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- ▶ 13 December 2004
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◆ EU- Israel association Council

- ▶ 13 December 2004

THIRD COUNTRY MEETINGS

◆ EU- Bulgaria preaccession conference

- ▶ 14 December 2004

◆ EU- Romania preaccession conference

- ▶ 14 December 2004

◆ EU- US Ministerial meeting

- ▶ 31 December 2004

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

◆ Plenary Session

- ▶ 13 - 16 December 2004 (Strasbourg)

13 December:

- Report on Turkey's progress towards accession

(Final draft agenda available on: <http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-europarl?PROG=AGENDA&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+AGENDA+20041213+SIT+DOC+XML+V0//EN>)

14 December:

- Award of 2004 Sakharov Prize to the Association of Journalists of Belarus

(Final draft agenda available on: <http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=AGENDA&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+AGENDA+20041214+SIT+DOC+XML+V0//EN>)

15 December:

- Votes including Motions for resolutions – EU/Russia Summit

- Report on Bulgaria's progress towards accession

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- Report on cooperation to development: democracy, rule of law, human rights

(Final draft agenda available on: <http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=AGENDA&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+AGENDA+20041215+SIT+DOC+XML+V0//EN>)

16 December:

- Debates on breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law: Zimbabwe, Eastern Congo and Bhopal

(Final draft agenda available on: <http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=AGENDA&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+AGENDA+20041216+SIT+DOC+XML+V0//EN>)

- ▶ 10 - 27 January 2005

◆ **Committee on Development**

- ▶ 18 January 2005
- ▶ 19 January 2005
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◆ **Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs**

- ▶ 18 January 2005
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◆ **Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality**

- ▶ 24 January 2005
- ▶ 25 January 2005

◆ **Subcommittee on Human Rights**

- ▶ 13 December 2004 (Strasbourg)
 - Discussion with Zhanna LITVINA, President of the Belarusian Association of Journalists, winner of the 2004 Sakharov Prize; with the participation of the Delegation for Relations with Belarus

- ▶ 27 January 2005

(Calendar of meeting for the year 2005 available on :

http://www.europarl.eu.int/meetdocs/2004_2009/documents/FD/DROI_Calendar_2005_/droi_calendar_2005_en.pdf)

REGIONS:

AFRICA

► **Africa-Europe Dialogue third meeting of the troikas Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) (06.12.04)**

◆ **Page 2 : Peace and Security**

Ministers exchanged views on matters relating to peace and security in Africa, including on conflict situations, the Peace Facility, the operationalisation of the AU Peace and Security Council, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the reform and restructuring of the UN Security Council, the illicit proliferation and trade in small arms, light weapons, landmines, terrorism and mercenarism. In this context, the Ministers took note of the progress made and the challenges confronting the African Union in these different areas, underlining the importance of partnership in dealing with these issues.

Ministers discussed at length the crisis in the Darfur region of the Sudan and underscored the urgency to effectively manage the crisis and restore peace, security and stability in the whole of the Sudan.(...)

Ministers condemned the escalation of violence in Côte d'Ivoire and expressed concern at the risk of their regional spill-over. (...)

They welcomed the initiative to convene, at the level of Heads of State and Government, a Peace and Security Council meeting on 10 December 2004 to discuss the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.

The two sides also welcomed the landmark achievements made in the Somali peace process, particularly the election of transitional federal institutions including a Transitional Federal President, a Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP) and its Speaker. (...)

The EU expressed its readiness to provide assistance to the AU's efforts aimed at promoting security and stabilisation in Somalia.

Both sides expressed concern at the renewed tensions in the border regions of Eastern DRC and urged regional leaders to fully respect territorial sovereignty and to abide by the Declaration of Principles adopted in Dar-es-Salaam on 19 november 2004. (...)

It was also stressed that the two sides share a common approach to multilateralism, particularly within the framework of the United Nations. In this regard, the two sides agreed to hold consultations on the reform of the UN System, particularly the Security Council. The EU took note of Africa's position requesting for at least two permanent seats and five non-permanent seats at the Security Council. **In order to promote effective multilateralism in the area of peace and security, it was emphasised that there is a need for establishing cooperation between the Peace and Security Council of the AU and the EU.**

◆ **Page 4: Governance**

Africa recognises that democracy and good governance are essential for the sustainable social, political and economic development of the continent. Ministers acknowledged that, since Dublin, Africa has made steady progress in enhancing democratic principles and strengthening the democratic institutions. (...)

The EU welcomed the successful holding of the first two sessions of the Pan-African Parliament and took note of **the forthcoming merger of the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Court of Justice.** The EU will consider modalities for support to the Court once established. Both sides noted the progress being achieved in the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) as a New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) programme for good governance, democracy, transparency and broader issues such as the Millennium Development Goals. (...)

Ministers agreed that human rights are an essential element of EU-Africa partnership. The AU and the EU committed themselves to create a mutual enrichment and exchange of experiences and support the promotion of human rights and humanitarian issues.

Ministers agreed that the AU and the EU would increase co-operation to work towards a common approach to human rights in multilateral institutions, especially the United Nations' General

Assembly and the UN Commission on Human Rights. Both sides agreed to work together towards a more effective protection of women and children in conflict situations. (...)

Ministers reiterated the need for an effective multilateral system. In this regard, the AU and the EU committed themselves to cooperating with regard to the reform and the revitalisation of the United Nations system and to promote an open, equitable, rule-based, non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system. **Ministers also emphasised the importance of respect for international human rights and humanitarian law, particularly through strong support for the International Criminal Court.**

◆ Page 7: key development issues

(...) **The meeting, recognised the complex nature of migratory flows, linked to, amongst others, development issues. The two parties acknowledged that the fight against clandestine immigration and human trafficking, particularly women and children, should be carried out in observance of the fundamental rights of the migrant, which is compatible with the legitimate objectives of security and sovereignty of States. Both sides encouraged European and African States to sign and ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Migrants.** Within the prospect of the establishment of this partnership, they agreed on the need to devote a special meeting of the AU and EU Commissions to the theme of migration. (...)

Both parties agreed to submit the Plan of Action on Trafficking in Human Beings Especially Women and Children for consideration by the AU and EU Ministers meeting with a view to its subsequent adoption by the AU and EU Heads of State and Government Summit. (...)

The two parties acknowledged that cloning of human beings in particular and bioethics issues in general, relate to human rights and dignity of human beings. The African side informed the Meeting on the decision of the AU Executive Council that Africa intends to develop and adopt a common position in this area together with a continental legal framework that will assist AU Member States to **prepare laws and regulations aimed at protecting human dignity, human rights and freedoms in Africa.**

◆ Page 11: any other business

Ministers underlined that **women's role and contribution are absolutely critical to Africa's development, while recognising at the same time that, to date, African women continue to lag behind men in terms of, among other things, access to education, economic opportunities and decision-making structures. (...)**

http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/er/82969.pdf (EN)

◆ **Mozambique**

▶ Elections in Mozambique: "free and open" (07.12.04)

The polling in Mozambique on 1 and 2 December was given a stamp of approval by the EU monitoring mission in a preliminary statement issued in the Mozambican capital, Maputo, on Saturday. At the same time, MEPs said they hoped that the processing of the final results would be of an equally high quality.

Glenys KINNOCK, who headed the European Parliament delegation within the EU mission, said she was **very positive about the polling in the Mozambican parliamentary and presidential elections. "These were multi-party elections and they were well-prepared and conducted very professionally. The young people staffing the polling stations were very well-trained", she noted. "The EP delegation visited many, many polling stations", Mrs Kinnock said, "and could see that the Mozambicans were able to vote in a free and open manner". (...)**

She pointed out that MEPs by nature have a particular interest in elections and especially in Mozambique, which plays an important part in its region. Moreover, she concluded, **Europe bears a great responsibility towards Mozambique, which faces a huge challenge in eradicating severe poverty and deprivation.**

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=PRESS-NEWSRP&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+NR-20041207-1+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN> (EN)

◆ Sudan

- ▶ **Louis Michel meets the leader of the main movement in southern Sudan** (06.12.04)

Louis Michel, the member of the European Commission responsible for development and humanitarian aid, was in Nairobi for a meeting with John Garang, the leader of southern Sudan's principal movement, the SPLA/M (Sudan People's Liberation Movement). This meeting followed last week's visit to Khartoum, where Mr Michel met Sudan's President Omar Al-Bashir to discuss a possible peace agreement between the north and south of the country.

Mr Michel expressed the support of the Commission and the EU for the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement between the Sudanese government and the SPLM before the end of the year, as the parties pledged to do in a protocol signed in Nairobi on 19 November as part of the Naivasha process. Mr Michel explained that it was in the interest of both parties that this agreement should provide a platform for a comprehensive settlement in the other crises besetting Sudan, and in particular Darfur. (...)

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1442&format=PDF&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en> (EN)

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1442&format=PDF&aged=0&language=FR&guiLanguage=en> (FR)

◆ Somalia

- ▶ **Declaration by the EU Presidency welcoming the inauguration of the transitional Federal Government in Somalia** (08.12.04)

The European Union welcomes the outcome of the Somali National Reconciliation Conference and in particular the cohesiveness shown by Somali leaders and IGAD member states and their resolve to adopt a common approach based on political consensus. The EU expresses its gratitude in particular towards the Kenyan authorities for their exceptional support to the Reconciliation Conference.

The European Union reassures all parties in the process of their continued close commitment to reconciliation in Somalia and reiterates its support for the Transitional Federal Authorities.

The European Union believes that the inauguration of a Transitional Federal Government is an important step towards the establishment of sustainable peace, stability and central authority in Somalia, but emphasises that much work still lies ahead if this objective is to be achieved.

http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/cfsp/82995.pdf (EN)

◆ RDC

- ▶ **L'Union européenne lance une mission de police à Kinshasa en République démocratique du Congo (RDC) (EUPOL - "KINSHASA")** (09.12.04)

La mission vise à assurer des actions de suivi, d'encadrement et de conseil en ce qui concerne la mise en place et la phase initiale de lancement d'une unité de police intégrée à Kinshasa afin de garantir que cette unité agisse conformément à la formation reçue à l'École de police et selon les meilleures pratiques internationales dans ce domaine. Cette mission intervient suite à la demande du gouvernement de la RDC d'une assistance de l'UE pour la mise en place d'une unité de police intégrée, celle-ci devant contribuer à assurer la protection des institutions étatiques et renforcer l'appareil de sécurité intérieure.

La mission EUPOL-KINSHASA au titre de la PESD intervient suite à l'action de formation de l'unité de police intégrée menée au titre du Fonds européen de développement.

http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/fr/misc/83038.pdf (FR)

◆ **Colombia**

- ▶ **Parliamentary questions - Subject: Human rights abuse involving EU citizens in Colombia - by Mary McDonald to the Commission (oral question H-0475/04) (06.12.04)**

Three Irishmen and EU citizens, Niall Connolly, Martin McAuley and James Monaghan, were detained in Colombian jails from August 2001 to April 2004. During that time, their rights were systematically denied, and their lives were in constant danger. President Uribe, the head of the armed forces, and the Attorney-General made prejudicial comments during the detention. In April 2004, Judge Acosta found the three EU citizens innocent of charges of training the FARC. The men have been denied the right to leave the country because the Attorney-General, Luis Camilo Osario – whose human rights record has been documented by international human rights organisations – has appealed against the decision. This is in flagrant violation of the rights of these EU citizens.

What is the Commission's view of the breaches of the rights of these EU citizens, and what is it doing to uphold the rights of these three EU citizens?

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=QT&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+QT+H-2004-0475+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN> (EN)

◆ **United States**

- ▶ **Transatlantic Policy Network - Autumn Meeting - Speech by Benita Ferrero-Waldner (Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy) (07.12.04)**

(...)This meeting provides me with a good opportunity to take a step back and **examine the current state of Transatlantic relations**. The presidential elections in the United States have just taken place. President Bush and his team are setting the priorities for US foreign policy for the coming four years. Similarly, on this side of the Atlantic, a new European Commission has just been appointed, and is setting its foreign policy priorities. (...)

The European Union and the United States are both founded on the same principles of respect for the rule of law, democracy, and human rights. It is this set of common values which is at the heart of the Transatlantic relationship and which binds us so firmly to each another. (...)

Both sides of the Atlantic are faced by the threat of international terrorism, and both sides have experienced the pain and suffering it can deliver. There is also the threat posed by the proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons, whether in the hands of states or non-state actors. Other threats include the conjunction of poverty, disease, and instability which overwhelms much of Africa, and the global threat posed by climate change. Such threats do not respect national borders. We will only overcome them by closer international co-operation. And EU-US co-operation is a necessary precondition for progress in these areas. (...)

Our objectives in many areas are the same. The United States talks of the importance of promoting reform in the Broader Middle East and the Mediterranean, and this is one of objectives too. We see the post-Arafat era as an opportunity to re-launch the Middle East Peace Process and look forward to close cooperation with the US in this area. We also welcome the US commitment to support the EU's objectives of stability, prosperity and co-operation in the Mediterranean. We intend to work with the US in extending a similar approach into the broader Middle East.

On Iraq we share the objectives of supporting the reconstruction of the country and the establishment of a democratic political process. No matter what disagreements may have existed in the past, it is indisputable that a united front is now needed to ensure a positive outcome. **And on Iran we need close EU-US co-operation to make sure that the 'Paris agreement' is properly implemented.**

Maintaining peace on the Korean peninsula; supporting efforts at rapprochement between India and Pakistan; and encouraging the integration of China into the global political and economic system represent other important common priorities. (...)

And finally, an area where I believe the US recognises the unique role that the EU can play, is that of the very *idea of Europe*. This embodies a union of nations based on democracy, tolerance, prosperity, and the rule of law. (...)

The new Europe of which we are so proud today could not have come about without the efforts of generations of Europeans and Americans working together. **We now have an opportunity – indeed a**

moral and practical obligation – to commit ourselves to working together to project peace, democracy, the rule of law, the protection of human rights and prosperity to the wider world.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/news/ferrero/2004/speech04_520_en.htm (EN)

ASIA

◆ China

▶ 7th EU-China Summit (08.12.04)

The Leaders reviewed the development of EU-China relations and welcomed the progress made since the Sixth Summit meeting. (...)

The two sides signed the Joint Declaration on Non-proliferation and Arms Control whereby they recognise each other as major strategic partners in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. (...)

The EU and China confirmed that EU-China relations in all aspects have developed significantly in the last years. In this context they discussed **the issue of the EU arms embargo against China**. The EU side confirmed its political will to continue to work towards lifting the embargo. The Chinese side welcomed the positive signal, and considered it beneficial to the sound development of the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and the EU. (...)

The EU side reaffirmed its continued adherence to the one China policy, and expressed **its hope for a peaceful resolution of the Taiwan question through constructive dialogue**. The Chinese side appreciated the EU's commitment to the one China policy and reiterated its principled position on the Taiwan question.

The Leaders believed that the EU-China human rights dialogue promoted mutual understanding and agreed to continue this dialogue, while making efforts to achieve more meaningful and positive results on the ground, as well as the related bilateral co-operation programme. **They underlined their respect for international human rights standards provided for in relevant international human rights instruments, including on the rights of minorities, and their commitment to co-operate with UN human rights mechanisms**. In this respect, China is committed to the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) as soon as possible. They also noted **the importance of the International Criminal Court in the global fight against genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity**. The Leaders underlined the importance of concrete steps in the field of human rights and reaffirmed their commitment to further enhance co-operation and exchanges in this field on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

The Leaders underlined that activities on facilitating people-to-people exchanges and co-operation in combating illegal migration are a priority for both sides. In the spirit of full reciprocity, leaders discussed issues of readmission and visa facilitation. They hoped for an early opening of negotiations on these issues, as soon as technically and juridically possible. Entry procedures were also discussed. **The EU reaffirmed the importance of EU-China operational co-operation on combating illegal migration and trafficking in human being**. (...)

The Leaders had an in-depth exchange of views on international and regional issues of common interest. **Leaders reaffirmed the commitment of China and the EU to promoting peace, security and sustainable development throughout the world, with the United Nations at its core**. They expressed their strong support for revitalisation and reform of the UN in order to be able to cope with existing and new challenges and threats, and underlined that the report of the UN High-Level Panel should serve as a basis for discussions in this regard and the need for any plan of reform to be decided by consensus through consultation.

The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to the fight against terrorism and reiterated that anti-terrorism action must accord with the purpose and principles of the UN Charter and the norms of relevant International Law and fully respect human rights. The two sides underlined the leading role of the United Nations with respect to counter-terrorism, and the importance of the universal implementation of all UN Security Council resolutions, UN conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism.

http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/er/82998.pdf (EN)

See also the speech by José Manuel Barroso (President of the European Commission) on:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/news/barroso/sp04_523.htm (EN)

◆ Nepal

- ▶ Visit by EU troika of Regional Directors Kathmandu, 13-15 December 2004 (08.12.04)

This is the first time ever that the EU has sent a Troika to Nepal. The Troika is due to have meetings with high-level representatives of the Government of Nepal (including the Prime Minister, the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the Chief of Army Staff) and civil society, as well as representatives of the international community resident in Nepal. The Troika travels under a mandate from all Member States of the EU to convey to the authorities in Kathmandu the growing level of concern felt throughout the Union at the situation in Nepal. **The aim of the Troika is therefore to offer EU support to all efforts aimed at curtailing violence and renewing dialogue between the Government and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist).** The EU calls upon all constitutional forces to work closely together in support of a common strategy for achieving a comprehensive and inclusive settlement in Nepal, based upon multi-party democracy and constitutional monarchy. **The Troika will also express the EU's grave concern at the human rights situation in Nepal and the abuses committed by both sides.**

http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/er/83003.pdf (EN)

◆ Burma/Myanmar

- ▶ Declaration by the EU Presidency on the extension of detention of Aung San Suu Kyi (10.12.04)

The EU condemns the continued detention of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and regrets that although a small number of political prisoners has been released, a large number remains in detention.

The EU recalls its earlier position in this matter that, in order to improve its relations with the EU, the government of Burma/Myanmar should take the following steps:

- the immediate release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners;
- the participation of the NLD and other democratic parties and all ethnic groups in the National Convention, which is announced to resume in February 200 ;
- the resumption of the National Convention with genuine and open debate for all participants.

The EU continues to urge the government of Burma/Myanmar to grant without further delay to the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Burma/Myanmar, Tan Sri Razali Ismail, and to the UN Special Rapporteur, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, complete, free, unrestricted access to Burma/Myanmar. (...)

http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/83052.pdf (EN)

see also the declaration by the EU Presidency on:

http://www.eu2004.nl/default.asp?CMS_ITEM=3B055E8318D24A1FA25FCCC7481DD265X1X65342X42 (EN)

EUROPE(outside of UE) and CIS

◆ Russia

- ▶ Council of Europe Anti-Torture Committee returns to the North Caucasian region of the Russian Federation (07.12.04)

The latest visit was an opportunity to review progress made in tackling issues raised in that statement, in particular **resort to torture and other forms of ill-treatment** by members of the law enforcement agencies and federal forces, **forced disappearances and impunity**. In addition, the Committee examined for the first time the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty in the Republic of Ingushetia.

<http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/rus/2004-12-03-eng.htm> (EN)

Public statement concerning the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation (made on 10 July 2003) is available on:

<http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/rus/2003-33-inf-eng.htm>

◆ Ukraine

- ▶ Statement by Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the CFSP, after the latest decisions by the Ukrainian Parliament (08.12.04)

"I congratulate all sides on the crucial decisions that were taken by the members of the Rada, the speaker of the Parliament and the President of Ukraine. **These decisions should paved the way for a free and fair rerun of elections in Ukraine on 26 December.** The fact that these decisions were taken with such a convincing majority is **a very encouraging sign about the reconciliation process** in the country after some time of internal tensions. I call on all sides to continue working in this spirit, so that the elections will be come a true victory for democracy in Ukraine ."

http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/declarations/82999.pdf (EN)

- ▶ Declaration by the EU Presidency on Ukraine (08.12.04)

The Presidency of the European Union welcomes the decision of the Parliament of Ukraine on 8 December 2004 **to pass a package of measures changing the electoral code, the composition of the Central Electoral Commission, and amending the constitution by transferring certain presidential powers to the Ukrainian parliament.**

The Presidency of the European Union views the adoption of this package, to which the President of Ukraine, the Speaker of Parliament and the members of Parliament have positively contributed, as **a very constructive step towards resolving the current political crisis in Ukraine.** The EU stands ready, together with international partners, to further assist Ukraine in ensuring that a new round of elections will be free and fair.

http://www.eu2004.nl/default.asp?CMS_ITEM=1FD01172C3C74058A42639BEE7F25B15X1X57194X55 (EN)

- ▶ for Josep BORRELL (the President of the European Parliament) "the way is clear for genuinely democratic elections" (09.12.04)

"We are satisfied with the efforts made by all concerned in order to overcome the crisis caused by the serious irregularities affecting the second round of the presidential elections.

The Ukrainian people did not accept the result, and have demonstrated that by peacefully assembling in the centre of Kiev and camping out in the cold and the snow. I am delighted that they have been heard. Voting by a very large majority, the Ukrainian Parliament has adopted the reforms essential for establishing agreement between the two camps. That crushing vote is an encouraging sign for the future and makes it possible to break the political deadlock.

The European Union, through its High Representative, Mr Javier SOLANA, has played a very important mediating role. I wish to thank him for that. **The Union will give its full backing to efforts to organise a free, democratic and transparent ballot. (...)**

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/president/press/en/cp0029.htm> (EN)

◆ Montenegro

- ▶ Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the CFSP, met with Milo DJUKANOVIC, Prime Minister of Montenegro (08.12.04)

The two leaders discussed the situation in Montenegro in the context of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro as well as bilateral relations between the EU and Serbia and Montenegro. The High Representative noted that the feasibility study could be finalised early next year and that he hoped for a positive outcome. He also emphasised the need to use the opportunity offered by the twin-track approach which has opened the way for rapid progress and is taking into account the specific situations of both republics. **The need now is for further reform, to strengthen the capacity of institutions, the rule of law as well as the fight against corruption and organised crime.**

http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/declarations/83010.pdf (EN)

◆ Israel/ Palestine

- ▶ **Commission provides 7 million in humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable Palestinians** (07.12.04)

The European Commission has allocated a further 7 million in humanitarian aid for people made vulnerable by the Middle East crisis. **The aid will provide access to food, clean water and sanitation for the poorest Palestinians living on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.** There is also a major funding component to help rehabilitate the shelters of thousands of Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

Louis Michel, Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, said: "As the political process in the Middle East may well enter a new phase, **it is important not to forget the humanitarian consequences of the crisis and to continue assisting and protecting those who grow more vulnerable every day. Palestinian refugees who have been in neighbouring countries for over 50 years are often forgotten by aid agencies and donors. We must ensure they live in decent conditions.** In the occupied Palestinian territory, living conditions are deteriorating for an increasing share of the population, as a direct result of the conflict." (...)

According to the United Nations, 2004 has seen the worst levels of destruction of the four years of Intifada in the territories. **The humanitarian situation in Gaza has sharply deteriorated. Infrastructure and home demolitions, intensified movement restrictions and escalating conflict are the primary causes.**

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/gaza/news/ip04_1448.htm (EN)

- ▶ **European Parliament to monitor Palestinian elections** (08.12.04)

The European Parliament is to send a delegation to monitor the election on 9 January 2005 for a new President of the Palestinian Authority. The thirty strong group of MEPs met for the first time on Wednesday and elected EP Vice-President Edward McMILLAN-SCOTT (EPP-ED, UK) as their chair, with Pasqualina NAPOLETANO (PES, IT) as vice-chair. The MEPs will be on the ground in the Middle East from the 6 to 10 January. They will hold meetings with the candidates and with election officials, before monitoring election day in five key areas: Gaza, East Jerusalem, Hebron, Nablus/Jenin and Ramallah. The Parliamentary delegation will be cooperating closely with the official EU monitoring mission, led by the MEP and former French Prime Minister, Michel ROCARD (PES). This mission will ultimately have more than 150 monitors; the core team is already in the Middle East monitoring election preparations.

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=PRESS-NEWSRP&L=EN&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+NR-20041208-1+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN> (EN)

see also:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1462&format=PDF&aged=0&language=EN&guilanguage=en> (EN)

THEMATIC

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

◆ Human Rights

- ▶ **Two new calls for proposals for Daphne II EU programme to combat violence against children, young people and women** (06.12.04)

Two new calls for proposals have been launched in the framework of Daphne II, for specific projects on the one hand (deadline 18 February 2005) and for projects aiming at the dissemination and the use of existing results on the other (deadline 15 March 2005). (...)

The Daphne II programme runs from 2004 until 2008 with a budget of EUR 50 million. It aims at supporting organisations that develop measures and actions to prevent or to combat all types of violence against children, young people and women and to protect the victims and groups at-risk.

The need for concerted worldwide action to defend human rights and to eliminate violence has long been recognised at different levels and in different ways. (...)

Daphne represents the starting point of NGOs and voluntary organisations cooperation at EU-level in the fight against violence towards children, young people and women. It encourages NGOs to set up or reinforce European networks and helps them implement innovative projects, the results of which can be disseminated to other Member States and regions. (...)

http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/funding/daphne/funding_daphne_en.htm (EN)

- ▶ **Annual Report published on 2 December 2004, the EU's European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC): Education system still failing migrants and minorities - Roma population still target of racism** (07.12.04)

In its Annual Report published on 2 December 2004, the EU's European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC), concludes that **the education system in EU states is still failing migrant and minority pupils and racism against the Roma community continues**. The Report also notes that initiatives are taking place to identify and address problems, but a lot more needs to be done.

The Report highlights that migrant and minority ethnic groups are over-represented in educational establishments with lower academic demands, have higher drop out rates, lower school completion rates, sometimes even facing segregation into 'special needs schools'. (...)

In other areas reviewed by the EUMC, the Roma appear to be most vulnerable to racism. Roma, Sinti, Gypsies or Travellers – as the group is named depending on the country – face **widespread discrimination in housing and employment**. Surveys show that they are the "least wanted neighbour", and **unofficial estimates indicate that the unemployment rate for Roma is far higher than for any other segment of the population**. "The entry of the new Member States with large Roma populations might have raised the issue in many people's mind, but our evidence shows that racism against these groups has actually been an issue in many of the 15 old Member States too," stressed EUMC Management Board Chair Anastasia Crickley. (...)

http://www.eumc.eu.int/eumc/index.php?fuseaction=content.dsp_cat_content&catid=404f010529767&contentid=41b0392223f25 (EN)

- ▶ **Questions parlementaires – sujet: violence contre les femmes- Réponse donnée par M. Nielson au nom de la Commission (question écrite: P-0841/04)** (08.12.04)

La Commission et la communauté internationale ont reconnu que les mutilations génitales féminines étaient une grave violation des droits de la femme (Plate-forme de Pékin et Convention sur l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination à l'égard des femmes). **Cependant, seuls trois pays européens – la Suède, le Royaume Uni et la Norvège – se sont dotés de lois spécifiques interdisant certaines ou toutes les formes de cette pratique**. La Suède a introduit la législation concernée dès 1982. Le Royaume-Uni a interdit cette pratique en 1985 en adoptant la loi sur l'interdiction de l'excision (Prohibition of female circumcision Act). La Norvège a suivi l'exemple de ces pays en 1998. **Dans les autres États membres, les lois n'interdisent que les atteintes graves à l'intégrité physique, sans référence particulière aux mutilations génitales des femmes.**

La poursuite et la défense des valeurs de l'Union fondées sur la justice, l'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes, et les droits de l'homme, constituent des tâches essentielles de la Commission. Dès lors, celle-ci **ne peut tolérer, que ce soit dans l'Union ou ailleurs dans le monde, des pratiques telles que les mutilations génitales féminines, qui n'ont pas lieu d'être dans une société moderne et qui, notamment, assujettissent les femmes**. La Commission estime que les mutilations sexuelles féminines ne disparaîtront que si les personnes concernées, y compris les femmes, acceptent l'idée qu'elles peuvent abandonner ces pratiques sans pour autant renoncer à des aspects importants de leur culture. La Commission considère que, pour atteindre cet objectif, des stratégies à plusieurs facettes sont requises, notamment des actions ciblées sur les travailleurs sociaux et médicaux. La diffusion d'une information soulignant les dangers pour la santé est un autre outil important. **Le programme d'action communautaire Daphné (2000-2003) pour lutter contre la violence envers les enfants, les adolescents et les femmes a fait de ces mutilations génitales une priorité de son programme annuel** (et de son appel à propositions) pendant deux années consécutives (en 2001 et 2002), ce qui a entraîné le financement de dix projets portant sur ce thème spécifique. Six de ces projets ont une durée de deux ans, ce qui signifie que ces actions aborderont le sujet en profondeur. Elles bénéficient d'un financement communautaire supérieur à 1,6 million d'euros. En s'appuyant sur le programme Daphné pour

combattre ce phénomène, les organisations de base pourront collaborer entre elles, mais aussi avec le monde universitaire et les autorités, pour s'attaquer à ce problème sur le terrain et, la plupart du temps, avec la participation directe des victimes. **Le programme Daphné II (2004-2008) sera bientôt approuvé et poursuivra ce combat.** (...)

Globalement, la vaste majorité des mutilations génitales est réalisée dans les pays en développement et non en Europe. La Commission reconnaît cet état de fait et dans la partie III de l'accord de Cotonou, qui traite des stratégies de coopération, une attention particulière est exigée pour, d'une part, l'intégration des questions démographiques dans les stratégies de développement en vue d'améliorer la santé génésique, les soins de santé primaire, la planification familiale et, d'autre part, la prévention contre les mutilations génitales des femmes (article 25.1.c). **Dans nos négociations avec les États d'Afrique, des Caraïbes et du Pacifique (ACP), nous fixons des priorités relatives aux droits et à la santé génésiques et sexuels, notamment les mutilations génitales des femmes,** et nous continuerons de le faire. Beaucoup de pays s'emploient déjà à interdire ces mutilations, notamment par la mise en place d'une législation appropriée et de programmes éducatifs adéquats. La Commission considère qu'une approche fondée sur le dialogue et la coopération est la démarche appropriée et estime que l'insertion d'une clause contraignante dans les accords commerciaux et de coopération, obligeant les pays à agir, ne serait pas utile.

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=WOA&L=FR&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+WOA+P-2004-0841-N+0+DOC+XML+V0//FR> (EN)

► **Speech Minister Bot at the 6th Annual EU Human Rights Discussion Forum** (09.12.04)

Fifty-six years ago, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Two years later, in 1950, the General Assembly proclaimed 10 December Human Rights Day. Stopping for a few minutes once a year to think about that declaration which focuses attention on the dignity of every human being is a good thing.

The European Union attaches great importance to human rights. Indeed, had there been no spirit of brotherhood or respect for universal rights and freedoms there would have been no European integration. And it should come as no surprise that we also want to send that message beyond Europe's borders. (...)

Both in and outside Europe, we must remain vigilant about the need to protect human rights. The campaign against terrorism changes nothing in this respect – in fact, it makes protection even more important. When combating terrorism, we must preserve the inherent values on which society is founded. That should be our pledge to everybody in Europe who fears terrorism itself and the potential backlash in European societies. Sticking to this pledge will be the test for Europe. (...)

Let me explain why. **In general terms, the Netherlands and the EU have been very active in the area of human rights.**

- For example, there are the EU's efforts in the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly.
- I would also refer you to the EU's dialogue with China and Iran which are subject to critical evaluation.
- And now a very different example: The Netherlands has initiated an action plan for an EU approach to children and armed conflicts.
- Finally, I would mention a less visible but often very effective activity. On behalf of the EU, 70 confidential démarches have been made in the area of human rights.

Taking an active position is of course no magic recipe for success. More is needed. **Based on our experiences over the past years, I see four guidelines for promoting our principles and universal values in our external relations. First, it takes patience and stamina.** Quick results are the exception. **Second, we must accept that it is not always easy to assess the cause-effect relationship between our policy and the developments in a given country or region. Third, quiet diplomacy sometimes works better than public diplomacy. And fourth, different political situations require different approaches.** (...)

In addition, I feel that the EU's human rights dialogues deserve special mention. They can be very successful instruments for promoting human rights, provided of course that both parties are sincerely committed to it. The results of dialogue are not always immediately apparent and, in any event, are difficult to measure. When we consider, for example, the situation in China today, we can only conclude that over the longer term, in the area of social and economic rights at least, the trend is positive. Following Wednesday's EU-China summit, we issued a joint statement with a substantive human rights

paragraph, including a commitment by China to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as soon as possible. (...)

I feel that increased recourse to such motions is an extremely negative development in the United Nations which, whether we like it or not, we have to think about. I had already expressly asked the High Level Panel to focus on the human rights institutions in the UN itself. The fact that the Panel specifically turned its attention to reform of the UN Human Rights Commission is a hopeful sign.

All in all, I believe that an effective human rights policy requires a combination of different approaches: action, confrontation, flexibility and quiet diplomacy. Where you have to put the emphasis depends on the situation and the goal you are trying to reach.

Against this background, **the EU guidelines on human rights are an important tool for all our diplomatic missions in third countries.** They provide the moral and political bearings by which to navigate. I am therefore delighted to offer you a set of those guidelines today.

But human rights policies are about more than guidelines and policies; they are, first and foremost, about people, people who are willing to defend human rights, whether they be in governments or NGO's, or act independently as human rights activists.

This brings me to today's meeting and another priority of the Dutch presidency: **Human rights activists and, more specifically, the question of how EU support can be given to those who champion human rights.**

One of the most important tasks for human rights activists is to make human rights violations visible. They put such violations on the international agenda – often at the risk of their own lives. (...)

But especially confidential démarches of which around 70 have been made over the last five months – from Swaziland to India, from Cuba to Japan. **Démarches by which the EU stands up for human rights activists who face execution or torture.** (...)

http://www.eu2004.nl/default.asp?CMS_ITEM=2DB8F713925C42EA9D81380416EE447AX1X43347X99 (EN)

► **Speech by Minister for Development Cooperation Agnes Van Ardenne, at the EU Conference 'Women in conflict situations and peacekeeping'**(09.12.04)

Tomorrow is International Human Rights Day. This year's theme is violence against women. Tomorrow, people all over the world will be reflecting on issues like rape and domestic violence. **Too many girls and women are victims of violence and discrimination every single day.** And not just in faraway places; it happens in the Netherlands too. **But the violence committed against women during wartime is the most terrible kind of violence of all.** (...)

The European Union can play a leadership role in promoting peace, security and development in the world. We are a community of values that seeks democracy, freedom, respect for human dignity, solidarity and equality in Europe and elsewhere. (...)

Time and again, during my travels I've heard heartrending stories from women who were victims of warfare. **War is hardest on women and children.** They are the most vulnerable according to the State of the World's Children 2005. Wars tear apart entire societies, disrupting daily life and all that goes with it: Health care collapses; schools shut down; economic activity grinds to a halt, and people can no longer move safely from place to place. Dominated by fear and uncertainty, life becomes little more than a struggle for survival. (...)

Women play a crucial role in conflict situations. In fact, they often play several roles at once. They support the warring parties by providing soldiers with shelter and food – often against their will – and sometimes they even take part in the fighting themselves, with weapons in hand. When their partners go off to battle, women with children become the head of the family.

The absence of men puts women and girls at greater risk, and women are increasingly becoming the pawns of the warring parties. One aspect of this trend is the systematic rape of women. In times of conflict, women are killed, raped, mutilated, sexually abused and humiliated. Sexual violence aims to humiliate the enemy and destroy the base of family and community. Women raped or forcibly impregnated tend to be stigmatised and deprived of health care and psychological services.

One of the most harrowing cases in this regard is the present situation in Darfur. Slowly but surely, victims are beginning to talk about their experiences. To prove rape, Sudanese law requires the testimony of four male witnesses. This means that sexual violence typically goes unpunished. And with no hope of a fair trial, women are terrified of reprisals. (...)

On October 28th of this year we celebrated the fourth anniversary of Resolution 1325. Along with a large number of civil society organisations, the Netherlands was a supporter of this Security Council Resolution, which I consider the most important one ever. **For the first time, the International community acknowledged the role of women in the peace process, urging that women be allowed to participate in the process at all levels.**

In October, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan presented a report on the implementation of Resolution 1325 over the past four years. The conclusion was that the glass was either half full or half empty. I prefer to see the glass as half full. Not only because I am an optimist by nature, but because I have seen an enormous increase in public awareness about this issue. But also because I know that it can be done. Look at the Netherlands. Together with the Ministry of Defence we have been working hard to jointly take up the challenge of pro-active implementation of 1325. When it comes to getting women involved in peace and security, the Netherlands is at the forefront. (...)

In the Netherlands, we have established a Task Force to promote a coherent and systematic implementation of Resolution 1325. I would like to highlight **five specific issues that demand immediate attention and action.**

First: Zero tolerance for the sexual abuse of peacekeeping troops and aid workers. (...)

Second: More attention for the position of women in peace operations. Each female soldier or police officer patrolling with male colleagues in the streets of Kabul demonstrates to the local population the aim of Resolution 1325 better than any general informational efforts could. (...)

Third: Rapists must be punished. Ladies and gentlemen, let's be clear, since the Balkan war rape is acknowledged as a war crime. So, rape must be recognised as an issue for public policy attention and legal action.

Fourth: A greater focus on women in conflict resolution. Women tend to be excluded from formal negotiations. Yet there is a long history of women's participation in grassroots efforts to minimise hostility and begin reconstruction and reconciliation. Post-conflict initiatives are more successful when women are allowed to contribute to peacemaking. Engendering the peace-process in the Middle East, for instance, would be a major contribution to the Road map for Peace between Israel and Palestine.

Fifth: The support of women's rights and their empowerment in all spheres of life and decision-making is an overarching objective of the Netherlands' policy. (...)

In closing: Let me underline the important role of ngo's regarding women's participation and empowerment in conflict resolution, peace and post-conflict rehabilitation processes.

http://www.eu2004.nl/default.asp?CMS_TCP=tcAsset&id=BDC58245308E44B9BFEAB7AFD0E67487X1X60637X54
(EN)

► **Le prix Sakharov 2004 à l'Association des journalistes du Bélarus** (10.12.04)

L'Association des journalistes du Bélarus, fondée en octobre 1995, milite pour l'indépendance des médias. Elle observe les violations de la liberté d'expression et publie ses constats sur son site Internet. Elle apporte aussi une assistance juridique aux journalistes et tente de faire pression sur les autorités du pays à propos des mesures qui peuvent être préjudiciables à la liberté de la presse. L'Association organise également des formations pour les journalistes et publie un magazine, "Abajour", dans lequel les journalistes peuvent exercer librement leur métier.

Le Prix Sakharov est remis à cette association alors que la pression des autorités du Bélarus sur les médias indépendants se sont intensifiées en 2004. Les journalistes du Bélarus critiquant les autorités, et notamment le Président Loukachenko, sont menacés, harcelés voire emprisonnés. L'Association elle-même est sous la pression constante des autorités. Les entraves à la presse sont juridiques et économiques. De ce fait, la moitié de la presse indépendante du pays a disparu ces dernières années. **La censure est très active, une idéologie d'Etat, servant de base à une véritable machine de propagande, est développée depuis 2003 et l'accès à l'information est quasi impossible dans la mesure où le "secret défense" s'applique à presque tous les organes de l'Etat.** (...)

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/OM-Europarl?PROG=PRESS-BACKINF&L=FR&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+BI-20041210-1+0+DOC+XML+VO//FR> (EN)

- **International Human Rights Day - 10 December 2004 - Remarks by Benita Ferrero-Waldner** (10.12.04)

International Human Rights Day is an opportunity to highlight the unacceptable abuses of human rights abuses that persist in too many parts of the world. It is a moment to pay tribute to those who fight to uphold these rights which we in the European Union hold so dear. (...)

The European Commission funds human rights education through its “European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights” which has a budget of some 100 million per year.

The three main objectives are:

- the empowerment of citizens to take action in defense of their human rights;
 - the enhancement of the capacity of public officials to protect human rights;
 - and the development of networks of expertise in human rights and democracy.
- These activities have a high impact due to the multiplier effect of initiatives involving NGOs, schools and universities, which have long-term effects on the development of society. (...)

“Human rights education plays a crucial role in empowering individuals, and here I am particularly thinking of women and their rights, and civil society at large and thereby strengthens also human security. This will be one of the priorities during my mandate”, says Ferrero-Waldner.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/news/ferrero/2004/hr10_12_04.htm (EN)

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

◆ **New Neighbourhood Policy**

- **European Neighbourhood Policy: the first Action Plans** (09.12.04)

Moldova, Ukraine, Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Authority are the first of the EU's neighbours to agree Action Plans, that will make concrete the European Union's new offer under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). (...)

The Action Plans will help strengthen democracy, good governance, the rule of law and human rights as well as helping with economic modernisation. The concrete benefits they contain, include the chance to participate in some EU programmes and a stake in Single Market. In addition the EU is offering more targeted help to tackle cross border issues, such as migration and trafficking, as well as improved interconnections and physical links with the EU in areas like energy and transport. (...)

The Action Plans reflect the EU's determination not to allow new dividing lines to grow up around the enlarged Union, but rather to export the stability and prosperity that the EU enjoys. The Plans will:

- offer assistance in bringing legislation or regulations in line with the EU to increase access to the EU internal market,
- offer participation in a number of EU programmes including education, research, environment and audio-visual,
- step up co-operation on border management, migration, trafficking in human beings, organised crime, money laundering and financial and economic crimes,
- improve links with the EU in the fields of energy, transport, and information technology, and
- increase dialogue and co-operation on counter-terrorism, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as efforts to resolve regional conflict.

(ndlr: nothing on Human Rights!)

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1453&format=PDF&aged=0&language=EN&language=en> (EN)

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1453&format=PDF&aged=0&language=FR&language=en> (FR)

- **Press Conference to launch first seven Action Plans under the European Neighbourhood Policy – by Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy** (09.12.04)

“ (...)The European Neighbourhood Policy invites our neighbours to the East and to the South to share in the peace, stability and prosperity that we enjoy in the European Union. It aims to **create a ring of friends around the borders of the new enlarged EU.** (...)

Let's be clear about what ENP is, and what it is not. It is not an Enlargement policy. It does not close any doors to European countries that may at some future point wish to apply for membership, but it does not provide a specific accession prospect either.

What it is, is an offer. A substantial offer. The offer of much deeper cooperation and progressive integration into certain EU policies and programmes, depending on the fulfilment of commitments.

The Action Plans set out precise steps agreed with each partner for the 3-5 years to come.

What is important is that each agreement has been tailor made to match the needs and the interests of the country concerned. Nothing is imposed in this policy! We are responding to longstanding requests in many cases, and we have been guided to a large extent by the wishes of the countries themselves. The further a partner is ready to go in taking practical steps to implement common values, the further the EU will be **ready to go in strengthening our links with them. The ENP is a deal in the interests of both sides.**

The EU gains the benefits of a stable neighbourhood. Our assistance will support countries in their own economic and political reforms to spread the benefits of prosperity and democracy. This is good for us as well as our neighbours. The EU gains improved security around its borders. Increased cross border co operation will help us to tackle problems from migration to organised crime.

The EU gains because our partners sign up to stronger commitments on the fight against terrorism, non-proliferation of WMD, and to the peaceful resolution of regional conflicts.

Our partners gain: closer co operation, greater financial assistance, the chance to participate in EU programmes, and a stake in the biggest Single Market in the world. (...)

Let me run through where we stand with the different partners involved.

Ukraine is among the partners with which a draft Action Plan has been negotiated in the course of 2004. The Commission will present this Action Plan for Ukraine as a demonstration of our commitment to the country's future development. We recommend that the Council transmit this Action Plan to the EU – Ukraine Co-operation Council for approval, as soon as developments in Ukraine make it possible to envisage implementation of its provisions. Including, of course the holding of free and fair Presidential elections in accordance with OSCE standards. Once such elections have been held and a democratically elected government is in place, I plan to visit Kiev to agree on how we can work together to put the Action Plan into practice. **Moldova** is in a difficult situation with the persistence of the conflict over Transnistria. The Neighbourhood Policy provides an incentive for it to persist with political and economic reforms and to cooperate with the EU over a range of issues, including Justice and Home Affairs, where our own interests are also at stake. **In the Mediterranean region**, the Neighbourhood Policy is reinvigorating the Barcelona process. It has aroused considerable interest in the Mediterranean region. **Morocco and Jordan** have committed themselves to far-reaching reforms in this context. **Tunisia**, too, despite certain severe limitations on political freedom which need to be addressed, has committed itself to important reforms **concerning human rights. For Israel and the Palestinian authority**, the Neighbourhood Policy is a concrete sign of the EU's engagement. On the Palestinian side we have obtained firm commitments to reform. In return, we have undertaken to continue our support, much of which is now being channelled through the World Bank Trust Fund.

Israel clearly acknowledges the role of the EU in the Quartet and the need to take into account the viability of a future Palestinian state in counter-terrorist activities. Israel has never been willing to make such commitments in writing to any other partner.

Our intention is to integrate a second series of partner countries into the ENP during the course of next year: Egypt and Lebanon, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. We will launch this exercise by presenting country reports in February 2005, followed by consultations on Action Plans once the Council has given its green light.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/news/ferrero/2004/sp04_529.htm (EN)

◆ The EU' relations with UN

- ▶ Speech by Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations & European Neighbourhood Policy: The Future of the UN: Results of the Kofi Annan High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change (08.12.04)

" (...) I am of course pleased to find that many of the proposals made by the European Union in May this year have been taken up. The EU is convinced that **only an effective multilateral system can adequately address the new and complex challenges the international community faces today. For that reason, the EU has made effective multilateralism with the UN at its core a central element of**

its external action. Effective multilateralism is more essential now than ever, and that is why it is one of the major priorities within my portfolio. (...)

In general, I share the view of Secretary General Annan that it is high time that we, the international community, moved from a culture of reaction to a culture of prevention. (...)

This means putting people and their human rights, as well as the threats they face, at the centre of our policies. I also agree with the assessment of the responsibility to protect incumbent on sovereign states, or on the international community - should states prove unwilling or unable to fulfil their responsibilities. (...)

I would also agree with most of the report's proposals on combating organised crime. Here we need to support the UN office on drug control and crime prevention in their efforts, including on **the important issue of human trafficking.**

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/news/ferrero/2004/speech04_524_en.htm (EN)