

SPEAKING NOTE: SOUTH AFRICA

- Draft declaration recognises that "gradual relaxation of pressure" is now for consideration, as change in South Africa continues.
- But agree with de Michelis that present formulation offers little guidance as to actual criteria for how to signal encouragement by modifying policy on restrictive measures.
- Text is also deficient in not having courage to say that a process of "profound and irreversible" change is already manifestly under way.
- UK can therefore only accept it on clear understanding that Italian Presidency will keep the situation in South Africa under very close review; and
- Will bring subject back for consideration by Ministers of the Twelve as soon as further steps by SAG become apparent eg in meeting recommendations of the SAG/ANC Joint Working Party, advancing negotiating process, or dismantling apartheid legislation. This option should also be borne in mind if de Klerk should come under further political pressure from the right wing.
- Such steps will almost certainly, in our view, require formal agreement by the Twelve to relax measures implemented nationally beginning with the investment ban, given that
- several governments have already begun this in addition to UK
 - eg Italy - investment ban lapsed
 - Spain - restored cargo flights, relaxed sporting contacts,
 - Denmark - upgraded diplomatic relations
 - Holland (Benelux) - relieving visa restrictions.