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(Agenda available on: http://www.europarl.eu.int/meetdocs/2004_2009/documents/OJ/552/552796/552796en.pdf (EN))

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(Calendar of meeting for the year 2005 available on :

http://www.europarl.eu.int/meetdocs/2004_2009/documents/FD/DROI_Calendar_2005_/droi_calendar_2005_en.pdf)

REGIONS:

AMERICAS

Haiti

- ▶ **Statement to the Security Council of the United Nations by H.E. Ambassador Jean-Marc Hoscheit, EU Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations on Haiti** (13.01.05)

The European Union welcomes this opportunity to address the situation in Haiti. The presence of several high-ranking political personalities underlines the importance of debate. The European Union also welcomes the report by the Special Representative of the Secretary General, Mr. Juan Gabriel Valdes, as well as **the unanimous decision of the Security Council on November 29, 2004 to extend the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti until June 2005, with the intention to extend it for further periods.** (...)

The European Union welcomes recent positive developments on the ground, but notes that further action is still required to improve the overall security situation in the country, which remains of concern. In some areas the lack of security is still an impediment to effective humanitarian assistance and project implementation. (...)

The European Union urges all parties, without exception, to refrain from any kind of violent behavior that would further imperil the welfare of the Haitian people and to abide by the rule of law and to respect human rights. We call on the Transitional Government to take the necessary measures to put an end to impunity.

We strongly believe that the ongoing crisis in Haiti can only be resolved by peaceful means, through a constitutional and inclusive political process of national dialogue, compromise and reconciliation, leading to free and fair elections by the end of this year, and to the transfer of power to elected authorities. We strongly encourage the Transitional Government to pursue its efforts in this regard, with the assistance of the United Nations Stabilization Mission. In this context, it is important that all political forces publicly renounce violence and join the democratic and electoral process. (...)

http://www.eu2005.lu/en/actualites/documents_travail/2005/01/13hoscheithaiti/13hoscheithaiti.pdf (EN)

ASIA

Uzbekistan

- ▶ **Declaration by the EU Presidency on the Parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan** (11.01.05)

The Presidency of the European Union has taken note of **the preliminary findings of the OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission on the parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan. The Presidency regrets that these fell significantly short of OSCE commitments and other international standards for democratic elections, notwithstanding some minor improvement since the 1999 elections.**

The Presidency of the European Union notes with concern that **only government-approved parties were registered for the 26 December Legislative Chamber Elections and that, over the last twelve months, three aspiring political parties were not permitted to register. It is also concerned that the participation of individual independent candidates was severely curtailed.** Furthermore, implementation of the election legislation and changing voting procedures at a late stage resulted in a less transparent election. This severely reduced the scope for meaningful political competition.

The EU would expect Uzbekistan, as an OSCE participating State, to abide by its commitments. The Presidency appreciates the cooperation of the Uzbek authorities with OSCE/ODIHR in the run-up to and during the elections and is hopeful that this cooperation will continue to develop. It reiterates the **EU's readiness to work with Uzbekistan to promote and implement OSCE values and principles on a basis of mutual trust.**

http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/83325.pdf (EN)

◆ China

▶ Human Rights - Situation in Tibet (13.01.05)

Parliament adopted a joint resolution reiterating their support for the rule of law and urges the Chinese government to immediately commute the death sentence handed down to Tenzin Deleg RINPOCHE. The House affirms its **call for the abolition of the death penalty** and an immediate moratorium on capital punishment in China. Parliament welcomes the statement of the Chinese authorities according to which anyone who is sentenced to death with a suspension of execution and commits no intentional crime during the period of suspension shall have their punishment commuted to life imprisonment on the expiration of the two-year period. MEPs call on the Chinese judicial authorities to put this statement into practice through an official ruling. **The House calls once more on the Government of the People's Republic of China to stop its continued violation of the human rights of the Tibetan people and other minorities and to ensure that international standards of human rights and humanitarian law, as well as religious rights, are respected by it.** Parliament calls on the Council and the Member States to maintain the EU embargo on trade in arms with the People's Republic of China and not to weaken the existing national limitations on such arms sales. **The House considers that this embargo should be maintained until such time as the EU has adopted a legally binding Code of Conduct on Arms Exports and the People's Republic of China has taken concrete steps towards improving the human rights situation,** inter alia by ratifying the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and by fully respecting the rights of minorities.

Finally, MEPs call on the Government of the People's Republic of China to step up the ongoing dialogue with the representatives of the Dalai Lama so as to reach a mutually acceptable solution to the Tibet issue without further delay.

(Joint motion for a resolution on Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche - Tibet

Doc. :[B6-0037/2005](#), [B6-0043/2005](#), [B6-0047/2005](#), [B6-0050/2005](#), [B6-0051/2005](#), [B6-0056/2005](#))

http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?SAME_LEVEL=1&LEVEL=0&NAV=X&DETAIL=&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+DN-20050113-1+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN#SECTION4 (EN)

◆ Cambodia

▶ Trafficking of women and children (13.01.05)

In adopting a joint resolution on Cambodia, **MEPs denounce the sexual exploitation of minors as a crime 'erga omnes' and an attack on the fundamental rights of children which must be fought at all levels. They stress its preoccupation with child prostitution in Cambodia and with the trafficking in human beings both to and from Cambodia, with the objective of using them for forced labour, prostitution, begging and illegal adoptions.** Parliament recalls the principles of the Charter of Human Rights and especially the rights of girls, in the case of sexual exploitation of minors in Asia and in the rest of the world. The House condemns the attack of 8 December 2004 on the AFESIP shelter for victims of human trafficking in Phnom Penh and the abduction of 91 women and girls, some of them minors. **MEPs condemn the sex tourism industry in Cambodia and the other countries where it occurs, and requests that EU Member States create and apply the necessary legislation needed to bring to justice all those involved in sex tourism with minors. Parliament insists that the Commission takes into account the rights of children and women who are victims of trafficking in the programming of its human rights policy, within the framework of the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights.** MEPs request that the Commission supports the human rights organisations in Cambodia, especially those dedicated to the protection of victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation. **The House welcomes the decision of the Government of Cambodia to establish an interministerial committee including representatives of the foreign missions the national and international non-governmental organisations, as observers to witness, further investigate and personally interview the women concerned.** MEPs are confident of a positive and fair result from the Interministerial Committee which has just been set up, and recognises that **the Cambodian authorities have made efforts to combat trafficking in women and children; underlines, however, the need to increase the number of prosecutions and convictions of traffickers so to put an end to trafficking in women and child prostitution.**

The House calls on the Cambodian authorities to guarantee the safety of child protection organisations and their workers, especially for those organisations working to help trafficking and sexual

exploitation victims. **MEPs call on the Cambodian authorities to guarantee the safety of Somaly Mam, whose life is in danger. Parliament calls on the Government of Cambodia to ratify the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, and the UN Convention against Organised Crime.** Finally, MEPs calls on the EU Member States to act together in the fight against organised crime and trafficking in human beings, especially the trafficking of minors.

(Joint motion for a resolution on the trafficking of women and children in Cambodia

Doc. : [B6-0035/2005](#), [B6-0042/2005](#), [B6-0045/2005](#), [B6-0046/2005](#), [B6-0053/2005](#), [B6-0055/2005](#))

[http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?SAME_LEVEL=1&LEVEL=0&NAV=X&DETAIL=&PUBREF=-](http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?SAME_LEVEL=1&LEVEL=0&NAV=X&DETAIL=&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+DN-20050113-1+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN#SECTION4)

[//EP//TEXT+PRESS+DN-20050113-1+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN#SECTION4](http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?SAME_LEVEL=1&LEVEL=0&NAV=X&DETAIL=&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+DN-20050113-1+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN#SECTION4) (EN)

EUROPE(outside of UE) and CIS

◆ Turkey

- ▶ **Parliamentary questions - Subject: Expropriation of Christian community in Istanbul - by Daniel Caspary to the Council (oral question H-0004/05)** (10.01.05)

At the end of December, according to a report by the dpa press agency, **the presbytery, chapel and old people's home belonging to the German-speaking Catholic community in Istanbul were sold without the latter's knowledge or agreement to a Turkish property development company.** The basis for this action was Turkish legislation prohibiting non-Muslim religious communities from purchasing property themselves.

Is this report accurate? What action does the Council intend to take regarding this matter? Does the Council intend to approach the Turkish side and press for this expropriation to be rescinded? If not, why not?

[http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=QT&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+QT+H-2005-](http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=QT&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+QT+H-2005-0004+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN)

[0004+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN](http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=QT&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+QT+H-2005-0004+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN) (EN)

◆ Ukraine

- ▶ **Declaration by the EU Presidency on the official result of the presidential elections in Ukraine** (11.01.05)

Following the announcement of the official result by the Ukrainian Central Election Commission on 10 January 2005, the European Union wishes to congratulate Mr Yushchenko on his election to the Ukrainian Presidency.

The European Union welcomes the preliminary report by the International Election Observation Mission, which outlines the conditions under which the election was held, and in particular the significant progress made. It welcomes above all the pluralistic and more balanced media coverage throughout the campaign, reduced pressure from the administration on voters, the Ukrainian Central Election Commissions' significantly more transparent work and the fair representation of candidates therein.

The European Union calls upon the Ukrainian political powers to continue working together in order to carry out the process of democratisation and political and economic change in Ukraine, based on the democratic achievement, which the election of 26 December 2004 constitutes.

To this end, **the European Union is ready to cooperate with the newly elected president in order to support Ukraine and is keen to give its backing, within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy, to securing democracy and modernising the country.**

<http://www.eu2005.lu/en/actualites/pesc/2005/01/1101Ukraine/index.html> (EN)

- ▶ **Ukraine elections - new form of EU relations** (13.01.05)

MEPs welcomed the "*substantially fair elections held on 26 December*" in Ukraine. **They congratulated the Ukrainian people for resolving a political crisis and "setting their country firmly on the path towards democracy"** in a non-violent and mature way. They said it was now time to consider other forms of association with Ukraine besides the Neighbourhood Policy, giving the country a clear European perspective, possibly leading to EU membership.

MEPs felt that **the EU Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan for relations with Ukraine should be revised** in order to help Ukraine in its political and economic reforms. (...)

Parliament urged all sides in Ukraine to accept the election results and called for a speedy transfer of power. **It urged the new Ukrainian political leadership to consolidate the espousal of common European values and objectives by taking further steps to promote democracy.** MEPs were concerned about the deep divisions within Ukraine and called on all political leaders to make efforts to heal those rifts. Threats of separatism were deemed unacceptable.

Parliament stressed the role of the mediators in resolving the Ukrainian crisis, including the CFSP High Representative, the Presidents of Poland and Lithuania, and the missions of the European Parliament.

http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?SAME_LEVEL=1&LEVEL=0&NAV=X&DETAIL=&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+DN-20050113-1+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN#SECTION4 (EN)

◆ Belarus

▶ **Declaration by the EU Presidency regarding the Marinich case** (12.01.05)

The European Union has closely followed **the trial of Mr. Mikhail Marinich in Minsk District Court. It recalls that in a recent letter to the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Belarus the then President of the Council of Ministers of the European Union, Mr Bernard Bot, urged the Belarusian authorities to ensure a fair and public trial.**

This has not been the case. Mr. Marinich has been sentenced to five years imprisonment, a subsequent three year ban on holding public office and confiscation of property for the alleged illegal misappropriation of computers owned by the US Embassy. The United States has declared that it makes no claim against Mr. Marinich in connection with the computers. **The European Union believes this was a politically motivated trial, which ended with a disproportionate sentence on a questionable charge.**

The European Union also believes the proceedings against Mr. Marinich once again call into question Belarus' oft-stated desire to respect the fundamental principles of civil rights.

It remains concerned that such convictions can serve only to further limit the development of Belarus-European Union relations.

The European Union therefore calls for the sentence to be reconsidered taking into account the nature of the charges against Mr. Marinich. The European Union will follow closely the appeal.

http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/83347.pdf (EN)

MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST

◆ Palestine

▶ **MEPs say Palestinians have conducted an election of which they can be proud** (10.01.05)

Speaking on behalf of the MEPs who observed the Palestinian election, the leader of the delegation, European Parliament Vice-President Edward McMillan Scott, made the following statement:

*"Our task is to deliver an informed political verdict on the electoral process in due course. After an initial appraisal, my colleagues confirm that, **despite the Israeli occupation and lack of opportunity for East Jerusalem and other residents to vote, the Palestinians - especially women - have conducted an election of which they can be proud. It prepares the ground for the parliamentary elections, which could serve as a model for others in the region.**"*

http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?SAME_LEVEL=1&LEVEL=2&NAV=X&DETAIL=&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+NR-20050110-1+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN (EN)

▶ **Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the CFSP, welcomes the results of the Palestinian elections** (10.01.05)

"I wish to warmly congratulate Mahmud Abbas on his election as new Palestinian President, as well as the Palestinian people, for whom these elections represent a historic day.

The new President is a partner for Israel and for the international community.

A new opportunity now exists for peace. This will require a deep engagement of the Palestinian leadership, but also of Israel .

The Roadmap continues to be the main guideline to reach peace, through the creation of a viable Palestinian state.

The European Union will continue to grant its support to this process towards peace and stability."

http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/declarations/83323.pdf (EN)

see also: the declaration by the EU Presidency on the Palestinian presidential election on :
<http://www.eu2005.lu/en/actualites/pesc/2005/01/1001elecpal/index.html> (FR)

◆ Iran

▶ **Torture in Iran** (13.01.05)

MEPs adopted a joint resolution reiterating their general opposition to the death penalty, and in particular strongly condemning the death sentences against and/or the execution of juvenile offenders, pregnant women and mentally handicapped persons. The House calls on the Iranian authorities to give evidence that they are implementing their declared moratorium on stoning, and demands **the immediate implementation of the ban on torture** as announced, passed by Parliament and approved by the Guardian Council. MEPs condemns the campaign by the judiciary against journalists, cyberjournalists and webloggers leading to the closure of publications, imprisonment, and, according to reports, **widespread torture** and forced false confessions, and calls on the authorities to release all those detained, prosecuted or sentenced for non-violent press- and opinion-related offences.

The House calls on the Iranian Parliament to adapt the Iranian press law and penal code in the light of Iran's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and, notably, to repeal all criminal law provisions concerning the peaceful expression of opinion, including in the press. Parliament calls upon the authorities to respect internationally recognised legal safeguards, *inter alia* with regard to persons belonging to religious minorities, officially recognised or otherwise. MEPs welcome the stay of execution concerning Hajieh Esmailvand, and reports that Leyla Moafi's case has been referred to forensic psychiatrists 'to examine her mental condition'; insists, however, that their alleged '*crimes*' are not internationally recognisable criminal offences and that their prosecution does not comply with international human rights standards. Parliament insists that adult consensual sexual activity in private is covered by the concept of '*privacy*' and calls for the immediate release of all persons held for such activity. MEPs welcome and support the EU-Iran negotiating process on nuclear issues, also as an occasion to promote progress in the EU-Iran political and human rights dialogues and EU-Iran economic and trade relations, and supports the Council in expecting action by Iran to address also other concerns of the EU, such as ending its support for terrorist organisations, improving respect for human rights and altering its approach to the Middle East peace process. Finally, Parliament hopes that the setting-up of its interparliamentary delegation for relations with Iran will enable it to engage in productive discussions with the Iranian Parliament and also with Iranian civil society.

(Joint motion for a resolution on torture in Iran

Doc. : [B6-0036/2005](#), [B6-0040/2005](#), [B6-0044/2005](#), [B6-0052/2005](#), [B6-0054/2005](#), [B6-0057/2005](#), [B6-0058/2005](#))

http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?SAME_LEVEL=1&LEVEL=0&NAV=X&DETAIL=&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+DN-20050113-1+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN#SECTION4 (EN)

THEMATIC

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

◆ Human Rights

▶ **Public hearing on creation of EU fundamental rights agency** (11.01.05)

On 25 January, the European Commission is organising a **public hearing in Brussels on the issues raised by the creation of an EU fundamental rights agency**. This hearing is part of an in-depth consultation exercise launched by the Commission after the European Council decided in December 2003 to extend the mandate of the Vienna-based EU monitoring centre on racism and xenophobia, in order to convert it into a fundamental rights agency.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/news/intro/news_intro_en.htm (EN)