

SUMMARY

REGIONS:

AFRICA

Zimbabwe

- ▶ EP President Pottering condemns situation in Zimbabwe (28/03/2007)
- ▶ Statement by H.E. Ambassador Michael STEINER Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany on behalf of the European Union (29/03/2007)

Mauritania

- ▶ Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU on the presidential elections in Mauritania (29/03/2007).

AMERICAS

ASIA

Nepal

- ▶ Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the formation of the Interim Government of Nepal (1/04/2007)

EUROPE (OUTSIDE OF UE) AND CIS

Kosovo

- ▶ EP strongly back Martti Ahtisaari's proposal on Kosovo, call for it to be put under "supervised sovereignty" (29/03/2007)

MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST

Iran

- ▶ Declaration of the EU Foreign Ministers at the meeting in Bremen on 30th March (30/03/2007)

THEMATIC :

FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

EXTERNAL RELATIONS & DEVELOPMENT-RELATED ISSUES

EU / UN REFORM

MISCELLANEOUS

EP Human Rights Report

- ▶ EU record on human rights protection in 2006 under scrutiny (28/03/2007)

Gymnic meeting

- ▶ EU Foreign Ministers assure the UK of their solidarity (30/03/2007)
- ▶ Widespread agreement among the EU Foreign Ministers (31/03/2007)

UN Treaty on Disabilities Rights

- ▶ The European community signs the UN Treaty on disability rights

EP:EU Foreign Policy

- ▶ EP Plenary: EU foreign policy, own resources (30/03/2007)

IMPORTANT COMING MEETINGS

EU - THIRD COUNTRY MEETINGS

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MEETINGS

Committee on Development

- April, 10,11, 2007

Committee on Foreign Affairs

- April, 11,12, 2007

Subcommittee on Human Rights

- April, 23, 2007

Subcommittee on security and defence

- May, 2,3, 2007

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and home affairs

- April , 10,11, 2007

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

- April , 11,12, 2007

Committee on budgetary control

- May , 2, 3, 2007

CONFERENCES / EVENTS

REGIONS:

AFRICA

Zimbabwe

► EP President Pottering condemns situation in Zimbabwe (28/03/2007)

At the beginning of the session in Brussels, President Hans-Gert Pöttering issued the following statement in connection with recent events in Zimbabwe: "In the past week the political situation in Zimbabwe has further deteriorated. There have been violent attacks from the forces controlled by the government.

On the 11th March, an Assembly in the suburbs of the capital Harare was disrupted by armed police. In this attack a member of the opposition was shot and numerous protestors were injured. 40 leading members of the opposition, including the Chairmen of the Opposition party, MDC (Movement for Democratic Change), Morgan Tsvangirai, and Arthur Mutambara, were arrested and suffered serious mistreatment by the police.

On the 18 March, a member of the opposition party, Nelson Chamisa, was severely beaten and was taken into hospital with serious injuries. He was travelling to the ACP-EU joint parliamentary assembly. This attack prompted the Bureau of the ACP-EU joint parliamentary assembly, in agreement with other African members, to condemn this incident. The Bureau called on the government of Zimbabwe to put an end to the ongoing violence in the country and to respect human rights and the rule of law

We condemn all forms of violence and repression by Mr Mugabe and his government. The Council and the Commission should co-operate with all international, regional and national forces in order to find a transitional solution to turn it from the current regime to a real democracy.

Glenys Kinnock (PES, UK), Co-President of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly said: "I wanted to tell the House that one hour ago Morgan Tsvangirai was again arrested by the police and security forces in Harare. He and his staff were about to have a news conference to discuss the events which you described in your speech.

I would like this House, therefore, to condemn that re-arrest of Morgan Tsvangirai and to say that the brutality against the opposition has to stop and the southern African community has to react in their meeting in Tanzania this week."

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/008-4764-087-03-13-901-20070328IPR04763-28-03-2007-2007-false/default_en.htm

Zimbabwe

► **Statement by H.E. Ambassador Michael STEINER Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany on behalf of the European Union (29/03/2007)**

United Nations Human Rights Council 4th session

I would like to follow up on concerns raised in questions my delegation posed yesterday, on behalf of the European Union, during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteurs on Torture and on Freedom of Expression and Association.

I have the honour to speak as Presidency of the European Union.

We are deeply concerned by disturbing recent developments in Zimbabwe, including the violent suppression of peaceful demonstrations by opposition organisations on 11 March. We are also deeply concerned about the subsequent arrest and brutal treatment of MDC members on 18 March. Such actions have no place in any society.

We stress that democracy, sustainable development, peace and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

In this regard, we call upon the Government of Zimbabwe to commence, immediately, a sincere and constructive dialogue with opposition parties and other civil society members in order to help resolve the problems facing Zimbabwe.

We welcome regional efforts to take concrete steps to promote and support such a dialogue. We note with concern the significant impact further difficulties in Zimbabwe could have on the region, including for regional security and prosperity.

We call on the Government of Zimbabwe to refrain from doing anything which might lead to a further escalation of the situation in Zimbabwe. We urge them to ensure full respect for the rule of law and the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Zimbabweans. We also urge the Government of Zimbabwe to repeal legislation curtailing freedom of expression and association. We furthermore urge them to allow, as the UN Secretary General has requested, peaceful assembly, and to provide space for the exercise of legitimate political rights.

We welcome the commitment given on 14 March by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to monitor the Zimbabwean judicial process against Mr Tsvangarai and his colleagues. We look forward to her report on that process at the sixth Council session. Latest news reinforce our concerns: Mr Tsvangarai was arrested again.

We urge the Special Rapporteur on Torture and the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and Opinion to visit Zimbabwe and to report back to the sixth session of the Council on the situation there. We call on the Government of Zimbabwe to expedite their response to outstanding requests for visits from UN Special Rapporteurs as soon as possible to enable the visits to take place.

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/Statements_in_International_Organisations/March/0329UNHRC.html

Mauritania

► **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU on the presidential elections in Mauritania (29/03/2007)**

The European Union is pleased that the elections were generally calm, transparent and properly conducted, as attested by the European Union electoral observation mission in Mauritania. The Mauritanian people have thus had the opportunity to express their political will through free, pluralist elections.

The European Union congratulates Mr Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi on his election as President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. It wishes him and the Mauritanian people every success on the way to a better future, based on true democracy.

The European Union is pleased to see that the outgoing Head of State, Colonel Ely Ould Mohamed Vall, who initiated and guided the democratic process, has thus honoured the commitments entered into in 2005.

The European Union thanks all parties responsible for the elections for ensuring that they ran smoothly and the Independent National Electoral Commission for its decisive role in supervising operations. The European Union congratulates all candidates, parties and political groups involved in the process and hopes to see them play a constructive role in the political life of the country.

The European Union reiterates its willingness to maintain and improve its political and economic relations with Mauritania, in order to help consolidate the new prospects which are opening up for the country.

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/CFSP_Statements/March/0329Mauretanien.html

AMERICAS

ASIA

Nepal

► **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the formation of the Interim Government of Nepal (1/04/2007)**

The EU congratulates the newly formed Nepalese interim government on its assumption of office. The EU considers the promulgation of the interim constitution, and the formation of the interim parliament and government, as important milestones in the peace process in Nepal. They lay the ground for re-establishing stable democratic structures and institutions and, in the long term, a sustainable peace. The EU looks to the new government to operate in line with democratic principles, to tackle impunity, to deliver reforms through state institutions and to dismantle any parallel structures.

The EU encourages the interim government and the recently formed interim parliament to move the peace process further forward by preparing vigorously for timely elections for the constituent assembly. The EU lends its full support to the UN in its work in monitoring the peace process and the forthcoming elections.

The EU calls on all political forces in Nepal to demonstrate their commitment to fundamental democratic values in order to allow free and fair elections to take place. The EU reiterates its firm belief that the people of Nepal are entitled to live by the rule of law and free of fear and intimidation and that their human rights should be respected. We call on all groups to co-operate fully with the OHCHR.

Given continuing concerns about the fragile security situation, the EU encourages the new government to restore law and order, in particular in the countryside and in view of the shocking killings in Gaur. The EU urges the government to bring the culprits to justice.

The EU underlines its continuing support for the peace process. The EU Member States and the European Commission are fully committed to assisting the peace process. We are providing support for the electoral preparations in particular, to help the government to fulfil its aim of enabling everyone, including traditionally marginalised groups and especially women, to participate. We will respond positively to the Government of Nepal's invitation to observe the constitutional assembly elections. The EU will continue to support the development of Nepal through various bilateral programmes and through contributions to the Nepali Peace Trust Fund to help ensure the success of these crucial elections.

The EU welcomes the Government's efforts to hold a dialogue on all issues raised by the protests of the Madhesis and other minority groups. The EU urges that this should be a comprehensive dialogue in which all representative groups are involved, in line with the commitment in the peace agreement to work for the inclusion of all marginalised and excluded groups.

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/CFSP_Statements/April/0401Nepal.html

EUROPE (OUTSIDE OF UE) AND CIS

Kosovo

► EP strongly back Martti Ahtisaari's proposal on Kosovo, call for it to be put under "supervised sovereignty" (29/03/2007)

Parliament gave its full support today to the Ahtisaari proposal for a status settlement, stating that "sovereignty supervised by the international community is the best option" for securing the objectives of a peaceful, self-sustaining Kosovo. The report also reaffirmed the European perspective of both Serbia and Kosovo, and called for the EU to play a central role in the current international negotiations for a settlement.

Members voted to fully support the UN-led drive to determine the final status of Kosovo, and to the Ahtisaari Proposal in particular. Martti Ahtisaari, former Finnish President, was the UN Special Envoy charged with devising a plan for the status settlement of Kosovo. His proposal, released early last month, would give Kosovo some of the trappings of sovereignty, such as rights to membership in international organisations, but does not advocate outright independence. The own-initiative report by Joost **Lagendijk** (Greens/EFA, NL), adopted by an overwhelming majority in the House on Thursday 29 March (490 in favour to 80 against with 87 abstentions) spelled out several desirable aspects of a settlement:

- access to international financial organisations
- an international presence in Kosovo, with a clear definition of its role and mandate
- clear provisions on decentralisation which grant substantial autonomy in key areas
- full respect for human rights
- retention of Kosovo's multi-ethnic character, with protection for cultural and religious sites
- the establishment of a limited, internal, multi-ethnic Kosovar Security Force
- international guarantees for the territorial integrity of all neighbouring states

International implications

Addressing fears, especially in Russia, that granting Kosovo any form of independence would exacerbate other separatist tensions around the globe, the report "underlines that the solution in Kosovo will set no precedent in international law, as Kosovo has been under UN rule since 1999 [...and] is in no way

comparable to the situation in other conflict regions which are not under UN administration." In addition, the House is of the view that "in the long run, the solution regarding the future status of Kosovo lies also in the fact that both Serbia and Kosovo are due to become part of the EU, together with their neighbours, since the future of the Western Balkans lies in the European Union."

The EU's role

The report emphasises that the EU Member States should speak with one voice on the Kosovo issue, by adopting a common position in Council, and maintaining it in international fora, especially the UN Security Council. The Parliament also argued that "the European Union should have a decisive say on the final terms of the settlement." MEPs also called for a visa facilitation agreement for Kosovo, to ease access for travel into the European Union.

Finally, the report stated that "the EP is prepared to make available the additional resources required in order to finance the future EU involvement in Kosovo with a view to implementing the status settlement." The report also expressed the Parliament's support for the establishment of an ESDP (European Security and Defence Policy) mission to Kosovo.

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/030-4692-087-03-13-903-20070326IPR04617-28-03-2007-2007-false/default_en.htm

MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST

Iran

- ▶ **Declaration of the EU Foreign Ministers at the meeting in Bremen on 30th March (30/03/2007)**

The European Union deplores the continued arrest of 15 British citizens by Iran on 23rd of March and underlines the European Union's unconditional support for the government of the United Kingdom.

All evidence clearly indicates that at the time of the seizure, the British Naval personnel were on a routine patrolling mission in Iraqi waters in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1723. The seizure by Iranian Forces therefore constitutes a clear breach of international law.

The European Union repeats its call for the immediate and unconditional release of the British Royal Naval personnel. The European Union furthermore calls on Iran to immediately inform the government of the United Kingdom about the whereabouts of the British Naval personnel and grant consular access. The fundamental rights of all prisoners in Iran must be scrupulously respected.

The EU Foreign Ministers requested the High Representative to present the EU position to the Iranian government.

Should the UK citizens not be released in the near future, the EU will decide on appropriate measures.

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/Press_Releases/March/0330Iran.html

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FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

EXTERNAL RELATIONS & DEVELOPMENT-RELATED ISSUES

EU / UN REFORM

MISCELLANEOUS

EP Human Rights Report

- ▶ **EU record on human rights protection in 2006 under scrutiny** (28/03/2007)

The Foreign Affairs Committee adopted its annual report on human rights in the world on Tuesday. Focusing on the situation in 2006, the report looks at EU policies on breaches of human rights, criticises EU action in the area and makes specific recommendations.

The report, drawn up by Simon Coveney (EPP-ED, IE), says **China's human rights record is still a matter of "serious concern"** and should thus "receive more focus in the build-up to the Beijing Olympic games". Members urge the Council and Commission "to raise the question of Tibet" in talks with the Beijing government. The Union's trade relations with Beijing, they add, should be contingent upon human rights reform.

Expressing its **"deep concern regarding the deterioration of the human rights situation"** in Iran the committee "calls on the Council to express concern [...] in all its contacts with the Iranian government". It also calls on the Commission to use the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) to promote cooperation with Iranian civil society.

The committee **strongly criticises the Russian government**, over the situation in Chechnya, the treatment of human rights defenders, and freedom of expression. It deplores legislation limiting the activities of NGOs. It is "appalled" at the murder of Anna Politkovskaya and expects Russia to take better measures "to protect freedom of expression and the security of journalists". There is also concern about allegations of surrounding the poisoning of Alexander Litvinenko and of the mistreatment of Mikhail Khodorkovsky in prison. The committee "urges the Commission and Council to raise such cases with the Russian authorities at the highest level and in the new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with Russia"

"Regretting" that the EU has not taken "more unilateral action" to persuade the Sudanese government to accept an international peacekeeping force in Darfur, the report **urges the EU to back "an international peacekeeping force" and "the enforcement of the no-fly zone over Darfur"**. The Council, it goes on to say, should agree "a plan of specific, targeted sanctions to be imposed on the Khartoum regime [...] in the event of non-compliance with the demands of the international community."

Criticism of EU action on human rights

The report is critical of some EU activity in the area of human rights. It asks the Council to explain "how it was possible for Belarus to be elected onto the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in June 2005." It also notes "with total stupefaction" the provisional suspension by ECHO of humanitarian aid for Iraq, despite "the disastrous situation afflicting the suffering Iraqi people and Iraqi

refugees."

The committee notes that the Union, in its texts, attempts "to link immigration and development and ensure that the fundamental rights of immigrants are respected". However, "the reality on the ground gives the lie to the texts": readmission agreements are being concluded with third countries "that do not have the legal and institutional machinery needed in order to handle the readmission of nationals and protect their rights.

MEPs note that although the new United Nations Human Rights Council "has the potential to develop into a valuable framework for the EU's multilateral human rights efforts", it has proven to be "ineffectual in responding appropriately to human rights crises" due to "the use of the UNHRC by many states as a forum for political pressure instead of the promotion of human rights". (para 18) The committee urges Member States "not to support" countries which have been shown to commit "gross and systematic" human rights violations as candidates for high-ranking positions in international forums.

Supporting human rights defenders

The report includes a series of recommendations to the Council and Commission. **Both institutions, it insists, should raise the situation of human rights defenders systematically in all political dialogues** (para 60). EU missions ought to "reach out to local human rights defenders in a more proactive manner", while the Council should take steps "to facilitate the issuing of visas for all human rights defenders". Future Council presidencies are asked to report back to Parliament on how its concerns have been taken into account.

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/015-4603-086-03-13-902-20070326IPR04589-27-03-2007-2007-false/default_en.htm

Gymnic meeting

► **EU Foreign Ministers assure the UK of their solidarity** (30/03/2007)

On the first day of the Gymnich meeting in Bremen the EU foreign ministers spoke in detail about the future of Kosovo. "The Kosovo status settlement marks the final act in the dissolution of the former Yugoslavia", said Federal Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier during the press conference on the evening of 30 March. "Not until this outstanding issue in the Balkans is resolved can we achieve lasting political stability and economic development in the region".

The basis for the foreign ministers' talks was the joint position reached during February's General Affairs and External Relations Council meeting. This will also be the basis for the position of the EU Member States on the UN Security Council. The foreign ministers unanimously welcomed the efforts undertaken since February 2006 by President Ahtisaari and paid tribute to the clear statement by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

A new Security Council resolution is designed to create the framework for implementing the status settlement, which takes into consideration the legitimate interests of Belgrade and Pristina. The EU foreign ministers welcomed the opening of talks on a new resolution in New York. In the Security Council the EU will present its joint position on Kosovo in an active and united manner.

More Serbian students in EU Member States

"The EU sticks to its position – we reach out our hand to Serbia", declared Steinmeier. The road Serbia must take is not easy. The status settlement for Kosovo, the necessary democratic reforms in Serbia and the as yet incomplete formation of a government are difficult challenges. However, the EU is agreed that the

Serbian people's desire for a future in the Union will be strongly supported. To this end more young people, for example students or schoolchildren, are to be given the opportunity to spend time in the EU countries.

Joint declaration on Iran adopted

On the issue of the British citizens in Iran, Steinmeier stated that the UK could count on the solid and steadfast solidarity of all European countries. Secretary-General Solana was tasked by the foreign ministers with seeking talks with Tehran in order to enable a solution to be found. On this issue the foreign ministers adopted a joint declaration. "This is a clear signal that the Europeans stand together in difficult times", Steinmeier emphasized.

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/Press_Releases/March/0330AAGymnichPK.html

Gymnic meeting

► **Widespread agreement among the EU Foreign Ministers** (31/03/2007)

On the Middle East conflict, Federal Foreign Minister Steinmeier stated at the final press conference that "since the middle of last year Europe has proved that it no longer merely comments on development in the region". Europe's commitment has become visible both in the securing of Israel's northern border and in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Dr Steinmeier particularly emphasized the revitalization of the Middle East Quartet, which to date has met twice. The option of a further meeting in the region, possibly involving Arab interlocutors, was discussed. With its voice in the Middle East Quartet, Europe will continue to work intensively on the basis of a two-state settlement.

Regarding contacts with members of the government of national unity, Minister Steinmeier said that the EU wanted to meet those government representatives who accepted non-violence, the agreements concluded with Israel, and Israel's right to exist. This was the basis of the shared understanding, Dr Steinmeier said, although no concrete decisions were taken.

Tense situation in Darfur

The foreign ministers discussed the current situation which shows no sign of improvement. Prior to discussing further steps, they invited UN Special Envoy Eliasson to the next meeting of the General Affairs and External Relations Council in April, particularly in order to report on the status of efforts to renew the agreement between the various rebel groups. This agreement could form the basis for new talks with the government.

EU sends Troika to Somalia

In view of the renewed violence in Mogadishu an EU Troika has been sent there to initiate talks with the government. The aim must be to ensure that suitable preparations are made for a conference of national reconciliation.

On the issue of missile defence, the foreign ministers decided to await the discussion within NATO and the NATO-Russia Council before making any decision on how to deal with the issue in the EU.

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/Press_Releases/March/0331AAGymnichEnde.html

UN Treaty on Disabilities Rights

► The European community signs the UN Treaty on disability rights

The European Community will today sign a new UN treaty on disability rights on its opening day for signature in New York. This is the first time the Community signs a core UN human rights convention. The Convention, which covers the rights of people with disabilities aims to ensure that people with disabilities enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with everyone else. It will provide protection for 50 million EU citizens and 650 million people with disabilities worldwide.

"This Convention recognises at an international level that disability is a human rights issue," said Vladimír Špidla, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. "I welcome the unprecedented involvement of people with disabilities throughout the negotiation process and am proud that the EU and its members will be among the first to sign the Convention. It is a success for the EU as it reflects all the core elements of our disability strategy: anti-discrimination, equal opportunities and active inclusion. It also shows that Europe is at the forefront of strengthening rights for people with disabilities worldwide and is an important achievement in the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All."

The new treaty is the first comprehensive human rights convention to be adopted this century. It follows long-standing efforts by disability organisations and an increasing international recognition that existing UN human rights treaties failed to fully protect people with disabilities, who continue to suffer discrimination. This view is widely shared by Europeans, 53% of whom believe that discrimination based on disability is widespread, according to a recent Eurobarometer survey.

The European Commission's active role in the negotiations ensured that the Convention is in line with relevant EU legislation and jurisprudence - for example it takes on the definition of discrimination. In addition, the denial of 'reasonable accommodation' for people with disabilities – set out in EU law since 2000 – is now internationally recognised as a form of discrimination.

The text also acknowledges that women with disabilities are more likely to suffer from multiple forms of discrimination and accordingly calls for measures combining mainstreaming of gender issues and specific gender sensitive measures in the disability field.

Member States have given a mandate the European Commission to negotiate and sign on behalf of the Community on matters falling under Community competence, but the EU Member States themselves will also sign the Convention individually. Signature constitutes the first step of becoming formally party to the Convention.

It will enter into force when ratified by 20 countries.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/446&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

EP:EU Foreign Policy

► EP Plenary: EU foreign policy, own resources (30/03/2007)

Day 2 of Plenary opened with an overview of the Union's foreign policy in 2007 by Javier Solana - the EU's High Representative for foreign policy. He identified the Arab-Israeli dispute, the nuclear stand off with Iran, the status of Kosovo and Darfur as major issues. Mr Solana also condemned the seizure of 15 UK

personnel by Iran and called for a debate on missile defence in Europe. In a later vote on Thursday MEPs adopted reports on the EU's "own-resources".

Solana before MEPs to report on EU foreign policy

Mr Solana told MEPs that there was "major desire" around the world for a strong EU foreign policy and reminded them that the EU has 10 international military missions and plans more in Afghanistan and Kosovo. Later in the debate Joseph Daul of the European People's Party took up this theme when he said that EU foreign policy should encourage freedom around the world.

Middle East: On the Middle East Mr Solana welcomed and supported the recent Arab League initiative to revive a 2002 plan which would give Israel peace treaties and recognition from Arab states if it withdrew to its 1967 borders. - and pledged support for the new Palestinian national reconciliation government. Socialist leader Martin Schulz noted that the EU is built on dialogue and it was important to talk to the new Palestinian government.

Iran: On the nuclear stand-off with Iran, Mr Solana said "Iran must comply with its (UN) obligations". He also said that Europe must support non-proliferation of nuclear material and disarmament. The heads of all the political groups supported a political solution to the crisis although some, notably Graham Watson for the Liberal ALDE Group and Daniel Cohn-Bendit for the Greens/EFA, strongly advocated moves towards general nuclear disarmament.

Mr Solana said that he had raised the issue of the captured British sailors when he met the Iranian Foreign Minister recently. The political groups condemned the detention and called on Tehran to release them - while Mr Watson noted that "most of them are my constituents".

Kosovo: On the disputed province Mr Solana repeated the conclusions of UN envoy Martti Ahtisaari that it would be "extremely difficult to find a negotiated solution favourable to Kosovo and Serbia"

He said **Darfur** must remain the EU's "number one concern" in Africa. For the European people's party Joseph Daul called the situation in Darfur "genocide" and developments in Zimbabwe "an affront"

Missile defence: (the Czech Republic and Poland have agreed to let the US station missile systems on their territory). Mr Solana said that the EU was not a "defensive alliance" and the Treaties give sovereignty to its members in this area. However countries are obliged to support the general aims of the Union and "it would be a mistake not to talk about this issue".

Martin Schulz for the Socialist PES Group warned of a "new arms race" of missile defence systems are developed in Europe. He said it would solve none of the existing problems like poverty and disease but "only create new ones". Konrad Szymanski for the Europe of the Nations Group warned against taking the "Russian view" - one that "could divide the EU"

Own resources: a fairer distribution of EU money?

MEPs adopted a report proposing a reform of the "own-resources" system which would above all emphasise "equality between EU states". Own resources were created in 1970 and consist of agricultural duties and sugar production levies (approximately 1.5% of the EU budget) and customs duties collected at the EU's external borders (roughly 11% of the Union's budget). The opinion of MEPs is that they believe the current system is complex, incomprehensible to the public and not transparent - hence the need for reform.

The own-initiative report by European People's Party MEP by Alain Lamassoure advocates two stages of reform:

In the first stage the system would be based on the "Gross National Income resource". This resource is less

visible to the general public but is more equitable in relating contributions to the general level of prosperity. Under this scheme the British rebate would be abolished by 2013.

In the second stage, the EU would benefit directly from a certain share of tax, as happens with regional or local authorities in most countries. The new system will, under no circumstances, grant the European Union the right to levy taxes. Fiscal sovereignty will remain with the Member States.

MEPs want the new system to be introduced from 2014, with a "transition period" to guarantee a smooth phasing-out of the old financing system.

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/008-4536-087-03-13-901-20070323STO04519-2007-28-03-2007/default_en.htm