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REGIONS:

AFRICA

♦ **Sudan**

- ▶ **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European union on the inauguration of the new Sudanese Presidency on 9 July** (11.07.05)

The EU warmly **welcomes** the inauguration (...) of the **Presidency** of the new Government of National Unity in **Sudan**. This is a vital and **historic step in implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement**, signed on 9 January 2005, which brought to an **end more than twenty years of brutal civil war**.

The EU reiterates its determination to **support the Sudanese** in implementing this agreement, which paves the way for a more **transparent, pluralist and democratic system of government**. The EU calls on the new Sudanese Presidency to **establish quickly the full Government of National Unity**, and to ensure that implementation of the Agreement is a fully inclusive process. (...)

There can be no comprehensive peace in Sudan without an end to the conflict in Darfur.

The EU expresses its hope that the new Presidency will take urgent steps to resolve the crisis there through peaceful means. The new Presidency must also continue to act with restraint in the East of the country.

http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/85627.pdf (EN)

- ▶ **Parliamentary questions: Rape as a weapon of war – oral question by Seán Ó Neachtain to the Council** (12.07.05)

According to a senior UN official, Under-Secretary General Jan Egeland, **'One medical charity has treated 500 victims of sexual violence in Darfur in four months** and this is just a fraction of such attacks in the Sudanese province'. He also stated that **'women and children were being systematically raped and assaulted in the ravaged region'**.

Does the Council agree that the Sudanese authorities are turning a blind eye to these atrocities? Furthermore **does the Council agree that there is an urgent obligation on the international community to do more to protect innocent civilians from this type of barbaric behaviour and to put an end to a culture of impunity in Sudan?**

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=QT&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+QT+H-2005-0594+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN> (EN)

♦ **Zimbabwe**

- ▶ **Parliamentary questions: Zimbabwe update – oral question by Lyam Aylward to the Council** (12.07.05)

Ten United Nations special **rapporteurs on several human freedoms and rights** issued a recent statement expressing **concern about the 'mass forced evictions in Zimbabwe and related human rights violations'** and raising questions about the negative effects on supplies of water and food, education and health care, including HIV/AIDS treatment.

Will the Council give an update of the situation in Zimbabwe following the extended visit of the United Nations Special Envoy, Mrs Anna Tibaijuka, who is also the Executive Director of the UN Human Settlements Programme?

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=QT&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+QT+H-2005-0590+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN> (EN)

◆ Ethiopia

- ▶ **Joint statement of the European Union and the United States on Ethiopia of July 13, 2005** (13.07.05)

The European Union and the United States commend the Ethiopian people for their **peaceful and democratic expression of political will on May 15**. The international community urges in the strongest terms that all parties to the elections and the government abide by their **commitment to the June 10 and June 13 2005 declarations**. All parties should **renounce all use of violence, inflammatory, defamatory or ethnic hate messages via the media or internet**, and any other action that is likely to further increase tension in Ethiopia.

The European Union and the United States expect all political parties and the government to **abide by the political process through parliamentary and constitutional means** to resolve this election crisis. We urge all parties to **participate fully in the Complaints Investigation Panel Process**. All **dissenting views need to be registered** and the **personal safety of witnesses ensured**. Where there are procedural or other problems these need to be addressed swiftly and constructively.

http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/85699.pdf (EN)

◆ Nigeria/Cameroon

- ▶ **Statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union concerning the last developments in the Bakassi Peninsula** (13.07.05)

The European Union (EU) is concerned at reports of **security incidents in Bakassi**. The EU deeply regrets all incidents and any resulting casualties. The EU urges Nigeria and Cameroon to work constructively together to **establish the facts of the incidents** and to **defuse any resultant tension**. The EU also encourages both sides to meet under the auspices of the UN Mixed Commission as soon as practical.

The EU reiterates its **support for the International Court of Justice ruling in 2002, and the work of the UN Mixed Commission**. We applaud the **progress** made so far on the **demarcation and settlement of other parts of the Nigeria-Cameroon border**, and call on both sides to **finalise demarcation**.

The EU stresses the importance of both Nigeria and Cameroon continuing to **engage constructively with the United Nations Secretary General and his Special Representative for West Africa** to implement their commitment to **bring the ongoing negotiations** on their border in the area of the Bakassi Peninsula **to a swift, successful and mutually agreeable conclusion**.

http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/85701.pdf (EN)

AMERICAS

◆ Colombia

- ▶ **Parliamentary questions: Impunity law for paramilitaries in Colombia – oral question by Sahra Wagenknecht to the Council** (12.07.05)

The Colombian government has recently passed a law through Congress, with the resounding support of Members with links to paramilitary groups, guaranteeing paramilitaries **de facto impunity** and thus also enabling known drug traffickers to escape justice.

This law has been **strongly criticised by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights'** representative in Colombia **and by all human rights organisations.**

At Cartagena the European Union, and the United Kingdom in particular, made it clear that the continuation of aid to Colombia was conditional upon a legal framework for the demobilisation of paramilitaries.

What stance does the **Council intend to adopt** towards the Colombian government **following** its decision in support of the perpetrators of crimes against humanity and which represents a **serious attack on the rights of victims to secure truth, justice and compensation?**

Does the **Council** believe that it **can continue to encourage police cooperation with a country that makes such generous concessions to known terrorists and drug traffickers?**

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=QT&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+QT+H-2005-0584+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN> (EN)

- ▶ **Parliamentary questions: Human rights of indigenous people – oral question by Vittorio Agnoletto to the Commission** (14.07.05)

In Colombia, human rights violations against indigenous people are **100% more numerous than against the rest of the population.** The existence of people like the Kankuamos, the Wiwaws, the Kofans, the Chimila, the Korebaju, the Betoyes, the Nasa, the Tule, and the Embera-Katios is in danger.

What is the reaction of the Commission about this situation? Is the Commission planning to develop special projects directly between the European Commission and the indigenous communities?

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=QT&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+QT+H-2005-0613+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN> (EN)

ASIA

◆ Burma/Myanmar

- ▶ **Parliamentary questions: Constraints on all political leaders in Myanmar – oral question by Brian Crowley to the Council** (12.07.05)

The Myanmar authorities recently released **249 political 'prisoners'** throughout the country, reportedly including two prominent journalists and a close aide of the still-detained National League for Democracy (NLD) leader Aung San Suu Kyi, which is welcomed.

Does the Council agree that the Myanmar authorities should lift the remaining constraints on all political leaders and resume political dialogue with all parties concerned?

Furthermore will the Council use its office to call on Myanmar's military government **to remove all constraints, starting with the end of her house arrest, on Aung San Suu Kyi, the pro-democracy leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner?**

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=QT&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+QT+H-2005-0592+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN> (EN)

- ▶ Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the release of Burmese/Myanmar political prisoners (13.07.05)

The European Union notes that the **Burma/Myanmar Government freed up to 250 political prisoners on 6 July**. Amongst those confirmed to have been released are **National League for Democracy MPs-elect Sein Hla Oo and Soe Myint, poet Aung Pwint, student activists, NLD youth wing members, Buddhist monks**, and several **members of the Karen National Union** who had been **jailed since the early 1980s**.

These releases are a welcome step towards national reconciliation in Burma/Myanmar.

The EU looks forward to the **immediate release of all remaining political detainees without condition** in order to enable the **participation of all social and political forces in the reconciliation process**.

http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/85697.pdf (EN)

EUROPE (OUTSIDE OF UE) AND CIS

◆ Srebrenica

- ▶ International community failed in Srebrenica, Solana says By Elitsa Vucheva (11.07.05)

The **EU admitted partial responsibility for failing to prevent the Srebrenica killings** of 10 years ago during a commemoration of the massacre on Monday (11 July).

It also insisted that EU integration for Bosnia and Herzegovina should be linked to cooperation with the United Nations (UN) war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

"The memories of that monstrous crime still haunt us all", EU high representative Javier Solana said in a statement. **"The victims had put their trust in international protection. But we, the international community, let them down. This was a colossal, collective and shameful failure"**, he added. Mr Solana added that **"Srebrenica was partly a consequence of the absence of a strong and united Europe"**. (...) The killings that took place there are said to have been **the worst massacre in Europe since World War II**. (...)

EU enlargement commissioner Olli Rehn renewed calls for the men "bearing the main responsibility for the atrocities" - Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his military chief Ratko Mladic - to be handed over to the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague as soon as possible. (...)

The UN tribunal has charged 19 people in relation with the massacre. (...)

Cooperation with the war crimes tribunal is one of the conditions for the Western Balkans countries to proceed with their **EU accession bids**. (...)

Meanwhile, **the European Parliament last week adopted a resolution on Srebrenica, condemning the massacre and calling for action on the capture of the war crimes suspects**. (...)

<http://euobserver.com/?aid=19544> (EN)

- ▶ Council of Europe statement on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre (11.07.05)

(...) "The year 2005 has seen **the 60th anniversary of the end of the war** which brought into being the shared commitment of all civilised peoples that **"Never Again"** should we see such inhumanity towards our fellow human beings, and today sees the **10th anniversary of the massacre in Srebrenica** – a stark reminder that our **commitment to eradicate such inhumanity has not yet been fulfilled**.

We ask – how, in only one generation, can we have forgotten that when humanity is sacrificed for power or greed, all is lost, we are all lost?

What happened in the region of **Srebrenica in 1995** was a **crime against our common humanity**.

Yet, **we strongly believe that if we remember, recognise and face the past, we are not condemned to repeat it**. It is in this spirit that work on facing the past, with youth, with teachers, and with all society is a clear priority for us all. (...)

But we refuse to despair. The Council of Europe, born in the ashes of war, today represents a Europe of 46 states, seeking greater unity and respecting our diversity. We still, in the words of the founders, **remain “convinced that the pursuit of peace based upon justice and international co-operation is vital for the preservation of human society and civilisation”**.

[http://press.coe.int/cp/2005/394a\(2005\).htm](http://press.coe.int/cp/2005/394a(2005).htm) (EN)

◆ **Moldova**

- ▶ **Local elections in Moldova’s capital calm, but not without shortcomings, say OSCE and Council of Europe missions** (11.07.05)

The first round of elections to the post of Mayor of Moldova’s capital Chisinau generally complied with most **OSCE commitments and Council of Europe election standards**, the OSCE Mission to Moldova and a delegation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe said today.

However, **yesterday’s elections fell** short of some key commitments, particularly **regarding campaign conditions and registration of election observers**. Improvements with regard to information for voters in polling stations would also be desirable. (...)

“While we were pleased to note that the elections were conducted in a calm atmosphere and in an orderly and professional manner on election day, we regret **that the turnout requirement to make the elections valid has not been met**,” said Ambassador William Hill, the Head of the OSCE Mission, and Pascal Mangin, the head of the Congress delegation.

Repeat elections are expected to take place in Chisinau on 24 July.

The OSCE Mission noted that voters had a genuine choice between ten candidates who represented different political forces and points of view. Print media offered diverse political views and information on the candidates’ electoral platforms. Broadcast media offered not only paid and free-of-charge electoral advertisements but also debates and covered campaign events in their news programmes. (...)

[http://press.coe.int/cp/2005/395a\(2005\).htm](http://press.coe.int/cp/2005/395a(2005).htm) (EN)

◆ **Kosovo**

- ▶ **Parliamentary questions: The human rights situation of the Roma in Kosovo – oral question by Viktória Mohácsi and Baroness Sarah Ludford, on behalf of the ALDE Group to the Council** (13.07.05)

During the Kosovo conflict and in the aftermath thereof, Ashkalia, Egyptians, Roma, Gypsies, hereinafter referred to as 'Roma', were driven from their homes in Kosovo by of arson, the mass destruction of houses, killings and rape carried out by the Serb military and militias and, subsequently, by mobs of ethnic Albanians.

Out of 150 000 Roma, around 30 000 who remained in Kosovo still live in camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), often in inhuman conditions, some victims of lead poisoning in the camps around Mitrovica.

The decision of the **German Government to repatriate 38 000 Roma refugees** currently residing in Germany to a region where Roma are subject to threats and human rights abuse will prove to be a **blatant breach of international laws governing the status of refugees** and was taken before the start

of talks on the final status of the province. **Other EU countries are considering taking similar decisions.**

Taking into account the human rights situation in Kosovo, **does the Presidency consider that there are sufficient guarantees for the Romani refugees** who are being forcibly repatriated while Roma continue to reside in camps for IDPs?

Will the Council consider whether the **principle of non-refoulement is being fully respected** in the event of the forcible repatriation of Romani refugees to Kosovo?

Will the Council take **further measures to guarantee that the rights and views of the Kosovar Roma are taken into account in the forthcoming talks on the final status of the province?**

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=OQ&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+OQ+O-2005-0076+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN> (EN)

MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST

◆ Israel and Palestine

- ▶ **Parliamentary questions: Putting women at the centre of the peace negotiations between Israel and Palestine – oral question by Bernard Poignant to the Commission** (11.07.05)

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been a fact of life for more than 50 years. **Today there appears to be some prospect of progress towards peace.** Civilians, and **Palestinian women in particular, have paid a heavy price and are continuing to do so.** The conflict has exacerbated poverty, unemployment and health problems resulting in pressures and constraints on Palestinian women who are **often physically abused by their husbands or fathers because of certain interpretations of traditional or religious customs.** As the European Union has a role to play in the peace negotiations, can it not **require the Israeli authorities to guarantee access to medical centres for all, and especially for pregnant Palestinian women,** and require the Palestinian authorities to **take steps to end violence against women and ensure that 'crimes of honour' are regarded as serious criminal offences?**

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=QT&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+QT+H-2005-0583+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN> (EN)

- ▶ **EU says Israeli barrier is illegal** By Elitsa Vucheva (12.07.05)

The EU is against Israel building a separation barrier around Jerusalem, as it believes the move is illegal, the EU's foreign policy chief Javier Solana has said.

"We think that Israel has the right to defend itself but we think that the fence which will stand outside the territory of Israel is not legally proper and it also creates humanitarian problems", he was reported as saying after meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom.

The barrier (...) is due **to be completed by the end of the year.**

Israel is saying the wall is meant to keep out Palestinian attackers and suicide bombers, but Palestinians view it as another land grab.

The International Court of Justice in The Hague declared the barrier illegal in July 2004, but Israel has ignored the judgment.

Meanwhile, Mr Solana reiterated EU backing of the **Israeli decision to withdraw from Gaza**, saying the bloc wants to play its role to ensure the success of the operation. (...) Javier Solana (...) called the Israeli initiative a **"courageous decision"**, and stressed that the EU wanted the move to contribute to reviving the bilateral peace process.

Israel is due to start withdrawing from Gaza in August.
<http://euobserver.com/?aid=19547> (EN)

- ▶ **Remarks of Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the CFSP, on the occasion of a meeting with Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei** (13.07.05)

(...) **Javier Solana** (...) had a series of **meetings with Palestinian leaders** in Ramallah, West Bank. He made the following remarks to the media at the office of Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei. (...)

These are **important moments. Gaza disengagement will take place within forty days** -- forty days and not forty years. And it has to be a **success, for the Palestinian people and for the Israeli people and for the international community**. We are all working hard to bring this process to a positive conclusion.

The European Union is deeply engaged in this process. We have **been supporting the Palestinian Authority on the political, economic and security fronts**. We are moving our cooperation forward in these areas. (...)

I would like to comment on the **tragic events of yesterday**. Lives of innocent people were lost and there is **not justification for this criminal act**. Let me be clear. This was an **act not only against Israeli people but also against the Palestinian Authority**. The **authors of the attack do not want disengagement to take place**. They are not part of the majority of the people who want to live freely and in peace.

(...) We recognise **Israel's right to defend itself**, but, **on legal and humanitarian grounds**, the Fence should **not be built on territory that is not in Israel**. I would like to re-iterate the Quartet's position on this score: No action should be taken that contravenes the Roadmap or prejudices final status negotiations. Any final agreement must be reached through negotiations between the two parties.

http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/discours/85694.pdf (EN)

◆ Iran

- ▶ **Parliamentary questions: Release of Ebdal Karimi – oral question by Paulo Casaca to the Commission** (12.07.05)

On 21 June 2005, Ebdal Karimi, a civil servant and instructor for the Dena Hiking Club, had his house in Isfahan (Iran) **raided by agents of the Intelligence Ministry of the Iranian regime, and was taken away to an unknown destination**.

Ebdal Karimi, (...) was earlier imprisoned for two years thanks to **his trade union activity in representation of the workers of a civil construction company**.

Is the Commission aware of this case? Does it have information on the whereabouts of Ebdal Karimi? **Will it make representatives to the Iranian regime to obtain explanations concerning this arrest and guarantees that Mr Karimi's human rights are being fully respected?**

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=QT&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+QT+H-2005-0588+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN> (EN)

- ▶ **War on terror cannot be won, says Iran ambassador** By Filipe Rufino, EUobserver (11.07.05)

The war on terror cannot be won until the causes of terrorism are removed, Iran's EU ambassador Ali Ahani told EUobserver on Friday (8 July), one day after the London bombings. The ambassador also condemned the London blasts and called for **more "international solidarity and cooperation" to "combat these phenomena"**.

Asked if the war on terror could ever be won, Mr Ahani pulled no punches, saying "No, as long as the root causes of terrorism are not addressed".

"We have been victims of terrorism ourselves and we understand very well what it means", he added. He confirmed that **the EU and Iran agreed in 2004 that their cooperation on combating terrorism will carry on irrespective of the outcome of their ongoing talks about Tehran's nuclear fuel enrichment scheme.**

<http://euobserver.com/?sid=9&aid=19531> (EN)

THEMATIC :

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

◆ Civil and social rights

- ▶ **Parliamentary question: Respect for civil and social rights – oral question by Giusto Catania to the Commission** (11.07.05)

More than 8000 people are facing criminal proceedings in Italy for claiming fundamental rights, e.g. 4 450 tramway employees, 500 persons for non-violent obstruction of military railway convoys and 218 for anti-G8 demonstrations. All these proceedings stem from a tendency, unacceptable in any democratic society, to use criminal law to solve social problems. This situation is also to be found in other EU Member States. Will the Commission conduct a study in order to establish overall figures and an overview of national laws on offences relating to social struggles? What action does the Commission intend to take against this violation of fundamental rights?

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=QT&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+QT+H-2005-0587+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN> (EN)

◆ Institute for Gender Equality/Human Rights Agency

- ▶ **Parliamentary question: Institute for Gender Equality and Human Rights Agency – oral question by Anna Hedh to the Commission** (13.07.05)

The Commission has presented its **proposal for setting up a European Institute for Gender Equality and the proposal to convert the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia into a Human Rights Agency.**

The creation of an Institute for Gender Equality gives the Union a unique opportunity to strengthen its work on behalf of greater equality. Unfortunately, a number of voices have called for the **incorporation of the Institute for Gender Equality into the new, reorganised Human Rights Agency**, which would be very infelicitous. It is of **the utmost importance to keep the spotlight on the issue of equality between women and men** and there is a **need for efforts to develop gender mainstreaming and particular measures to promote equality both within the EU and the Member States.** What, therefore, is the Commission's position on the call from certain quarters for the incorporation of the Institute for Gender Equality into the Human Rights Agency?

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=QT&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+QT+H-2005-0606+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN> (EN)

◆ Terrorism

- ▶ **EU agrees anti-terror data scheme** By Lucia Kubosova, EUobserver (14.07.05)

EU ministers hammered out a **faster timetable for anti-terrorist measures** including **data storage of phone calls, emails and text messages** at a meeting in Brussels on Wednesday (13 July).

The bloc secured political agreement to push ahead with the move, designed to help law enforcement agencies, following a heated debate on costs and civil liberties.

Member states will **vote on the plan in October**, choosing between two methods to take the measures forward - **a swift intergovernmental decision** or **a new European law**, which would take longer to adopt but has a **stronger legal basis** and is **open to public scrutiny**.

Ministers adopted **four sets of measures to fight terrorism** in areas such as **cross-border investigations, prevention of terrorist recruitment in Europe, protection of crucial infrastructure, and management of terrorist attack fallout**.

Most of the provisions relate to existing EU legislation that needs to be implemented at national level.

The European Commission also suggested that **member states should be "named and shamed"** for failing to do their homework on the issue.

Speaking to journalists after the meeting, British interior minister Charles Clarke said "All of us across the EU are absolutely **determined to accelerate work to make terrorism more difficult**", although admitting he knew of "**no such measure that will stop terrorism completely**".

The summit was held in response to the London bomb attacks carried out last week, in which at least 52 people were killed and around 700 injured.

People across the EU will observe a two-minute silence for the victims on Thursday at 13:00 CET.

France stands out

Despite the show of unity among European security chiefs, French interior minister Nicolas Sarkozy's statements on the UK investigations sparked bitter reaction from his British counterpart.

Mr Sarkozy suggested the UK police are dealing with suspects that had already been arrested after the 9/11 attacks four years ago, but who were later freed.

Mr Clarke denied these allegations as "completely and utterly untrue" and having "no foundation".

Paris also announced plans to **reintroduce EU border controls**, activating a clause within the Schengen agreement that allows for the reinstatement of border checks.

The country has already used the provision in the past, mainly for major sporting events.

Radicalisation of young Europeans

Mr Clarke indicated that Europe can do two things to fight terrorism: **launch a strong intelligence sharing campaign** to see how the terrorist network functions and understand as well as **isolate potential terrorist recruits**.

British authorities' discovery that last week's attacks were carried out by UK citizens of Pakistani origin has highlighted the need for a **cultural dimension to the anti-terror struggle**.

France's Mr Sarkozy suggested that **member states should cooperate in the exchange of information on radical religious leaders, videos that promote violence and cultural centres** that give out similar messages.

The EU executive is currently preparing a **paper on the radicalisation of European youth and steps to overcome the trend**, such as **communication efforts with religious communities** and **enhanced cooperation with third countries linked to terrorist training**.

<http://euobserver.com/?sid=9&aid=19575> (EN)

- ▶ **Parliamentary question: Teams and the role of law enforcement agencies across the EU after the terrorist attacks – oral question by Timothy Kirkhope to the Council (14.07.05)**

In the light of the recent terrorist attacks in London and in other European countries, **how does the Council envisage developing the successful role of the Joint Investigation Teams and other areas of cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the security services across the EU?**

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=QT&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+QT+H-2005-0636+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN> (EN)

◆ **Development**

- ▶ **Towards a European Consensus for Development: the European Commission approves a proposal for an ambitious development policy** (13.07.05)

Today the European Commission has adopted a **proposal defining the new development policy of the European Union**. The policy aims at **reducing poverty in line with the Millennium Development Goals**. The Communication is a **proposal for a joint statement by the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission**. This "European Consensus" would provide, for the first time in 50 years of development co-operation, **a common framework of objectives, values and principles** that the Union – all 25 Member States and the Commission - supports and promotes as a global player and as a global partner. **The EU is the biggest aid donor in the world, accounting for 55% of development assistance**, 20% of which is managed by the Commission. .

The EU's Development Policy will **cover all developing countries**, and for the first time in 50 years, this will be done within a single framework of principles for the 25 Member States and the Commission.

The Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel, said: «Last month, the European Council reached an important agreement on the Commission's proposals to increase our Development aid. To do more is essential, but we also need to do better. Since Development is an area where competence is shared by the Union and its 25 Member States, this requires **a strategy based on coordination and harmonisation**. If we really want to make poverty history, we have to act together.»

The Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, Benita Ferrero-Waldner said: "More than ever, **development tops the agenda of the EU**. The EU development policy is a **strategy for equitable globalisation**. By **addressing the links between development and security, development and migration, development and trade, development and environment**, the Commission seeks to give the best possible response to a broad variety of situations and needs in our partner countries."

The new Strategy reflects changed circumstances since the previous Strategy was published in November 2000: the **stronger consensus on the Millennium Development Goals, the security context after the terrorist attacks on 11 September and the increased impact of globalisation**.

The Commission proposes a **new conception of development cooperation**, with **better coordination and common objectives** as supporting pillars.

The Commission's proposal for a new EU Development Policy puts **poverty eradication at its core**. It highlights **the importance of the partnership with developing countries and the promotion of good governance, human rights and democracy**. It stresses **the role of civil society** and tackles **conflict situations and failed states**.

The policy also sets **development as a key element of the EU's external action along with the common foreign and security policy and trade policy** and explores links with these and other related policy areas such as **migrations, environment and employment**. It recognises that the **EU's relations with each external partner are unique and require an individual 'policy mix' of aid, trade and other policies tailored to the needs of each partnership**. The Communication also summarises the main orientations for implementing the new Development Policy by the Commission.

The proposal will now be discussed with the Council and the European Parliament in view of issuing a Joint Statement by the end of the year.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/902&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en> (EN)