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## REGIONS

### AFRICA

#### ♦ Republic of Congo

- ▶ Declaration by the Presidency, on behalf of the EU, on impunity in the Democratic Republic of Congo – the Maheshe and Kabungulu cases (14/05/2008)

The European Union is deeply concerned by the serious irregularities observed during the appeal hearings of the alleged killers of the journalist Serge Maheshe, currently taking place in a Bukavu military court. It urges the Congolese courts to guarantee those accused in the Maheshe case a fair trial.

Alerted by the anonymous threats which observers and defence lawyers have received, the European Union would request the Congolese authorities to investigate the facts reported by the victims of these threats and to guarantee the protection both of the human rights defenders observing the hearings and of the lawyers.

The European Union once again urges the Congolese courts to restart the trial of the alleged killers of the human rights defender Pascal Kabungulu Kibembi, murdered in July 2005, which has been interrupted by the Bukavu garrison military court.

**Combating impunity is essential for the democratic process in progress in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Under their international obligations, the Congolese authorities are obliged to guarantee truth, justice and redress to the families of Serge Maheshe, Pascal Kabungulu Kibembi and other human rights defenders murdered in the country. The EU calls on the Congolese authorities to show Congolese citizens that impunity is no longer tolerated.**

The EU stresses its commitment to restoring the capacity of the judicial system, in particular through the REJUSCO programme in the east of the country.

The European Union also wishes to recall the importance of protecting human rights defenders and journalists.

[http://www.eu2008.si/en/News\\_and\\_Documents/CFSP\\_Statements/May/0514MZZ\\_DRC\\_Kongo.html](http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/May/0514MZZ_DRC_Kongo.html)

#### ♦ Somalia

- ▶ Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Somalia (14/05/2008)

The EU welcomes the significant progress that has been made in the political process in Somalia since the beginning of the year. **It reaffirms its full support to the transitional federal authorities for the action taken by the Transitional Federal Government and to the reconciliation strategy by Prime Minister Nur Hassan Hussein that has made it possible to start a dialogue with all Somali parties, internal as well as external, and to launch a true reconciliation process.**

The EU welcomes the envisaged opening of discussions between the Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for Reliberation of Somalia in Djibouti. These discussions will be a first necessary step towards the initiation of inter-Somali negotiations.

The EU welcomes the efforts made by the Transitional Federal Government aiming at reforming the security sector and ensuring the rule of law in Somalia.

The EU reiterates its support to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Somalia Ahmedou Ould Abdallah in his efforts to coordinate the action of the international community and to facilitate inter-Somali political dialogue.

The EU expresses its grave concern about the continuing deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Somalia and its willingness to support the efforts of the United Nations to provide urgent response to the crisis.

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/100304.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/100304.pdf)

- ♦ **Sudan**

- ▶ **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the recent upsurge in violence in Sudan** (14/05/2008)

**The European Union is seriously concerned about the recent violence in Sudan and calls on all parties to cease violence immediately, respect their obligations under international humanitarian law and commit to a peaceful resolution of all outstanding issues.**

The EU strongly condemns the attacks of 10 - 11 May carried out by the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) on Omdurman.

It also strongly condemns the bombing of civilian targets that took place in North Darfur on 4 May, including a school, water installations and a market place.

Both incidents reportedly resulted in civilian fatalities.

The EU urges restraint by all parties and that no retaliatory action is taken against civilian populations. All parties involved in the Darfur conflict should adhere to their existing ceasefire commitments, fully cooperate with UNAMID, comply with their obligations under international law and engage in the peace process mediated by the UN and AU Special Envoys.

In addition, the EU calls upon the States of the region to implement their commitments under the Dakar Agreement and to co-operate with a view to ending the activities of armed groups in the region.

The EU is also concerned about the increasing acts of banditry which further complicate the provision of humanitarian assistance in Darfur.

Violence does nothing to ease the plight of the people who want to return to their homes and rebuild their lives.

[http://www.eu2008.si/en/News\\_and\\_Documents/CFSP\\_Statements/May/0514MZZ\\_Sudan.html](http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/May/0514MZZ_Sudan.html)

## AMERICAS

### ♦ EU-LAC Summit

#### ▶ Foreign Ministers Reach an Agreement on Final Declaration (16/05/2008)

**“The final and most important document of the Summit is the Lima Declaration. It is my great pleasure to announce that the Foreign Ministers have agreed to forward it to their respective Prime Ministers and Presidents for its final adoption,”** the President of the General Affairs and External Relations Council and Slovene Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel announced after the Foreign Ministers’ meeting.

Minister Rupel continued, “Our two regions have made a giant leap forward regarding cooperation and mutual relations in the nine years since the EU and LAC established the Strategic Partnership at the Rio de Janeiro Summit in 1999.”

In the two years from the Summit in Vienna to the Summit in Lima, twelve preparatory events were organized and a great number of bio-regional activities and programmes were initiated. These have enabled both continents to reap the benefits of the strategic partnership. The discussions at this 5th Summit have concentrated on promoting actions to address two key interrelated challenges:

1. Poverty, inequality, and the need for more inclusive societies; and
2. Sustainable development, the environment, climate change, and energy.

**In the Declaration sixty countries of the two regions have pledged to cooperate on the eradication of poverty, inequality, and exclusion and to fight climate change in order to preserve planet Earth. The two regions aim to achieve equitable and inclusive levels of social development through the formulation and implementation of more effective social policies.**

Minister Dimitrij Rupel stressed: “The two regions offer immense potential for our people. It is up to all of us - governments, as well as business and civil society - to work together to respond to these challenges and to make the most of the wealth of opportunity our strategic cooperation has to offer.”

The President of the General Affairs and External Relations Council emphasised that “We will continue to actively pursue the negotiations of Association Agreements as common strategic objectives with a very high political priority.”

The Slovenian EU Presidency was very pleased to be able to co-chair the 5th EU-LAC Summit together with the generous Peruvian hosts. “I would like to thank my colleague and friend, Minister Belaunde, for his tireless work and fruitful cooperation as well as the Peruvian people for their warm welcome and hospitality,” stated Minister Rupel in expressing his gratitude at the press conference.



[http://www.eu2008.si/en/News\\_and\\_Documents/Press\\_Releases/May/0516MZZ\\_EU\\_LAK\\_deklaracija\\_Lima.html](http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/Press_Releases/May/0516MZZ_EU_LAK_deklaracija_Lima.html)

- ♦ **EU-LAC Summit**

- ▶ **Council Conclusion** (16/05/2008)

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/er/100452.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/er/100452.pdf)

- ♦ **CARIFORUM (Caribbean Forum)**

- ▶ **Cariforum – EU Troika Summit, Lima** (17/05/2008)

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/er/100455.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/er/100455.pdf)

- ♦ **Central America**

- ▶ **Central America EU-Summit, Lima** (17/05/2008)

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/er/100456.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/er/100456.pdf)

- ♦ **Chile**

- ▶ **Third Chile-EU Troika Summit, Lima** (17/05/2008)

“Furthermore, as part of the shared objective of deepening their mutual relations and strengthening the political dialogue, Chile announced its willingness to work with the European Union on the follow-up of the social cohesion or/and climate change topics included on the Lima agenda. In the same way, the Parties agreed to improve their coordination in multilateral fora, especially regarding human rights. To this end, they agreed to hold a senior officials coordination meeting in Brussels in the near future. Parties also decided to organize a seminar to mark the five-year anniversary of the Association Agreement that will include the participation of all actors involved and be forward looking.”

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/er/100457.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/er/100457.pdf)

- ♦ **Ecuador**

- ▶ **Javier SOLANA, Alto Representante de la Unión Europea para la Política Exterior y de Seguridad Común (PESC), se reunió hoy con Rafael CORREA, Presidente de Ecuador** (13/05/2008)

Javier SOLANA, Alto Representante de la Unión Europea para la PESC, se reunió hoy con Rafael CORREA, Presidente de Ecuador.

El Alto Representante y el Presidente Correa pasaron revista a temas importantes de naturaleza bilateral y regional, dos días antes de que Javier Solana emprendiera viaje a Lima para participar en la Cumbre entre la Unión Europea y América Latina.

Javier Solana y el Presidente ecuatoriano abordaron, entre otros temas, el proyecto medioambiental de Ecuador de mantener sin explotar un gran yacimiento petrolífero en la Amazonía a cambio de una compensación financiera internacional. También discutieron el "Plan Ecuador", programa de desarrollo humano en la zona fronteriza de dicho país con Colombia.

Dirigiéndose a la prensa después del encuentro, Javier Solana dijo: "Ecuador es un país importante en la región andina, con el que tenemos unas relaciones bilaterales espléndidas; un país que se comporta, desde el punto de vista de los temas internacionales, de la forma más positiva posible."

Refiriéndose a los problemas de Ecuador con alguno de los países vecinos, el Alto Representante añadió: "estoy seguro de que Ecuador va a reaccionar y seguir reaccionando de la manera que corresponde a un país tan serio y tan riguroso como Ecuador."

Por su parte, el Presidente Correa dijo que Ecuador pedía el apoyo de la UE y del mundo para intentar encontrar una solución pacífica al conflicto colombiano. Rafael Correa también dijo que, en materia energética había venido con una iniciativa muy innovadora, de ruptura, que puede marcar un hito en las políticas energéticas y económicas a nivel mundial.

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/es/declarations/100307.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/es/declarations/100307.pdf)

- ♦ **Mexico**

- ▶ **Fourth Mexico-EU Troika Summit, Lima** (17/05/2008)

"The Parties further agreed to increase bilateral cooperation on human rights and pointed out the importance of the 2008-2010 Mexico-EU human rights cooperation programme, its main lines being eradication of gender-based violence, reform of Mexico's justice system and harmonisation of the country's legislation with international human rights instruments."

"The EU and Mexico reiterated their readiness to work together for a reform of the United Nations. On the basis of the awareness that peace, security, human rights and development are inter-linked and self reinforcing factors, the parties agreed to continue pressing for better coordination among the different UN bodies."

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/en/er/100458.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/er/100458.pdf)

- ♦ **USA**

- ▶ **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU concerning the resumption of executions in the USA** (14/05/2008)

On 2 May 2008 the Ambassadors of the European Union in Washington appealed to the relevant authorities in the State of Georgia to spare the life of Mr. William Lynd. Most regrettably, clemency appeals in the case of Mr. Lynd were denied and a subsequent appeal hearing before the Georgia Supreme Court also proved unsuccessful.

The European Union deeply regrets that Mr. William Lynd was executed in the State of Georgia on 6 May 2008.

This execution breaks a de facto moratorium that has been in place across the United States while the United States Supreme Court was hearing the Baze v. Rees case. The United States Supreme Court ruling of 16 April 2008 in Mr. Baze's case, allowed for the continued use of lethal injection as practiced by the State of Kentucky.

The EU again reiterates its longstanding position against the death penalty in all circumstances and accordingly strives to achieve its universal abolition, seeking a global moratorium on the death penalty as the first step. We believe that the elimination of the death penalty is fundamental to the protection of human dignity, and to the progressive development of human rights.

**The EU recalls that on 18 December 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on a Moratorium on the use of the death penalty, which explicitly calls upon all States that still maintain the death penalty to establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.**

The EU notes that any miscarriage or failure of justice in the application of the death penalty represents an irreparable and irreversible loss of human life. No legal system is immune from mistakes and there is no reliable evidence that the death penalty provides added value in terms of deterrence.

In light of this most regrettable resumption in the use of the death penalty in the United States, with the execution of Mr. Lynd in the State of Georgia, the European Union urges the immediate re-establishment of a de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty across the entire United States, with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

[http://www.eu2008.si/en/News\\_and\\_Documents/CFSP\\_Statements/May/0514executionsUSA.html](http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/May/0514executionsUSA.html)

## ASIA

### ♦ **Burma/Myanmar - China**

- ▶ **Extraordinary GAERC meets to discuss humanitarian situation in Burma/Myanmar and China (13/05/2008)**

**EU development ministers met today in an extraordinary General Affairs and External Relations Council meeting in order to assess the state of play regarding the humanitarian situation in Burma/Myanmar after the devastation caused by the cyclone Nargis, and review the response of the EU member states and the European Commission.** They also discussed the tragic earthquake that shook China's Szechuan province on Monday.

The Council, chaired by Slovenian State Secretary Andrej Šter, today repeated its expression of sympathy with the people of Burma/Myanmar, especially the families of the victims of the deadly cyclone.

The ministers stressed that the scope of the tragedy could increase without the co-operation of the authorities in Burma/Myanmar. They welcomed some limited improvement that has been made recently in this respect, but stressed that more needs to be done to ensure a free access to the affected area to the international humanitarian experts, including the expeditious delivery of visa and travel permits.

The Council also called on the Burma/Myanmar authorities to take urgent action to facilitate the flow of aid to people in desperate need who should benefit in full from the relief offered by the international community.

"What is important is to ensure - with the consent of the Burma/Myanmar authorities - that the aid reaches those who need it," said State Secretary Šter.

The EU ministers expressed their support to any initiative, including in the UN bodies, which would help to meet the humanitarian needs of the Burmese people.

State Secretary Šter said that today's debate on the EU humanitarian response focused on finding ways on how to channel the collected aid to those who need it the most. The Council welcomed the contributions that the Commission, Member States and individual citizens have made to the relief efforts, and expressed EU's readiness to provide additional assistance to meet the massive needs of the people, especially children.

**They recalled that the EU Humanitarian Aid is entirely neutral, impartial and independent, in accordance with the EU Consensus on Humanitarian Aid.**

The ministers also welcomed the initiative of the Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid Louis Michel to travel to Burma/Myanmar for purely humanitarian purposes.

Another subject of debate at today's extraordinary GAERC meeting was Monday's devastating earthquake in China. The Council expressed its deepest condolences to the people of China for the massive loss of life and devastation caused by the earthquake which struck the country.

The Ministers noted China's readiness to welcome foreign assistance, and expressed the European Union's readiness to provide it as soon as conditions on the ground permit it.

[http://www.eu2008.si/en/News\\_and\\_Documents/Press\\_Releases/May/0513SPBR\\_GAERC\\_Myanmar\\_China.html](http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/Press_Releases/May/0513SPBR_GAERC_Myanmar_China.html)

- ♦ **China**

- ▶ **Presidency Press Statement on the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue**  
(15/05/2008)

The European Union and China held the 25th round of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue in Brdo, Slovenia, on 15 May 2008. The dialogue was preceded by a legal seminar on 13-14 May, which focused on the right to health and children's rights. This was the first such seminar since 2006 and it provided a platform for constructive discussions among Chinese and European academics and officials as well as international NGOs specialised in these topics.

During the dialogue meeting on 15 May, **senior officials from China and the EU discussed a wide range of human rights issues. Special attention was given to questions related to freedom of expression, the rights of minorities, in particular in Tibet, and cooperation in UN fora.**

**The European Union called on China to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to abolish the Re-education through Labour system and to release the remaining Tiananmen prisoners.** China reiterated its commitment to ratify the ICCPR as soon as appropriate reforms to its judicial system had been put in place. The EU welcomed the drop in executions during 2006 and 2007 and requested that China make public statistics on death sentences and executions.

The EU expressed its disquiet over the continuing restrictions on freedom of expression in China, including on press freedom and on the internet. In this context the EU raised the issue of the implementation of the regulations on foreign journalists. Furthermore, the EU emphasised its serious concern regarding the situation of human rights defenders and petitioners.

The EU underlined its deep anxiety about the human rights and humanitarian situation in Tibet following recent events. China reiterated in detail its customary position on the situation in Tibet and the role of the Dalai Lama, while noting that the door to further talks remained open.

The next round of the dialogue is scheduled to take place under the French Presidency in Beijing during the second half of 2008.

[http://www.eu2008.si/en/News\\_and\\_Documents/Press\\_Releases/May/0516MZZ\\_China\\_Human\\_Rights.htm](http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/Press_Releases/May/0516MZZ_China_Human_Rights.htm)

- ♦ **India**

- ▶ **EU Presidency statement on bomb attacks in Jaipur** (14/05/2008)

The Presidency of the EU wholeheartedly condemns the bomb attacks in Jaipur, India on 13 May 2008, which killed a large number of civilians and wounded many more.

The Presidency expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the victims, and wishes a fast recovery to those injured in these atrocities.

These attacks clearly demonstrate that terrorism is a serious threat to all States and to all peoples. No cause, no grievance, can justify acts of terrorism.

[http://www.eu2008.si/en/News\\_and\\_Documents/CFSP\\_Statements/May/0514MZZ\\_India.html](http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/May/0514MZZ_India.html)

<b>EUROPE (outside of UE ) and CIS</b>
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- ♦ **FYROM**

- ▶ **EU Presidency calls on peaceful election campaign in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** (13/05/2008)

The EU Presidency strongly condemns a series of incidents that occurred in the past few days in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Violence has no place in election campaign.

The Presidency therefore urges the relevant authorities to investigate the incidents and to prosecute the perpetrators.

It calls upon all political parties in the country to honour the pledges made by signing the Code of Conduct for Free and Fair Elections, and to demonstrate their full commitment to free, fair, and peaceful elections.

[http://www.eu2008.si/en/News\\_and\\_Documents/Press\\_Releases/May/0513MZZmacedonia.html](http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/Press_Releases/May/0513MZZmacedonia.html)

<b>MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST</b>
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- ♦ **Lebanon**

► **EU Presidency Statement on the situation on Lebanon** (16/05/2008)

The EU Presidency welcomes the positive outcome of the mediation mission conducted by the Arab League and Qatar on 15th May. The EU Presidency calls on Lebanese parties to restart dialogue aiming at the full resumption of the functioning of democratic institutions in Lebanon.

[http://www.eu2008.si/en/News\\_and\\_Documents/CFSP\\_Statements/May/0516MZZ\\_Libanon.html](http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/May/0516MZZ_Libanon.html)

♦ **Lebanon**

► **Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the CFSP, welcomes the Arab League plan for Lebanon and urges all political forces to engage in national dialogue** (16/05/2008)

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), issued a statement today welcoming the agreement on Lebanon brokered yesterday by the Arab League delegation in Beirut led by Qatar and urged all the political forces in Lebanon to pursue the process of national dialogue to be launched in Doha today:

"I welcome the agreement reached yesterday in Beirut under the auspices of the Arab League and I congratulate Qatar on its successful mediation. The Arab League plan for Lebanon is the most balanced and the fairest proposal on the table and I hope that it will remain the basis for the discussions that are to be launched in Doha today. I urge all the political forces of Lebanon to engage in this process of national dialogue and I wish them every success in achieving the best outcome for the people of Lebanon.

Returning to dialogue is the only way to return to normality. The priority must be to restore Lebanon's constitutional institutions as quickly as possible and to elect a president who enjoys the full confidence of all the Lebanese people.

The legitimate government led by Prime Minister Fouad Siniora has the European Union's full support. I would also like to praise the security services who once again acted in a judicious and restrained manner during the crisis.

I again call on all the parties concerned in Lebanon and in the region to act constructively to ensure the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon. This is crucial for the stability of the entire region."

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/declarations/100394.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/declarations/100394.pdf)

