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- August, 27, 2007

#### **Committee on Foreign Affairs**

- September , 3, 2007 Strasbourg

#### **Subcommittee on Human Rights**

- August, 27, 2007

#### **Subcommittee on security and defence**

- September, 11, 2007

#### **Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and home affairs**

- August, 27, 2007

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

- September, 11, 2007

#### **Committee on budgetary control**

- September, 11,12, 2007

### **CONFERENCES / EVENTS**

## REGIONS:

### AFRICA

#### Libya

- ▶ President Pöttering welcomes the release of the Bulgarian nurses and doctor  
(24/07/2007)

In a statement released today Hans-Gert Pöttering, the President of the European Parliament, welcomed the decision of the Libyan authorities to release the five Bulgarian nurses and a doctor. President Pöttering stated that "the European Parliament welcomes the release of the six detained Bulgarians, who today were freed to return to Europe and their homeland. We are particularly pleased that a solution has been found to this legal ordeal for those concerned and their families".

He added that "for the five Bulgarian nurses and the Palestinian doctor, who meanwhile received Bulgarian nationality, almost nine years of imprisonment ended today".

He went on to say "we consider the decision of the Libyan authorities as a positive signal. The European Parliament thanks all those, in particular EU External Affairs Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner, who worked tirelessly and, in the end, successfully for the release of the six Bulgarians and for the care of the infected children".

The European Parliament had repeatedly called on the Libyan authorities to release the Bulgarian nurses and the doctor. The President of the European Parliament met with the relatives of the nurses in April this year. In addition, Parliament asked the European Commission and the Member States for political and diplomatic support for the liberation of these Europeans. Their story has now reached a happy conclusion.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story\\_page/008-9690-211-07-31-901-20070724STO09687-2007-30-07-2007/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/008-9690-211-07-31-901-20070724STO09687-2007-30-07-2007/default_en.htm)

#### Libya

- ▶ EU Presidency statement on the agreement for the return to Sofia of the Bulgarian medical personnel (24/07/2007)

The EU Presidency welcomes the conclusion of all the procedural steps that allowed the return of the Bulgarian medical personnel to Sofia.

The Presidency acknowledges the Libyan authorities' constructive attitude and would like to express its most sincere appreciation for all the efforts taken by all of those involved in finding a solution on the basis of human solidarity on this issue.

The EU Presidency acknowledges the potential of increased EU-Libya co-operation in many areas of common interest and reiterates the EU's commitment to work on the framework of future EU-Libya relations.

[http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias\\_Documentos/Declaracoes\\_PESC/20070724bulgen.htm](http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias_Documentos/Declaracoes_PESC/20070724bulgen.htm)

#### Rwanda

- ▶ **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union concerning the formal abolition of the death penalty in Rwanda** (26/07/2007)

The European Union warmly welcomes the formal abolition of the death penalty in Rwanda on 25 July 2007. We congratulate the Rwandan government and Rwanda people on this important decision.

The Rwandan decision constitutes a fundamental advance in the promotion of human rights and a solid commitment to ensure justice and reconciliation in Rwanda 13 years after the genocide while rejecting violence in all its forms.

Members of the European Union consider that the abolition of capital punishment contributes to the enhancement of human dignity. The European Union reaffirms its objective of working towards universal abolition of the death penalty. It believes that abolition by Rwanda is an important step towards that aim and hopes that this decision will encourage other countries in the region to follow suit.

[http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias\\_Documentos/Declaracoes\\_PESC/cfsp\\_0726.htm](http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias_Documentos/Declaracoes_PESC/cfsp_0726.htm)

## AMERICAS

## ASIA

### Pakistan

- ▶ **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the decision of the Government of Pakistan to respect the ruling of the Supreme Court of Justice to reinstate Chief of Justice Iftikar Chaudhry** (25/07/2007)

The Presidency, on behalf of the EU, welcomes the decision of the Government of Pakistan to respect the ruling of the Supreme Court of Justice to reinstate Chief of Justice Iftikar Chaudhry. Independence of the judiciary and the rule of law are key elements of democracy. The EU hopes Pakistan will continue to abide by these principles, on the path towards enhanced legitimacy of political institutions and democratic consolidation, in particular in the view of the forthcoming elections.

[http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias\\_Documentos/Declaracoes\\_PESC/20070725PESCPK.htm](http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias_Documentos/Declaracoes_PESC/20070725PESCPK.htm)

## EUROPE (OUTSIDE OF UE ) AND CIS

### Kosovo

- ▶ **Council Conclusion (GAERC)** (23/07/2007)

The Council adopted a joint action amending and extending until 30 November 2007 the mandate of the planning team (EUPT Kosovo) for a possible EU mission in Kosovo in the framework of the European security and defence policy to deal with the rule of law and other areas (11411/07).

Joint action 2006/304/CFSP is thus amended in order to take into account the need to recruit and to train core personnel for the possible operation before the adoption of a new United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) to replace UNSCR 1244.

In parallel, the EU is also preparing for a possible international civilian office in Kosovo, including an EU special representative component.

[http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias\\_Documentos/Conclusoes\\_Conselho/](http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias_Documentos/Conclusoes_Conselho/)

## **Belarus**

### **► Statement by European Commissioner for External relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, Benita Ferrero -Waldner (26/07/2007)**

European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, said:

"I am dismayed at the arrest and detention of several members of the Belarus democratic opposition over the last days, including Pavel Severinets and Aleksei Shein. I call on the Belarusian authorities to release all those detained on political grounds without delay.

It should be remembered that politically-motivated arrests are in contradiction to the EU's offer to Belarus to engage in a full partnership as part of the European Neighbourhood Policy, as is clearly set-out in the "non-paper to Belarus" that we issued last November. The EU's offer is subject to Belarus taking steps towards democratisation and respect for human rights, including the inalienable right of the people of Belarus to express themselves freely."

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1181&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

<b>MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST</b>
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**THEMATIC :**

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### ICTY

#### ► **Council Conclusion (GAERC) (23/07/2007)**

The Council adopted a decision to implement common position 2004/293/CFSP on the renewal of measures in support of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), amending the list of persons to whom a visa ban should apply (11586/07).

Following the transfer of Mr Vlastimir Djordjevic to ICTY custody, certain individuals connected with him are removed from the list to which common position 2004/293/CFSP applies. One person is added to the list.

Common position 2004/293/CFSP provides for measures to prevent the entry into the EU of individuals engaged in activities which help persons at large to continue to evade justice for crimes for which they have been indicted by the ICTY, or who are otherwise acting in a manner which could obstruct the effective implementation of the ICTY's mandate.

The modified list contains 42 names.

[http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias\\_Documentos/Conclusoes\\_Conselho/](http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias_Documentos/Conclusoes_Conselho/)

### **EU Representative in the EU –Russia-US team charged with facilitating negotiations on the future of Kosovo**

#### ► **Javier Solana EU High Representative for the CFSP appoints Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger as representative of the EU to facilitate negotiations between Belgrade and Pristina**

Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), has appointed Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger as EU representative in the European Union - Russia United States team charged with facilitating negotiations between Belgrade and Pristina on the future of Kosovo.

Ambassador Ischinger will make every effort to achieve real and meaningful negotiations between the parties. Kosovo is a key priority for the European Union. The High Representative will continue to closely follow the situation and his frequent contacts with the parties with the aim to achieve a lasting and sustainable solution to the question.

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/showPage.ASP?lang=en>