

REGIONS:

EUROPE (OUTSIDE OF UE) AND CIS

♦ **Turkey**

- ▶ Turkey urged to enforce legislation on women's rights (29.06.05)

♦ **Georgia**

- ▶ Council of Europe Anti-Torture Committee publishes report on Georgia (30.06.05)

♦ **Albania**

- ▶ PACE to observe parliamentary elections in Albania (30.06.05)

♦ **Ukraine**

- ▶ EU- Ukraine: Commissioner Kallas supports administrative reform and fight against corruption (28.06.05)

MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST

♦ **Pakistan**

- ▶ Parliamentary questions: Workers' rights in Pakistan – oral question by Georgios Toussas to the Council (27.06.05)

♦ **Iran**

- ▶ Declaration by the presidency on behalf of the European Union on the presidential elections in Iran (28.06.05)
- ▶ Schroder calls for new EU offer to Iran By Lisbeth Kirk, Euobserver (27.06.05)

THEMATIC:

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

♦ **Terrorism**

- ▶ Terrorist lists are arbitrary, say civil rights groups (29.06.05)

◆ **Fundamental Rights Agency**

- ▶ A European Union Agency to protect and promote fundamental rights (30.06.05)

◆ **Compensation to crime victims**

- ▶ New European rules facilitating access to compensation to victims of crimes of cross-border situations (01.07.05)

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

◆ **Torture**

- ▶ Council of the EU: Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the International Day in support of victims of torture (26.06.05)
- ▶ EU curbs trade of torture equipment (30.06.05)

◆ **Development**

- ▶ Increase cooperation of aid actions (29.06.05)
- ▶ World action against poverty (30.06.05)

◆ **Children's rights**

- ▶ Child labour in developing countries (29.06.05)

IMPORTANT COMING MEETINGS

THIRD COUNTRY MEETINGS

5 September 2005

◆ **EU-China**

7 September 2005

◆ **EU-India**

4 October 2005

◆ **EU-Russia**

17-21 October 2005

◆ **EU-Ukraine**

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MEETINGS

◆ **Plenary Session**

- 4-7 July 2005
- 5-8 September 2005

◆ **Committee on Foreign Affairs**

- 4 July 2005 (Strasbourg)
- 12 July 2005
- 29 August 2005
- 13 September 2005
- 4 October 2005

◆ **Subcommittee on Human Rights**

- 11 July 2005
- 12 September 2005

◆ **Subcommittee on Security and Defence**

- 4 July 2005 (Strasbourg)
- 11 July 2005
- 3 October 2005

◆ **Committee on Development**

- 5 July 2005 (Strasbourg)
- 12 July 2005
- 29 August 2005
- 15 September 2005
- 4 October 2005

◆ **Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs**

- 4 July 2005 (Strasbourg)
- 12 July 2005
- 13 September 2005
- 4 October 2005

◆ **Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality**

- 13 July 2005
- 13 September 2005
- 14 September 2005
- 4 October 2005

REGIONS:

EUROPE (OUTSIDE OF UE) AND CIS

◆ **Turkey**

▶ **Turkey urged to enforce legislation on women's rights** (29.06.05)

"Women's rights should be right at the top of the agenda for the negotiations with Turkey", says Parliament's Women's Rights Committee in a non-binding report drafted by Emine Bozkurt (PES, NL), which now goes to the full Parliament.

Women's rights and gender equality are embedded in the **Community's basic principles** and in much legislation which **Turkey has to accept if it is to join the EU**. MEPs in the committee emphasise that **Turkey's "progress in the field of legislation now needs to be implemented in practice"**.

The report emphasises the key role of civil society in pushing for the recent legislative reforms. MEPs in the committee believe that the **entire political class**, as well as **grassroots organisations, religious communities** and the **media** must be **involved** if democratic change is to be achieved.

Violence against women is another issue raised in the report. MEPs in the committee call on the Turkish Government to take action to protect women at risk, such as **providing easily accessible healthcare and legal support and protection**. According to local NGOs, in 1995 almost all women living in slum areas of Ankara had experienced domestic violence, while of 1,259 women interviewed between 1990 and 1996, 88% claimed to be living in a violent environment.

Among other concerns are the involvement of **Turkish women in politics**, which remains weak (only 4.4% of members of parliament are women and around 1% of representatives at local level), **access to education**, and the low number of women active in the **labour market**. (...)

The committee urges Turkey **to ratify the Additional Protocol No. 12** to the European Convention on Human Rights which deals with **preventing discrimination**. Finally, MEPs say that they intend to monitor the situation of women in Turkey closely and report on it annually through the EP Women's Rights Committee. They call on the European Commission to do the same

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+BR-20050704-S+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=X&LSTDOC=N#SECTION26> (EN)

Full report: <http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A6-2005-0175+0+DOC+WORD+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=3&NAV=S&LSTDOC=Y>

◆ **Georgia**

▶ **Council of Europe Anti-Torture Committee publishes report on Georgia** (30.06.05)

The **Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)** has published today its second [report](#) on Georgia. The report concerns the CPT's periodic visit to that country which took place in two parts: in November 2003 and in May 2004.

In the report, the CPT concluded that **criminal suspects continued to run a significant risk of being ill-treated by the police**. To prevent ill-treatment, the Committee has proposed measures concerning in particular the **integration of human rights concepts into practical professional training** and the

stepping up of the training of investigators and police operational staff in modern interrogation and investigation techniques. The CPT has also recommended that the **legal safeguards against ill-treatment** (such as **notification of custody, access to a lawyer and access to a doctor**) be rendered fully effective in practice.

As regards **prisons**, the CPT has expressed concern at the **lack of progress** in numerous areas of the Georgian penitentiary system. The **increase in the prison population** and the very **poor state of the existing prison estate** rendered conditions in many establishments in clear violation of the provisions of both Georgian legislation and international standards. On the positive side, the CPT noted that **considerable progress** had been made in the area of combating the spread of **tuberculosis**.

The Georgian government, which requested the publication of the CPT's report, is preparing its response to the points raised by the Committee.

<http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/geo/2005-06-30-eng.htm> (EN)

◆ Albania

▶ **PACE to observe parliamentary elections in Albania** (30.06.05)

A 15-member delegation of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE), headed by Jerzy Smorawinski (Poland/EPP), will observe the **parliamentary elections** to be held in **Albania** on **3 July 2005**. (...)

The observation will be carried out in the framework of an International Election Observation Mission (IEOM), composed of delegations from the Council of Europe and OSCE Parliamentary Assemblies, the European Parliament and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR).

A pre-election **delegation from PACE which visited the country from 30 May to 1 June 2005** said in a [statement](#) that **the main conditions are in place for democratic elections** in Albania. However the **truly democratic conduct of elections** – in line with commitments Albania subscribed to when it joined the Council of Europe – **depends now on the political will of the authorities and parties participating in these elections**. (...)

[http://press.coe.int/cp/2005/364a\(2005\).htm](http://press.coe.int/cp/2005/364a(2005).htm) (EN)

◆ Ukraine

▶ **EU- Ukraine: Commissioner Kallas supports administrative reform and fight against corruption** (28.06.05)

Vice-President Siim Kallas completed today a two-day visit to Kiev. He met President Yushchenko, Deputy Prime Minister Bezsmertnyi in charge of administrative reform, Interior Minister Lutsenko, Justice Minister Zvarych, the Head of the National Security and Defence Council Poroshenko, the Head of the Parliament's Committee on Organised Crime Stretovych as well as representatives of civil society. A key topic of the discussions was the state of play in the **implementation of the Action Plan** adopted jointly by the EU and Ukraine on 21st of February in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy, in particular the **reforms of the administration and the judiciary, and the fight against corruption**.

Vice-President Siim Kallas is the fifth Commissioner to travel to Kiev within six months, thus illustrating that EU-Ukraine relations are intensifying since the adoption of the EU Ukraine Action Plan in February.

Commissioner Kallas said in Kiev:

"Ukraine is clearly **committed to reform** and **shares our fundamental values**. There is **still a lot of work to do to promote democratic and economic reforms**. Ukraine and the EU know that this won't happen overnight. The Commission fully supports Ukraine in its efforts step by step to implement the EU Ukraine Action Plan and the complementary conclusions on Ukraine of the General Affairs and External Relations Council of 21 February. I am confident that Ukraine's government and people will rise to

challenges that include reform of the administration and the judiciary, in particular with a view to ensuring the rule of law and to strengthening the confidence of investors.” (...)

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/ukraine/news/ip05_800.htm (EN)

MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST

◆ Pakistan

- ▶ Parliamentary questions: Workers' rights in Pakistan – oral question by Georgios Toussas to the Council (27.06.05)

The **Pakistan authorities have arrested over 300 state telecommunications (PTCL) employees as a pre-emptive measure following the announcement of strike action.** General Musharraf's government has placed **special forces on alert**, ready to deal with employees opposed to plans to sell off a 26% stake to private bidders which, if put into effect, will result in thousands of job cuts, a bitter blow which will be acutely felt by Pakistan's entire workforce. In view of the healthy profits currently being shown by the Pakistan telecommunications company, there are no grounds for sale to private bidders.

Is the Council aware of these privatisation plans and does it know whether EU companies are involved? What view does it take of the **violent repression of trade union freedoms** and the **deployment of troops against workers exercising their legitimate right to strike**, particularly in view of the friendly relations and the cooperation between the EU and Pakistan?

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=QT&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+QT+H-2005-0522+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN> (EN)

◆ Iran

- ▶ Declaration by the presidency on behalf of the European Union on the presidential elections in Iran (28.06.05)

The European Union notes the results of the second round of the presidential elections in Iran, which saw **Mr Mahmoud Ahmadinejad elected President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.** Mr Ahmadinejad faces major challenges, both domestically and in matters of foreign policy.

The European Union notes the Interior Minister's statements on **the unsatisfactory conduct of the presidential elections.** It regrets the fact that a very large majority of candidates, including many **reformists and all the women, were excluded** from the elections, making a genuine democratic choice difficult for the Iranian people.

The European Union hopes that during Mr Ahmadinejad's presidency, Iran will meet all its international commitments and that it will, in particular, continue the effective **implementation of the Paris agreement** of 15 November 2004. It confirms that the European Union is ready to continue looking into ways of further developing political and economic cooperation with Iran, in keeping with the measures which Iran will take to respond to **EU concerns** in connection with the **nuclear programme, the fight against terrorism, human rights and Iran's approach to the Middle East peace process.**

http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/85507.pdf (EN)

- ▶ Schroder calls for new EU offer to Iran By Lisbeth Kirk, EU Observer (27.06.05)

German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder has called on the EU to present a new offer to Iran to solve a running **dispute over the country's nuclear programme**. "The Europeans are well advised to put an offer on the table to move things forward for the next round of negotiations," (...)

The **EU's "big three" - Britain, France and Germany** – are **trying to convince Iran to halt its nuclear programme** out of fears that atomic weapons could be produced under the scheme. (...) The **US wants Iran to be referred to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions**, but the **German chancellor** has urged patience. "**We cannot bar them from civilian use of nuclear energy, but we need credible guarantees that they do not build atomic bombs**," Mr Schröder said to Reuters. (...)

The EU commissioner for justice and security **Franco Frattini** said the EU could "freeze" talks with Iran. "From the new president Ahmadinejad **we are waiting for clear words on human rights and the nuclear issue**. But if the replies are negative, the European Union will have no choice but to **freeze dialogue with Iran**," he told Italy's La Repubblica. French foreign minister Philippe Douste-Blazy said he wanted Iran to continue talks, while a spokesman for EU foreign policy chief **Javier Solana** said it was "**too soon to say**" what would happen now. (...)

<http://www.euobserver.com/?sid=9&aid=19427> (EN)

THEMATIC:

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

◆ Terrorism

- ▶ **Terrorist lists are arbitrary, say civil rights groups** (29.06.05)

A new report by civil liberties campaign groups claims that **individuals and whole groups are being 'proscribed' as terrorists with no right of appeal against the label**.

The report claims that **the policy of 'proscribing'** (labelling) **groups and individuals as terrorists** has become an integral part of the **war on terrorism** being waged at national and international level by the **UK, US, EU and the United Nations**.

It claims that **the terrorist lists** are drawn up on a **secret basis** and that **those named have no legal means to challenge them**. The **assets of named groups are frozen**, which is **contrary to the European human rights convention**, says the report. It points out that groups engaged in what could be legitimate freedom struggles within their own countries are at risk of being internationally stigmatised and criminalised. (...)

Tony Bunyan of Statewatch said, "the terrorist lists are a **recipe for arbitrary, secretive and unjust decision-making**" (...)

<http://www.euractiv.com/Article?tcaturi=tcm:29-141631-16&type=News> (EN)

◆ Fundamental Rights Agency

- ▶ **A European Union Agency to protect and promote fundamental rights** (30.06.05)

The European Commission adopted today a proposal for a Regulation establishing a **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights**. As the Commission has chosen **the protection and promotion of fundamental rights as one of its basic policy objectives**, the creation of the Agency is an important tool in meeting this objective.

Vice-President Franco Frattini, responsible for Justice, Freedom and Security said: "**Fundamental rights are at the core of the European Union's values**. They are essential for the building of stable

societies, based on well-functioning political institutions and efficient legal systems. **Europe should be the guarantor of such values and should represent a point of reference**, but when we say that we need to protect and promote fundamental rights, this cannot be only words. EU citizens require concrete actions. **For that we need to build up appropriate structures and allocate resources to the fundamental rights work.** This is what we are doing by establishing the Fundamental Rights Agency”.

The proposal follows the decision of the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the European Union, taken in December 2003, to extend the mandate of the European Union Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, based in Vienna, by converting it into a Fundamental Rights Agency. The European Parliament has also called for the establishment of the Agency.

The Fundamental Rights Agency will be an **independent centre of expertise on fundamental rights issues through data collection, analysis and networking**, which currently does not exist at European Union level.

The Agency will **advise the European Union Institutions and the Member States on how best to prepare or implement fundamental rights related European Union legislation.** For example, when planning European Union policy or legislative measures to fight the trafficking in human beings, the Agency could **provide the Institutions with the necessary data.**

The transformation of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia into a Fundamental Rights Agency **does not mean that less importance will be attached to the fight against racism and xenophobia**, in particular since these phenomena are currently experiencing resurgence in Europe.

The Agency will be **an effective tool for the protection of fundamental rights in the policies of the European Union.** There will be **no overlap but synergy with the work that the Council of Europe has carried out for years, which remains the major point of reference as regards human rights.** Indeed, the Agency will build **close institutional relationship with the Council of Europe.**

By proposing the establishment of the Fundamental Rights Agency the Commission is **implementing the first priority of the recently endorsed Action Plan “The Hague Programme: Ten priorities for the next five years - The Partnership for European renewal in the field of Freedom, Security and Justice”.**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/822&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en> (EN)

◆ **Compensation to crime victims**

- ▶ **New European rules facilitating access to compensation to victims of crimes of cross-border situations** (01.07.05)

As of 1 July 2005, crime victims in the European Union should be entitled to a fair and appropriate compensation for the injuries they have suffered, regardless of where in the Union a crime was committed. The obligation to set in place a **compensation scheme**, according to the Council Directive relating to compensation to crime victims (2004/80/EC) of 29 April 2004, **must be implemented by Member States by 1 July 2005.** This is the **first step to achieve the objective of facilitating access to compensation to victims of cross-border situations.**

Most Member States have already established such compensation schemes, some of them in fulfilment of their obligations under the **European Convention of 24 November 1983 on the compensation of victims of violent crimes.** But by 1 July 2005 all Member States shall ensure that their national rules provide for the existence of a scheme on compensation to victims of violent intentional crimes committed in their respective territories, which guarantees fair and appropriate compensation to victims. Compensation is to be available in national as well as in cross-border situations, i.e. regardless of the country of residence of the victim and regardless of in which Member State the crime was committed. **The definitions of what compensation should be paid out to each victim are left to Member States’ discretion, provided that it is fair and appropriate.**

Another aim of this Directive is to **create a system of cooperation between national authorities for the transmission of applications for compensation in cross-border situations.** This cooperation

system for transmission of applications in cross-border cases **must be implemented by 1 January 2006**. By this cooperation system **victims of a crime committed outside their Member State of habitual residence can turn to an authority in their own Member State** (assisting authority) to submit the application and get help with practical and administrative formalities. The authority in the Member State of habitual residence transmits the application directly to the authority in the Member State where the crime was committed (deciding authority), which is responsible for assessing the application and paying out the compensation.

The creation of such a system will be **the second step to ensure access to compensation in cases where the crime was committed in a Member State other than that of the victim's residence**.

Finally, Member States may provide that the measures necessary to comply with this Directive shall apply only to applicants whose injuries result from crimes committed after 30 June 2005.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/232&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en> (EN)

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

◆ Torture

- ▶ **Council of the EU: Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the International Day in support of victims of torture** (26.06.05)

On the occasion of the **eighth United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture** (26 June), **the European Union underlines the priority which it attaches to the global eradication of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and to the full rehabilitation of torture victims.**

The EU recalls that there is an **absolute prohibition** placed on the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and that all States must ensure that they do not resort to these barbaric practices. The **EU urges all States**, which have not yet done so, **to become parties to the International Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment** as a matter of priority and to co-operate with the relevant international mechanisms. **Scrutiny and openness** are essential factors in combating the insidious practice of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and, with this in mind, **the EU also calls on all States to consider signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture** as a matter of priority, which, once in force, will institute a **innovative system of national and international visiting mechanisms to inspect places of detention**. The EU welcomes the **ratification of UNCAT** during the course of the last year **by Liberia, Mauritania and the Syrian Arab Republic**; and the **ratification of OPCAT by Argentina, Croatia, Liberia, Mali and Mexico**.

The EU attaches immense importance to the UN's role in fighting torture and supporting victims and underlines its **support for the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, the UN Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture, the OHCHR, UNCAT, CPT** and other mechanisms making valuable contributions in this field. The EU is continuing to undertake political, diplomatic and financial initiatives to combat torture within the framework of the **EU Guidelines against Torture** which were adopted by the Council in 2001. (...)

http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/85458.pdf (EN)

- ▶ **EU curbs trade of torture equipment** (30.06.05)

For the first time the **EU is banning trade in goods that have no use other than for capital punishment or torture**. **Strict controls will also be imposed on multiple-use goods which could be**

used to inflict torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. These measures are part of a **groundbreaking trade Regulation** proposed by the European Commission and agreed by the 25 Member States. The new rules reflect the **EU's unequivocal rejection of torture and the death penalty.**

Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, said: *"This new Regulation is one of many steps that the EU is taking to stop these inhuman practices and is further evidence that **respect for human rights is at the heart of EU foreign policy. Repressive regimes will no longer be able to buy their equipment from European companies.**"* The Commissioner added that, *"The Commission's objective is to **encourage all countries that have not yet done so to abolish the death penalty, outlaw torture and follow the EU's lead in controlling trade in goods used for these purposes.**"*

The new regulation will:

- **Impose a blanket trade ban on goods that have no practical use other than capital punishment or torture.** These goods will include **electric shock belts, electric chairs and guillotines.**
- **Provide a strict regime for the control of exports of multiple-use goods which could be used for the purpose of torture but which also have legitimate applications.** Examples in this category are **leg irons and electric shock weapons.**
- **Allow Member States who so choose to outlaw the trade of leg-irons, gang-chains or electric shock weapons.**

The Regulation **allows the Commission to amend the list of goods subject to control** as and when new equipment appears on the market.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/819&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en> (EN)

◆ **Development**

▶ **Increase cooperation of aid actions** (29.06.05)

The Development Committee is calling for **greater synchronisation of aid activities in the European Union** in a draft report by Gabriele Zimmer (GUE/NGL, DE) which will now be debated by the full Parliament. Through **stronger cooperation between the development activities of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and those of the Commission and Member states**, MEPs in the committee hope to achieve important objectives of **harmonising and increasing the efficiency of development policy measures.** Although the EIB has made progress in following development policies of the European Union, the committee still believes that **the EIB instruments lack flexibility and contain problems with project evaluation.**

In general, the committee finds that there is a **lack of dialogue between the European institutions and the EIB**, and calls for **greater cooperation** not only with the Commission and the Parliament, but also other development agencies. MEPs in the committee also **call for the EIB to coordinate its "objectives, criteria and methodology also with the European Development Finance Institutions"** as well as to cooperate within the Interact Network in order to guarantee that EIB funding is complementing the measures taken by the Commission and by the Member States.

MEPs in the committee want to see a **greater coherence between European aid programmes, integrating European development policies**, such as the **Millennium Development Goals** set in September 2000 and the **Cotonou agreement, under the EIB's policies.** (...)

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+BR-20050704-S+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=X&LSTDOC=N#SECTION5> (EN)

▶ **World action against poverty** (30.06.05)

Jack Straw, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for International Development, will represent the Council in a debate with MEPs on **World Action Against Poverty**. The Council and Commission will make statements on **Africa** and the **challenge of globalisation**.

Luisa Morgantini (GUE/NGL, IT), Chair of the Development Committee, will be asking the British Presidency of the Council the following question:

The campaign **Global Call to Action Against Poverty** was launched by President Lula of Brazil at the opening of the World Social Forum in January 2005. Nelson Mandela launched the campaign in the UK in February 2005. The **campaign objectives** can be summarised in three points: **increase in the quantity and quality of aid; debt cancellation; fair trade**.

The campaign has been rightly launched during a year that will be a crucial one for the fight against poverty in the world: **the annual G8 Summit in July** (Scotland), with **Africa** as one of its **priority items** on the agenda; the **UN High Level Plenary Meeting in September** (New York), with a major review of the **UN Millennium Declaration's** implementation and of MDGs progress; the **WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2005**, a potentially decisive step in getting the **Doha Development Round** back on track. These three major international meetings illustrate the importance of 2005 for the fight against poverty.

Following the three communications presented by the Commission in April (the 'MDGs package'), and in the light of the 16-17 June European Council conclusions, where Member States committed themselves to an intermediate ODA target for 2010 (0.51% of GNI for 'old' Member States and 0.17% of GNI for 'new' Member States), **how will the EU Presidency ensure the monitoring and follow-up of these commitments?** What concrete steps will the Presidency take in order to implement the Council Conclusions of November 2004 concerning harmonisation of rules and procedures and to implement the proposals made by the Commission to **increase coordination and complementarity?**

The debate on untying aid is well advanced as far as EU assistance managed by the EC is concerned. But what about ODA managed by national development agencies? What **concrete steps** will the Presidency take to **ensure that the untying of aid as a principle is adopted by all EU Member States?** What **position on debt relief** will the EU Presidency, now also chairing the G8, defend? What steps will the Presidency take concerning the International Financial Facility and other innovative sources of financing for development? Will the Presidency encourage the Commission to translate the proposed focus on Africa into concrete ODA percentages and targets? (...)

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+BR-20050704-S+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=X&LSTDOC=N#SECTION2> (EN)

◆ Children's rights

▶ Child labour in developing countries (29.06.05)

Parliament will debate and vote on an own-initiative report by Emmanouil Mavrommatis (EPP-ED, EL) for the Development Committee on the **exploitation of children in developing countries**, with a special focus on **child labour**.

The report recognises the deplorable situation of **352 million working children** in the world, 179 million of whom are victims of the worst forms of child labour, according to ILO findings. It looks at ways to tackle such child exploitation and identifies **two categories of child labour which merit special attention: work that is so harmful to the health of children that it must be stopped as a matter of urgency and work where it is possible to prevent violations of child workers' rights through improving conditions or providing alternatives.** (...)

Education

The committee wants the Commission to **monitor the impact of EU funding for basic education** on the drive to get child workers into full-time schools while ensuring that humanitarian aid does not suffer

as a result of this commitment. The committee is also in favour of an **EU special representative for victimised or endangered children**.

The committee calls for **corporate responsibility** as regards the use of child labour, and thus recommends the setting up of an **EU mechanism to identify and prosecute EU-based importers who are in violation of ILO rules**. The use of child labour, in any part of the supply chain, would be enough to constitute violation. The Commission should also offer incentives for importers to play an active role in ensuring the compliance of their products. **Transnational companies** would also be required to **adapt their business** practices accordingly, and governments of their home countries to monitor and report back on the contribution of these companies to the abolition of child labour and implementation of ILO core labour standards.

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+BR-20050704-S+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=X&LSTDOC=N#SECTION4> (EN)