD

Total export to ( - ) from EU.....7 billion €

Total import to EU from ( - ).....12 billion €

Total EC Development assistance per year.....40 million €

Total EU Development assistance per year.....460 million €

Illiteracy rate.....50%

Life expectancy.....55 years

Number of people living under 2 \$/day.....20%

Human Development Index (ranking).....121

Other indicators relevant to the specific country such as carbon dioxide emissions etc. could also be added

#### 4. Indicators related to the Millennium Declaration

The Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals can be found in UN Document A/RES/55/2 and at [www.developmentgoals.org](http://www.developmentgoals.org). The following indicators should be provided for the most recent three years, where appropriate and as far as possible, as an indication of country progress towards the goals given in the Millennium Declaration.

Indicator
1. Proportion of population below \$1 per day
2. Prevalence of underweight children (under-five years of age)
3. Under-five mortality rate
4. Net enrolment ratio in primary education
5. Primary Completion Rate
6. Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education
7. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
8. Proportion of 1 year old children immunised against measles
9. HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women
10. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source

## 5. Political situation

(max. ½ page)

Details of the following should be set down in this section:

- The form of government (democracy, one-party state, interim-government etc)
- The results of past elections, and information about coming elections (if any)
- The national development plan (as approved by (-):s Government or Parliament)
- Membership in any regional organisations

In addition there should be short statement of the 2-3 major challenges to political stability ahead (e.g. conflict resolution, human rights violations, counter terrorism activities – when relevant a reference to the Commissions conflict assessment should be made)

## 6. Economic situation

(max. ½ page)

Data for the following magnitudes should be set down in this table for the latest available year. The data should be drawn from the standard harmonised sources e.g. the WB, the IMF, Eurostat etc. – a regional measure, for purposes of comparison should be included if possible. If the data available are limited then the best should be made of what exists

	Country	Region		Country	Region
Growth of GDP %			Exports/GDP %		
Investment/GDP %			Imports/GDP %		
Gen. Gov. Exp/GDP %			Foreign Direct Investment USDmillions		
Gen. Gov. surplus or deficit/GDP %			Rate of Inflation %		
Gen. Gov. Expenditure on Social Sectors/GDP <sup>1</sup> %			Rate of unemployment %		
Total Debt service/GDP			% of population living on less than 2 \$ day		

In addition there should be a short statement of the 2-3 major economic challenges ahead (examples: inflation, high unemployment, widespread poverty, global isolation)

## **7. Relations with the EU: Legal framework; i.e. statements, policies and agreements**

**(max. 1 ½ page)**

All significant statements, policies, and agreements that concern the EU/EC and ( - ) should be set down in this section. The date when the statement was made and the validity of the respective policy and agreement should be stated in this section, as well as the attached objectives. References to specific regulations, decisions etc. should be presented e.g. Council Decision XX/XXX/EC of X September 1998.

### **Policy statements**

#### EU Declarations

#### Communications

Other statements made by the EU/EC that concern ( - )

### **General policies**

#### EU Regional policies

<sup>1</sup> Since the definition of "General Government Expenditure on Social Sectors" varies from country to country, there should be a footnote to this table giving the precise definition used.



CFSP policies

Other policies adopted by the EU/EC of particular relevance for ( - )

## **Specific agreements**

### **Association and/or Cooperation agreements**

**CFSP; Common strategies, action plans**

**JAI related agreements; E.g. readmission agreements regarding issues concerning: drugs, illegal migration, terrorism, and other JAI issues.**

**Trade agreements; Preferential trade agreements in force, plus main details of tariffs, etc. should be covered here.**

**Research agreements; Programmes promoting networking and exchanges among universities and researchers in the EU and ( - ) e.g. technology exchanges in the field of environmental best practices or in the field of information and communications technology etc. should be covered here.**

**Fishing agreements; The details of any financial arrangements (as part of a general agreement) should be included here as well as details of European fishing fleet operating in ( - ) waters.**

**Co-operation regarding environmental concerns; Example: the implementation of the EU's strategy for improving nuclear safety in Central Europe and the NIS**

**Other relevant agreements signed between the EU/EC and Country ( - ).**

The above listed statements, policies and/or agreements may not be relevant in all cases and could therefore be deleted. Likewise there may also exist other statements, policies and/or agreements that concern ( - ) but which are not listed above; naturally those need to be added.

# 8. EC and Member States with cooperation with ( - )

(max. ¾ page)

The DAC classifications should be used when providing data for the table. It would be ideal if the information, which in many cases is already available in various CSPs, could be presented in the form of a matrix (areas of intervention as given in the DAC nomenclature in the rows, donors in the columns) covering the same period, for all donor countries.

## Planned disbursements for 2003 (millions €)

Sectors	Countries																
	EC	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IR	I	L	NL	A	P	FI	S	UK	Total
Education	17				10							5			5	7	44
Health		5					3					15				8	31
Water supply and sanitation										5							5
Government and Civil Society	13			15		5										10	43
Transport and storage	10					10											20
Communications	3																3
Banking and financial services																	
Business/Private sector										8						5	13
Energy						3											3
Agriculture, forestry, fishing					15												15
Industry, Mining and Construction						2									6		8
Trade and tourism						5											5
Environmental Protection																10	10
Gender												5			3		8
Commodity aid							2										2
Budget support /SAP				10		5						15			10		40
Food aid																	
Debt relief																	
Emergency assistance																	
Support to NGOs																	
Others																	
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>5</b>			<b>13</b>		<b>40</b>			<b>24</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>250</b>

Since it is not always obvious what the DAC categories include an interested reader need to consult the DAC statistical reporting directives found at the OECD/DAC web page for further information.

In addition to above table specify any local coordination mechanisms, attendance and what is discussed: e.g. regular donor-government meetings regarding fiscal figures, regular meeting about swaps in health etc.

## **9. EC Cooperation and Development Assistance; the response strategy (¼ page)**

This section should explain the direction of the resources from the European Union, through the European Commission, to (-). It should cover both development assistance and humanitarian assistance. It should summarise in a few lines the analysis in the Country Strategy Paper (CSP) and the proposed response. The summary should also make reference to any significant activity financed by the horizontal budget lines.

*The development cooperation between the EC and (-) is guided by the Country Strategy Paper for the period 2002-2006 approved by the Commission in March 2002. The CSP identified the main problems facing the country as weak public institutions, inadequate financing for health and education and a poor network of main roads in the eastern part of the country. In the past Community cooperation has been focussed on the health sector with mixed results. Taking account of this experience and the actions of other donors the Commission proposes to divide its resources of 200 million € in support of institution building (30%); primary education (40%); and road building (30%).*

## **10. Major players in (-) (max. ¼ page)**

The major players that influence the development in (-) should be listed and their role/agenda and the magnitude of their financial involvement should be briefly described e.g. separate countries with influence, International organisations, IFIs, NGOs etc. Member States could, at their initiative, complete this description with information of particular importance.

## **11. Representation in country (-) (max. ¼ page)**

Specify the number of professional personnel in each embassy/representation. If possible add the number of professional staff working with general foreign policy issues, trade or development cooperation to show the relative importance of each area in the field representation.

Professional Staff

Country and Address	Generalists	Trade	Development	Others	Total
<i>Denmark</i> Address: Tel:	3	3	3	1	9
<i>Germany</i> Address: Tel:	2	4	2	0	8
<i>France</i> Address: Tel:	4	3	0	2	9
<i>Italy</i> Address: Tel:	3	0	1	0	4
<i>Netherlands</i> Address: Tel:	2	1	1	0	4
<i>Austria</i> Address: Tel:	2	0	0	0	2
<i>Finland</i> Address: Tel:	2	1	1	0	4
<i>Sweden</i> Address: Tel:	3	0	4	1	8
<i>United Kingdom</i> Address: Tel:	6	4	4	1	15
<i>European Community</i> Address: Tel:	4	3	1	2	10

The absence of a MS from this table means that the MS has no embassy or representation in ( - ).