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IMPORTANT COMING MEETINGS

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➤ 13 - 14 September 2005
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♦ Subcommittee on Human Rights

➤ 12 September 2005
➤ 3 October 2005
➤ 10 October 2005

♦ Subcommittee on Security and Defence

➤ 3 October 2005

♦ Committee on Development

➤ 15 September 2005
➤ 26 September 2005
➤ 4 October 2005

♦ Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

- 13 - 14 September 2005
- 4 October 2005

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

- 13 – 14 September 2005
- 4 October 2005

◆ **Committee on Budget**

- 13 – 14 September 2005

REGIONS:

AFRICA

◆ **Niger**

► **Parliamentary resolution adopted on the famine in Niger** (08.09.05)

Parliament **urges the international community** not to turn its back on the continued suffering in Niger as food distribution continues across the worst-affected parts of the country but **financial support for emergency operations** shows worrying signs of tailing off.

It calls for **recognition** of the hyper-endemic nature of malnutrition in Niger, with a view to **introducing an overall system of responsibilities**, including access to care for children under five and the provision of therapeutic food products of proven value. It further calls for priority to be given to prevention, with less dependence on irregular rainfall and the development of irrigation-based agriculture (micro-dams), increased food productivity with the use of manure, fertiliser and tools, and boosting of the capacity of local cereal reserves.

MEPs welcome the Commission's earmarking of Euro 4.6m in humanitarian aid to Niger, as well as the pledge to *'provide additional humanitarian funds should the situation continue to deteriorate'*, announced on 1 July 2005. They **deplore the insufficient and slow reaction of the government of Niger to the looming crisis** and regret the failure of the authorities to distribute free food in the early stages of the crisis. They regret the absence of sufficient government intervention to prevent speculation and crisis, and calls on the government of Niger to create mechanisms to ensure that such practices do not recur. MEPs question the wisdom of the total de-regulation of agricultural markets undertaken under the structural adjustment policies advocated by the IMF.

At the same time, **Parliament warns against the risk of misguided food aid**, and calls on the international community to end food aid as soon as it considers that the situation has improved. It **deplores the late response by the international donors to the UN funding appeals** first made nine months ago and stresses the difficulty in mobilising international aid **just at the time when the rich G8 countries were claiming to make Africa their top priority**. It calls for a substantial increase in the reserves available from the UN aid fund in order to ensure that enough funds are available in advance so as to enable the UN aid bodies to launch relief operations speedily. (...)

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+DN-20050908-1+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=X&LSTDOC=N#SECTION7> (EN)

ASIA

◆ **Nepal**

► **Council of the European Union: Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union in response to the statement of cease-fire by Chairman Prachanda, CPN(M)** (06.09.05)

The EU welcomes the declaration by the CPN(M) of a unilateral cease-fire. **The EU urges the CPN(M) to take concrete steps towards a permanent end to the use of violence for political ends**. The EU **condemns such violence by the Maoists**, which has caused considerable suffering and hardship **to the Nepalese people**. All political forces now need to work strenuously for a

democratically based peace process leading to a durable negotiated solution, involving a national consensus and reintegration of the CPN(M) into a multi-party democracy.

The EU therefore urges the CPN(M) to implement their latest undertakings in good faith, and the government to respond positively and concretely, with a view to building the necessary confidence required for a **political solution to the conflict. The EU continues to believe that such a solution will require the assistance of an independent and credible external partner and the active support of the international community.** In the wider context, the EU stands ready to consider positively requests for whatever types of assistance the Nepalese political forces agree are appropriate.

http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/86126.pdf (EN)

◆ China

▶ Speech by Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy: Driving forwards the China-EU strategic partnership (06.09.05)

(...) The last time I was in China for an EU summit was two years ago. Then, the EU and China launched a strategic partnership. The way our meetings went yesterday proved that we really do have a partnership, which is growing both wider and deeper. (...)

My aim today is to give you a progress report on the state of our bilateral relationship. But before I do that, perhaps it is worth reminding ourselves **why we call this a strategic partnership.**

I see two reasons. First, the issues which we discuss together and on which we push action forward are **global strategic issues.** Issues such as the **proliferation of weapons of mass destruction** and **international terrorism.** Questions such as global security of energy supply, regional rises and the environment. Second (...)

Multilateralism and respect for international law are fundamental tenets of the EU's foreign policy. And I know the same is true for China. Together we need convince our other partners to put these principles at the centre of their foreign policy too. **Reform of the United Nations is an important part of this process.** I very much hope that agreement can be reached on the issue of the membership of the Security Council. But, important as it is, it is only one small part of the wider **reform package proposed by Kofi Annan.** That package also **included** good ideas for a **Peace Building Commission, a reformed Human Rights Council, an agreed definition of terrorism** and a **renewed impetus for reaching the Millennium Development Goals.**

(...) The **proliferation of nuclear technology** and the accompanying risk of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction **is a key threat** to our peoples and to **international security in general.** (...)

We have had a difficult summer on Iran. In early August, the European states presented Iran with **proposals for the most substantial development in bilateral relations** (...)

Regrettably, these proposals were **rejected.** Since then Iran has also recommended the process of uranium conversion. The Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency will address the issue in the next couple of weeks.

(...) Yesterday, we also discussed **North Korea. I know that China has similar frustrations there.**

(...) **Terrorism** is another key **mutual concern** for China and the EU. (...) **Terrorism is now a global phenomenon,** (...) Similarly, we must forge and maintain the widest possible international co-operative alliance. And while we seek to **arrest** and disrupt **terrorist groups and individuals,** we should also **shrink the 'recruitment base'.** That means **tackling the underlying factors that drive people to adopt the terrorists' discourse** and their agenda of violence, extremism and hate.

(...) **Development, security and good governance are all inter-linked.** That is why our aid and development budgets are an integral part of our wider policy mix. (...)

I believe that there is **great potential for China and the EU to work more closely** in this area too.

(...) If we co-ordinate our efforts even more, we could achieve even greater results. We have already begun to consult more closely on our policies and programmes. I very much hope that this co-ordination can continue and intensify. (...)

http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/discours/86125.pdf (EN)

- ▶ **Parliament of the European Union calls for China to cease persecution of Christians: Joint motion for a resolution on breach of human rights in China, in particular as regards freedom of religion** (08.09.05)

In a resolution adopted with 78 votes in favour to 5 against with 1 abstention on breaches of human rights in China, in particular as regards freedom of religion, **Parliament calls on the Chinese Government to put an end to religious repression and to ensure that it respects international standards of human rights** as well as religious rights, guaranteeing democracy, freedom of expression, freedom of association, freedom of the media and political and religious freedom in China. It urges the Chinese Government to abolish the difference between approved and non approved worship communities, as suggested by the UN Commission on Religious Intolerance since 1994. Parliament calls on the Commission and the Council to make clear to the Chinese authorities that a genuine partnership can only develop when shared values are fully respected and put into practice.

Turning to specific cases, Parliament urges the Commission, the Council and the Member States to **raise the issue of the persecution of Chinese Christians**, and to obtain from the Chinese Government information about the situation of Catholic bishops (...), Mgr James Su Zhimin (diocese of Baoding, Hebei), (...) and Fr Liu Deli; as well as Pastor Zhang Rongliang (53), one of the founders of the China for Christ Church, **a group comprising more than 10 million Christians, who was arrested on 1 December 2004, and who is still imprisoned without any legal process**. They should demand the unconditional release of all Chinese Catholics and other Christians incarcerated on account of their religious convictions and that the authorities cease immediately all kinds of violence towards them.

MEPs urge the Chinese Government to implement Article 36 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and to ratify and implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

They note that the Chinese Government has finally accepted the request made by the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief and the Special Rapporteur on Torture to visit China before the end of the year. Parliament invites the Chinese Government to set an early date for this visit and calls on the Chinese authorities to allow access for the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief to the Panchen Lama designated by the Dalai Lama.

Parliament welcomes the fact of having a EU-China human rights structured dialogue, but expresses disappointment at the lack of substantial results as regards this dialogue. It invites the Council and the Commission to raise these issues of concern during the forthcoming EU-China human rights session, as part of a thorough assessment of its effectiveness.

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+DN-20050908-1+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=X&LSTDOC=N#SECTION8> (EN)

♦ India

- ▶ **Council of the European Union: Political Declaration on the EU - India strategic Partnership** (07.09.05)

India and the EU, as **the largest democracies in the world, share common values** and beliefs that make them natural partners in the modern inter-connected world. We share a common commitment to democracy, pluralism, **human rights** and the rule of law and seek to pursue economic progress and prosperity for our peoples in a peaceful, stable and secure global environment.

The fifth Summit at The Hague on 8 November 2004 endorsed the India-EU Strategic Partnership. This is a qualitative transformation in the way we engage as equal partners and work together in partnership with the world at large. Today in Delhi, **at the sixth India-EU Summit**, we commit ourselves to strengthened dialogue and engagement as Strategic Partners. In acknowledgement of

our Strategic Partnership and **our shared responsibility to contribute to international peace, security and prosperity**, we today adopt a comprehensive and forward looking Action Plan.

http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/er/86132.pdf (EN)

EUROPE (OUTSIDE OF UE) AND CIS

◆ Turkey

- ▶ **Parliamentary Questions: Engaging civil society on Turkey's accession – oral question by Sajjad Karim to the Commission** (05.09.05)

The accession of Turkey to the European Union will provide many challenges for both the EU and Turkey. However, if well managed, Turkey's accession would be a historic prize, offering important opportunities for both, not least the chance to send out a clear message to the world that Europeans of different faiths can live together on the basis of shared values.

Given the increase in Islamophobia in the European Union since 11 September 2001, what specific programmes is the Commission planning to propose in order to engage European civil society and address prejudices and misconceptions about Islam which, unless tackled in an open and frank manner, may thwart the smooth integration of Turkey into the EU?

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=QT&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+QT+H-2005-0662+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN> (EN)

- ▶ **Parliamentary Questions: Property rights of religious minorities in Turkey accession – oral question by Dimitrios Papadimoulis to the Council** (05.09.05)

The Directorate-General for Foundations in Turkey has announced its intention **of renting out property belonging to religious minority philanthropic foundations and which had previously been expropriated**, persisting in its practice of violating the property rights of religious minorities. At the same time, the **Turkish Government is tacitly consenting to this practice** and has also brought before the national assembly a draft law on religious foundations, which stipulates that the **Turkish State will return to its rightful owners only property under its jurisdiction and not property which has been sold illegally to third parties.**

Is the Council aware of the practice followed by the Directorate-General for Foundations and the draft law tabled by the Turkish Government? Will it include this draft law on the agenda for the discussions it is to hold with the Turkish authorities? **What steps will it take to safeguard the property rights of religious minorities in Turkey**, in the light of the accession negotiations due to begin on 3 October 2005?

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=QT&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+QT+H-2005-0671+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN> (EN)

- ▶ **Parliamentary Questions: Violation of human rights and democratic freedoms by Turkey – prosecution of Turkish writer Orhan Pamuk – oral question by Panagiotis Beglitis to the Council** (05.09.05)

We are informed today that the **Public Prosecutor of Istanbul has initiated criminal proceedings against the renowned Turkish writer Orhan Pamuk for 'denigrating Turkish identity'** because he had the courage **to state in a Swiss newspaper that Turkey should recognise that 'a million Armenians and thirty thousand Kurds were killed by the Turks'** and should come to terms with its history. The trial is to take place in Istanbul on 16 December and the Turkish writer may be sentenced to **between 6 and 9 months in prison** under the Penal Code.

Since this action by the Turkish authorities constitutes a flagrant violation of fundamental human rights, democratic freedoms and Turkey's commitments, as a candidate country, to respect the Copenhagen political criteria, what immediate, practical measures **will the Council take to**

persuade the Turkish political leadership to withdraw the charges against the writer Orhan Pamuk?

Is the Turkish Penal Code, even after its recent reform, consistent with Community legislation and European democratic principles?

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=QT&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+QT+H-2005-0684+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN> (EN)

◆ Serbia

- ▶ Parliamentary Questions: Minority rights in Serbia – oral question by Bernd Posselt to the Council (05.09.05)

Whilst the minorities in Kosovo have guaranteed seats in Parliament, in response to pressure from the Radical Party led by Vojislav Seselj, who is facing trial in The Hague, Serbia has been turned into a single constituency with no local seats and a five per cent threshold. As a result, **the ethnic minorities living in potential crisis areas**, i.e. the Vojvodina, the Sandzak region around Novi Pazar and the Presevo Valley, **have been excluded** on a de facto basis **from involvement in parliamentary politics**, even though they make up a majority of the population in their home regions.

Does the Council acknowledge the risks which may stem from this imbalance in the demands made on Kosovo and Serbia respectively, and what impact will this imbalance have on the preparations for the EU Treaty negotiations with Belgrade?

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=QT&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+QT+H-2005-0668+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN> (EN)

◆ Syria

- ▶ Parliament of the European Union told Syria to free their political prisoners (08.09.05)

In a resolution adopted by 82 votes in favour to 1 against with 3 abstentions on political prisoners in Syria, the European Parliament **urges the Syrian authorities to release parliamentarians Riad Seif and Mamun al-Humsi immediately** and calls on the Syrian authorities to drop immediately all charges against civil activists Hazan Zeino, Yassin al-Hamwi and Muhammad Ali al-Abdullah, who are facing trial before military courts.

MEPs call on the Syrian authorities: **to ensure that the detainees are well treated and not subjected to torture or other ill treatment; to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment**; to ensure that detained or imprisoned persons are given prompt, regular and unrestricted access to their lawyers, doctors and families.

Parliament points out **that respect for human rights constitutes a vital component in any future EU-Syria Association Agreement**. It calls on the Commission and the Council and the individual Member States to make clear to the Syrian authorities that the agreement which is currently under negotiation incorporates human rights clauses which are **a fundamental element of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership**, and expects concrete improvements in this field on the part of the Syrian authorities.

MEPs also call for the setting up of a subcommittee on human rights with Syria in the framework of the Association Agreement, as has been done with Jordan and Morocco, so **as to develop a structured dialogue on human rights and democracy**; believes that such a subcommittee will constitute a key element in the Action Plan. They emphasise the **importance of consulting civil society** and involving it in the work of this subcommittee in order better to monitor the human rights situation and stress the necessity for the parliament to be closely associated in the work and follow-up of this subcommittee.

◆ Russia

- ▶ **Council of the European Union: Presidency press statement – EU / Russia human rights consultations** (08.09.05)

EU and Russia hold second round of human rights consultations.

The European Union and Russia today held their second consultations on human rights.

The aim of these consultations is to discuss issues related to human rights and fundamental freedoms in an open, constructive, and balanced manner. (...)

Discussions covered **Russia's international obligations and co-operation in UN human rights fora**, in particular **UN reform** and preparations for the annual UN General Assembly's Third Committee as well as co-operation with UN Special Mechanisms. Co-operation in the Council of Europe, including the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the Council of Europe (i.a. Gil-Robles report, ECHR judgments, Protocols), and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) were also covered.

The EU raised specific concerns about the human rights situation in Russia, **notably the situation in Chechnya, the situation of human rights defenders**, including specific cases, **the independence of the media and freedom of expression, as well as other issues**. Both sides raised the phenomena of **racism and xenophobia**, and **recognised the importance of NGOs in promoting the respect for human rights**.

In response to Russian concerns about the situation of persons belonging to minorities in the European Union, the EU recalled the full compliance with Copenhagen criteria by the Member States, and noted the importance of **promoting the integration of persons belonging to minorities, as the best way of guaranteeing the protection of human rights and the protection of persons belonging to minorities**. (...)

http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/misc/86164.pdf (EN)

◆ Bosnia and Herzegovina

- ▶ **Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, met with EUSR Paddy ASHDOWN on police reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina** (08.09.05)

Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy discussed recent developments on the police reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the European Union, Special Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Paddy Ashdown.

He recalled that **the basic principles on which a comprehensive political agreement with the EU should be based, namely : securing exclusive state-level competencies; removing political interference from policing and ensuring that police regions are determined on the basis of technical and professional criteria**.

He reiterated that these **principles are non-negotiable** and are not going to change. All parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina should focus on trying to define an agreement by mid-September in order to pave the way for the launching of negotiations on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement by the end of this year.

This statement is attributable to Cristina Gallach, Spokesperson of HR Solana.

http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/declarations/86160.pdf (EN)

◆ Egypt

- ▶ Council of the European Union: Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the presidential elections in Egypt (08.09.05)

The EU welcomes the **first multi-candidate Presidential elections in Egypt's history** which took place there on 7 September and congratulates the Government and people of Egypt on this **important step towards political reform**.

The EU has followed the elections with close interest. The EU welcomes the **open debate** which has taken place, and the atmosphere of **calm in which the campaign has been held**. It welcomes the efforts by the state-owned broadcast media to ensure fair and balanced election coverage. The EU also welcomes commitments made during the campaign to further political reform.

The EU takes note of the **judicial supervision** of the election and the **efforts by civil society groups** to observe it. The EU attaches great importance to the role played by civil society groups in the preparation and observation of elections and stands ready to support their efforts.

The EU encourages the government of Egypt to build on what has been achieved in preparing for future elections, including the forthcoming parliamentary ones. It notes that international observation can play an important role in complementing domestic efforts to ensure fairness and transparency, and in reflecting their success to the wider international community, and underlines its readiness to assist in this regard in future elections, should it be invited to do so.

http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/86162.pdf (EN)

◆ Iraq

- ▶ Council of the European Union: Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the Death Penalty in Iraq (02.09.05)

The European Union was saddened to learn that **three Iraqi nationals were executed** on 1 September 2005 following a judicial process **in Iraq**.

The EU is of the **view** that the **death penalty does not serve as an effective deterrent** and any miscarriage of justice, which might arise in any legal system, would be irreversible.

The EU therefore regrets that the Government of Iraq has elected to implement the death penalty in these cases.

The EU is **strongly opposed to the death penalty and condemns its use**. While recognising the sovereign right of the Government of Iraq to decide on judicial sentencing, we **strongly urge that the death penalty should be abolished**.

http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/86115.pdf (EN)

◆ Palestine

- ▶ Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the CFSP, condemns the assassination of Moussa Arafat, Palestinian Authority Military Advisor (07.09.05)

Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), made the following statement today with reference to this morning's killing of Moussa Arafat, Military Advisor to Palestinian Authority President, Mahmoud Abbas.

"I **condemn the assassination of Moussa Arafat**. This assassination **contradicts the efforts of the Palestinian Authority to enforce the rule of law and public order**. Those responsible for this murder must be brought to justice.

Acts of this kind run contrary to the interest of the Palestinian people who aspire to live in peace and security."

http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/declarations/86148.pdf (EN)

THEMATIC :

FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVE

◆ EC Communication on thematic programs under the new financial perspectives

The European Commission has issued a *Communication on External Actions through Thematic Programmes under the Future Financial Perspectives 2007-2013*. This communication intends to clarify how some thematic policy issues such as human rights or environment will be implemented under the new structure for EU external actions. The following abstract (p. 6) of this Communication presents the broad lines of the Democracy and Human Rights programme.

"The Commission intends to propose a thematic programme for the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide, replacing the current European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights. Following the specific objectives of the Treaties, the thematic programme would promote the founding values of the European Union in its external relations by channelling financial support to activities aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the furtherance of democracy and democratic processes. It would cover global, regional and country-specific financial support to actions, which are primarily implemented by non-state actors, civil society-based, and regional and international organisations. The programme would support the high political visibility of the EU in the field of human rights and democratisation, particularly in global issues such as the international criminal justice system and the International Criminal Court, the abolition of the death penalty, the fight against torture and racism, discrimination against minorities and indigenous peoples, and democratisation and election observation. The granting of financial support through the thematic programme would be independent of approval by the authorities of the beneficiary country and the existence of a country strategy or national programme."

The human rights and Democracy network of Brussels based NGOs is preparing a common reaction to raise their concerns about this paper.

The full text of the Communication is available upon request at OMCT Brussels Office.

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

◆ Terrorism

- ▶ **Parliamentary Questions: Harmonisation of the Member States' approach to combating terrorism – oral question by Sajjad Karim to the Council** (05.09.05)

The counter-terrorism provisions adopted by certain Member States, under the guise of the fight against terrorism, means that the EU must now face the reality that one of the effects of the terrorist threat is that the hard-won liberties, which underpin the shared values and principles of the Union, are being challenged and undermined. In the light of the bombings in Madrid on 11 March 2004 and in London on 7 July 2005, **the EU is now facing a defining moment in its approach to combating this attack on the European way of life.**

How does the Council, under the leadership of the UK Presidency, plan to work together to overcome national differences and the bureaucratic hurdles within the 25 EU Member States in order to develop a harmonised approach to combating terrorism which achieves a balance between providing security to EU citizens whilst simultaneously guaranteeing their human rights and civil liberties, regardless of religious beliefs or ethnic origins?

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=QT&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+QT+H-2005-0661+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN> (EN)

- ▶ **Council and Commission statements on liberty and security responding to the threat of terrorism whilst protecting the rights of citizens : Balancing citizens' rights and security needs** (07.09.05)

Opening the **debate** for the **UK Presidency of the Council**, **Home Secretary Charles CLARKE** spoke of the EU as a massive force for good. (...)The nature of our societies had changed dramatically in 35 years, with communities of different races, faiths and histories now living together. (...) **"We have to defend our values of respect, tolerance, freedom, and democracy against any who wish to destroy or replace them with some other doctrine."**

Mr Clarke said part of the reason for public scepticism about the EU was a perception that it did not offer practical solutions to major problems such as terrorism and serious organised crime.

He pointed to the practical steps taken at EU level, such as the European arrest warrant, rules on police and judicial cooperation and the work of Europol and Eurojust. However, he also stressed the importance of the use of intelligence to target, track, arrest and convict criminals who threaten the security and strength of our societies. While acknowledging that advocates of change must make the case for their proposals, he argued that **proper rules on retention and accessibility of telecommunications data were an essential part of the fight against terrorism and serious organised crime.** (...)

Mr Clarke also called for a new examination of jurisprudence under the European Convention on Human Rights. He said he did not want to undermine the achievements of the ECHR, drawn up in very different circumstances, **but he said the balance between individual rights and collective rights of safety and security needed to be considered.** ***"Our strengthening of human rights needs to acknowledge a truth which we should all accept, that the right to be protected from torture and ill-treatment must be considered side by side with the right to be protected from the death and destruction caused by indiscriminate terrorism, sometimes caused, instigated or fomented by nationals from countries outside the EU."***

The right to safety and security was, he said, a fundamental concern for our citizens: *"Here we can show that Europe can and does deliver real benefits. We in the EU have a responsibility to rise to that challenge. This not an area where we can fail them."*

Commissioner Franco Frattini opened his speech by saying that, *"Our heart goes out to those who have suffered because of terrorism"*. He urged the importance of *"resilience"*. The EU's action, he said, would be based on three strands: **prevention, protection and reaction.** As to prevention, Commissioner Frattini stated that it would be important to better understand the reasons for radicalisation. It would be **necessary to deepen dialogue with religious and lay communities**, in particular in Arab and Islamic countries. The Commissioner underlined **the importance of "universal citizenship" and stated that Europeans were "jealous custodians" of fundamental rights such as the right to life and equality.** In this light, the Commissioner announced that **on 21 September, the Commission would publish a Communication on "terrorist recruitment and violent radicalisation".** (...)

The EU needed to implement an effective response capacity. (...)

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+DN-20050907-1+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=X&LSTDOC=N#SECTION1> (EN)

- ▶ **Britain calls for change to European Convention on Human Rights** By Teresa Küchler (08.09.05)

In the aftermath of the July bomb attacks in London, senior politicians are now warning that **EU citizens will have to accept curbs on their civil liberties in the fight against terrorism.**

Addressing the European Parliament on Wednesday (7 September), **UK home secretary Charles Clarke** said the **50-year old European Convention on Human Rights had to be reviewed.**

"European Union states may have to accept an erosion of some civil liberties if their citizens are to be protected from organised crime and terrorism", said Mr Clarke.

"The reality of the convention's founding fathers is different from that of today", he stated in his opening address.

Mr Clarke said **citizens' right to privacy had to be balanced with their right to be protected from terrorism**, and that the **convention was imbalanced - in favour of the terrorist.**

The British politician said that the results of the French and the Dutch referendums on the EU constitution before the summer were proof that the citizens of Europe feel that the EU is doing far too little to tackle problems to do with terrorism, organised crime and asylum.

His comments received a mixed response from MEPs.

UK liberal MEP Graham Watson said that he welcomed the commitment to fight terrorism, but added **the fight could never be at the cost of human rights.**

"We do not agree ... that the human rights of the victims are more important than the human rights of the terrorists." "Human Rights are indivisible. Freedom and security are not alternatives, they go hand in hand", he stated. (...)

One of the central planks of the **UK's anti-terror measures** will be discussed by justice ministers on Thursday (8 September) **involves a data retention law**, which calls for increased surveillance of electronic data, such as phone calls and emails.

This particular proposal has caused huge friction **between member states and several MEPs, who fear an erosion of individuals' privacy.**

But yesterday, Mr Clarke again called for more "effective and intelligent" use of intelligence in deep collaboration between member states urging pan-EU harmonisation on data retention rules.

The home secretary said he hoped to see the new legislation and anti-terror measures in place by early 2007.

<http://euobserver.com/?sid=9&aid=19822> (EN)