CO-CHAIRS CONCLUSIONS OF THE JOINT AFRICAN UNION PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL (AU PSC)/ EUROPEAN UNION POLITICAL AND SECURITY COMMITTEE (EU PSC) RETREAT

The AU PSC and the EU PSC, building on the spirit of the 1st Joint Retreat held on 15 October 2015, held the 2nd Joint Retreat on 24 October 2016, in Genval, Belgium, on the eve of their 9th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting. The Joint Retreat was dedicated to two issues namely, counter-terrorism, radicalisation and violent extremism on the one hand and migration on the other hand.

Both chairs underlined the importance of continued EU PSC - AU PSC retreats as forums for open, constructive and substantial informal dialogue on topics of mutual importance that complement annual joint consultative meetings between the EU PSC and AU PSC.

Discussions during this year`s retreat demonstrated many similarities with regard to the analysis, understanding and approach of the challenges related to terrorism, radicalisation and violent extremism, as well as to migration.

Both sides shared the view of complexity and persistent nature of both phenomena which is and is likely to remain high on the agenda of both organisations and their Member States.

It will demand continued close cooperation between the EU and AU in a multitude of areas, such as addressing the multiple root causes, creating opportunities for education and jobs especially for the youth, strengthening governance and capacities of states, tackling the underlying criminal and terrorist networks, and enhancing the role of local stakeholders and opinion makers, as well as further strengthening international and regional cooperation.

Both EU PSC and AU PSC will continue to address these topics that will remain of high importance to both organisations, as well as continue their close dialogue also in view of the upcoming Africa – EU Summit in 2017.