



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 15.06.1999
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COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

**CONCERNING THE OPENING OF CONSULTATIONS WITH THE COMOROS
UNDER ARTICLE 366a OF THE LOMÉ CONVENTION**

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

CONCERNING THE OPENING OF CONSULTATIONS WITH THE COMOROS UNDER ARTICLE 366a OF THE LOMÉ CONVENTION

On 30 April, the military seized power in Grande Comore. In a communiqué put out by local radio, Colonel Azali Assoumani, who led the *coup d'état*, declared that the state institutions and the constitution had been dissolved.

The acting President, Mr Tadjadine Ben Said Massonde, and the Prime Minister, Mr Abbas Djoussouf, were placed under house arrest but allowed to move around.

The communiqué of 30 April described the disorder in Grande Comore after the delegations of Grande Comore and Mohéli had signed the framework agreement drawn up in Antananarivo, Madagascar, on 27 April. The Anjouan delegation wanted to defer signing of the agreement in order to consult the population of Anjouan about it first.

The framework agreement provides for the establishment of the Union of the Islands of the Comoros with powers shared between the central power of the Union and the three islands. The Union would be set up following a transitional period of a maximum of one year, following the organisation of general and presidential elections as part of the establishment of new constitutional structures.

On 6 May, Colonel Azali Assoumani announced a constitutional charter appointing a state committee made up of 12 commissioners and headed by Colonel Azali Assoumani, chief of staff of the army and head of state. The state committee is overseen by a council of state made up mainly of military.

The charter also declares that the head of state holds legislative power, which he exercises through orders and executive power which he exercises by decree.

On 7 May the German presidency published a statement on behalf of the European Union condemning the *coup d'état* and asking the legitimate government to resume its official functions.

In the light of the above, and pursuant to Articles 5 and 366a of the revised fourth Lomé Convention, the Commission proposes that the Council:

- request the ACP to hold consultations with a view to assessing the situation in detail and, if necessary, remedying it in accordance with the attached letters.

In holding the consultations the European Union will stress the importance it attaches to the essential points of Article 5 of the Lomé Convention.

COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION

EUROPEAN
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Brussels, ...

DRAFT

H.E. Mr Mahamoud Soilih
Ambassador of the Comoros

Your Excellency,

In its statement of 7 May 1999, the European Union vigorously condemned the action of the Comorian army, which has overthrown the legitimate government of the Comoros. The European Union deplores the dissolution of the constitution and the democratic institutions and urges that the legitimate government be allowed to resume its official functions.

Under Article 366a of the Lomé Convention, I have the honour, on behalf of the Community and the Member States of the European Union, to invite your country to consultations with a view to assessing the situation in detail and, if necessary, remedying it, as provided for in the Lomé Convention.

These consultations should shortly be held on a date to be agreed upon by common accord in the Council building.

Yours faithfully,

For the Council

For the Commission

Copy to:

Mr Mumbengegwi, Ambassador of Zimbabwe to the European Union

Mr Magande, Secretary-General of the Group of ACP States.

COUNCIL OF
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His Excellency Mr Mumbengegwi
Ambassador of Zimbabwe

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Under Article 366a of the Lomé Convention, I have the honour, on behalf of the Community and the Member States of the European Union, to invite the ACP side to consultations with a view to assessing the situation in detail and, if necessary, remedying it, as provided for in the Lomé Convention.

I suggest that these consultations should be held very soon on a date to be agreed upon by common accord in the Council building.

Yours faithfully,

For the Council

For the Commission

Copy to:

Mr Mohamed Soilih, Ambassador of the Comoros to the European Union

Mr Magande, Secretary-General of the ACP States Group.