## OMCT-Europe Weekly Newsletter 2007 N°13, 10- 16.04.2007

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JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS
EXTERNAL RELATIONS & DEVELOPMENT-RELATED ISSUES
EU / UN REFORM
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### **EU - THIRD COUNTRY MEETINGS**

## **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MEETINGS**

## **Committee on Development**

> April, 23, 2007

## Committee on Foreign Affairs

> April,24, 2007(Strasbourg); May 7,8,2007

## 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 ,17 , 2007

## Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

May ,2 , 2007

## Committee on budgetary control

May , 2, 3, 2007

### **CONFERENCES / EVENTS**

#### **AFRICA**

#### Côte d'Ivoire

► <u>Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU on the formation of the new government in Côte d'Ivoire (10/04/2007)</u>

The European Union takes note of the formation of the new government in Côte d'Ivoire on 7 April 2007 and welcomes its commitment to peace.

The European Union invites the new government and the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to become involved resolutely in the implementation of the action advocated in the political agreement concluded in Ouagadougou on 4 March 2007 in order to relaunch the peace process defined by UN Security Council Resolution 1721.

With a view to finding a rapid solution to the crisis affecting the whole country, the European Union calls on the parties to move forward on the key issues, including: identification of the population, Defence and Security Forces issues, the DDR (disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration) programme and the organisation as early as possible of free, fair, open, democratic and transparent elections.

The European Union will continue to accompany Côte d'Ivoire on the road to consolidating peace and development.

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/CFSP\_Statements/April/0410Elfenbeinkueste.html

## Algeria

► EU Presidency statement on the attacks in Algiers (11/04/2007)

The EU Presidency was shocked to hear of today's attacks on the Prime Minister's office in the centre of Algiers and on a police station.

The Presidency most strongly condemns these attacks, which have claimed numerous lives and injured well over 100 people.

The Presidency conveys its heartfelt sympathy to the families of the victims and wishes those who have been injured a speedy recovery.

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/CFSP\_Statements/April/0411Algier.html

#### Sudan

► <u>Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU concerning recent developments in Darfur (13/04/2007)</u>

The European Union is particularly concerned about the direct clashes between the Chadian and Sudanese armies that took place on 9 April.

The European Union calls on the authorities of Chad and Sudan to exercise restraint and to return to observing the commitments in the Tripoli Declaration. The European Union urges the two sides to do everything possible to avoid an escalation at the frontier, which would lastingly damage the peace efforts in Darfur and would further exacerbate the suffering of the people of Darfur and eastern Chad.

In this context the European Union condemns the continuing attacks against the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), most recently on 10 April near Sortony in northern Darfur, which it considers to be deliberate violations of the ceasefire in force and of the UN Security Council resolutions on Sudan. The European Union presents its sincere condolences to the family of the Rwandan soldier killed during the latest attack.

These new incidents demonstrate once again the gravity of the situation and the extent of the regional dimension of the Darfur crisis. They underline the urgent need for the hybrid force to be deployed in Darfur and for a United Nations operation in eastern Chad.

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/CFSP Statements/April/0413Darfur.html

AMERICAS
ASIA

#### **Timor-Leste**

► <u>Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU on the first round of the presidential</u> <u>election in Timor-Leste</u> (12/04/2007)

The EU congratulates the Timorese population who have shown their commitment to democracy and peace by participating in huge numbers in a generally peaceful way in the first presidential elections since independence in 2002. The EU regards these elections as an important milestone on the road to nation-building and to re-establishing stable democratic structures and accountable democratic institutions.

The EU expresses its appreciation for the Timorese authorities, particularly the Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration and the National Election Commission for organizing the polling for the first time in their own responsibility in a smooth and efficient way despite the difficult terrain and logistics involved.

The EU calls on all political forces to accept the results of the elections, including the upcoming runoff election, and adhere to the principles of non-violence and legal processes to ensure that the elections have a unifying impact and contribute to bringing the people of Timor-Leste together.

The EU Member States and the European Commission remain fully committed to assist Timor-Leste in completing this year's election process and will continue to monitor the forthcoming elections.

The EU Member States and the European Commission underline their support for Timor-Leste to address the challenges ahead to rebuild the security sector, to reestablish the rule of law and to guarantee the further socio-economic development of the population of Timor-Leste.

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/CFSP Statements/April/0412Timor.html

#### **Timor-Leste**

► The European Commission welcomes the peaceful development of the Presidential elections in Timor-Leste (12/04/2007)

The European Commission welcomes the high participation and the peaceful development of the first round of the Presidential elections in Timor-Leste. The European Commission considers these elections, which will be followed by the Parliamentary elections later this year, as a fundamental step in the process of consolidation of the Timorese democracy and of the Timorese institutions. European Commission President José Manuel Durão Barroso hailed the strong attachment to democracy shown once again by the Timorese people in the first general elections organized by national institutions: "I was heartened to see the orderly and peaceful manner in which long lines of people waited to cast their votes and I hope that this calm will prevail going forward, allowing the democratic will of the Timorese people to be expressed in peace and security."

The EU has deployed an Election Observation Mission (EOM) to Timor-Leste to observe the Presidential and the Parliamentary elections. The Preliminary Statement delivered by the mission praised the openness and peaceful conditions in which the elections have been held. The Preliminary Statement acknowledges that "the elections were generally smoothly conducted by the Timorese electoral authorities in spite of the difficult terrain and logistics challenges". Even though the official results are not yet available, the provisional data show a neck-and-neck race among several candidates and allow foreseeing a run-off between the two strongest candidates.

"The fact that we have deployed an EU mission to observe these first general elections after independence confirms our strong support to Timor-Leste on its difficult path of building a nation. We are convinced this mission, under the leadership of Chief Observer Javier Pomés, made an important contribution and their findings will be useful to the Timorese institutions for the next round and the forthcoming Parliamentary elections. I am confident that all parties will accept the outcome", said the European Commissioner responsible for external relations, Benita Ferrero-Waldner.

"This mission together with an assistance for the organization of elections of € 1.5 million out of its institutional capacity building programme under the 9th European Development Fund confirms the EU's strong support for the electoral process in Timor-Leste. We also acknowledge the role of the international community, in particular UNMIT, in helping to prepare and organize the election and creating a reassuring environment. This was fundamental in order to give the election results credibility as the true reflection of the democratic choice of the Timorese people and as an important step to overcome the current political crisis of the country", stressed Louis Michel, the Commissioner responsible for development and humanitarian aid.

http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/493&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN &guiLanguage=en

EUROPE (OUTSIDE OF UE ) AND CIS

#### **MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST**

Iran

► <u>EU Presidency Statement on the Iranian nuclear programme</u> (10/04/2007)

The Presidency of the European Union has noted with great concern the announcement by Iran that it intends to begin uranium enrichment on an industrial scale.

Such a step by Iran would directly contradict the repeated requests by the IAEA Board of Governors and the binding calls on Iran by the UN Security Council, in Resolutions 1737 and 1747, to suspend all enrichment-related activities.

The Presidency of the European Union once again urges Iran to comply with the demands of the international community and to create the conditions for a return to the negotiating table and for a solution to the conflict surrounding the Iranian nuclear programme.

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/CFSP\_Statements/April/0410Iran.html

Iraq

► EU Presidency Statement on the bombing of the Iragi Parliament (13/04/2007)

The Presidency of the European Union condemns in the strongest possible terms the attack on the Iraqi parliament on 12 April in which eight people were killed and many others were injured. The Presidency conveys its sympathy to the families of the victims and wishes those who have been injured a speedy recovery.

This was an attack on a major symbol of the nascent Iraqi democracy. The Iraqi people, by holding elections and referendums under extremely difficult conditions, have proved that they want to shape their country in a peaceful and democratic fashion.

The Presidency hopes that the Iraqi people and government will not let violent extremists distract them from this course, and it calls upon all groups and parties in Iraq to embrace their country's development towards peace and freedom.

The international community has a duty to strengthen Iraqi democracy using all means at its disposal. The conferences scheduled to be held in Egypt on 3 and 4 May will make a major contribution towards that end

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/CFSP Statements/April/0413Bagdad.html

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