

SUMMARY

**REGIONS:**

**AFRICA**

**Congo**

- ▶ Sexual violence in Congo is "the worst in the world" (17/01/2008)

**Kenya**

- ▶ Statement by State Secretary for European Affairs Janez Lenarčič at the plenary session of the European Parliament on the situation in Kenya (16/01/2008)

**AMERICAS**

**ASIA**

**China**

- ▶ Arrest of Chinese dissident Hu Jia (17/01/2008)

**Pakistan**

- ▶ Statement by State Secretary for European Affairs Janez Lenarčič at the plenary session of the European Parliament on the situation in Pakistan after the Assassination of Benazir Bhutto (16/01/2008)

**EUROPE (OUTSIDE OF UE ) AND CIS**

**MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST**

**Egypt**

- ▶ Democracy and human rights in Egypt (17/01/2008)
- ▶ Colère de l'Égypte après l'adoption au Parlement européen d'un texte sur les droits de l'homme (17/01/2008)

**Gaza**

- ▶ EU Presidency statement on the latest events in and near Gaza (15/01/2008)
- ▶ Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the CFSP, comments on violence in and near Gaza (15/01/2008)

## Yemen

- ▶ EU Presidency statement on attack in Yemen (18/01/2008)

## Lebanon

- ▶ EU Presidency statement on terrorist attack in Lebanon (15/01/2008)
- ▶ Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the CFSP, condemns today's bomb attack in Beirut (15/01/2008)

**THEMATIC :**

**FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVES**

**JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS**

**EXTERNAL RELATIONS & DEVELOPMENT-RELATED ISSUES**

**EU / UN REFORM**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**EU strategy on Child's Rights**

- ▶ **Rights of the child: the European Parliament set out its strategy** (16/01/2008)

**Adoption of a non-binding report on the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights**

- ▶ **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights: adoption of a Multiannual Framework for 2007-2012** (17/01/2008)

## **IMPORTANT COMING MEETINGS**

### **EU - THIRD COUNTRY MEETINGS**

### **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MEETINGS**

#### **Committee on Development**

- January, 28, 29, 2008

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

- January, 21, 22, 23, 2008

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

- January, 23, 24, 2008

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

- January, 23, 24, 2008

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

- January, 21, 22, 2008

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

- January, 28, 29, 2008

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

- January, 21, 22, 2008

### **CONFERENCES / EVENTS**

**REGIONS:**

**AFRICA**

**Congo**

► Sexual violence in Congo is "the worst in the world" (17/01/2008)

Parliament unanimously adopted a resolution calling on the international community to take action against the widespread sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which it describes as "the worst in the world".

According to the resolution, the war and unrest in eastern DRC "has resulted in sexual violence against women on a widespread and alarming scale committed by armed rebel groups, as well as by government, army and police forces". Women are being "systematically attacked on an unprecedented scale".

War atrocities are "structured around rape, gang rape, sexual slavery and murder". This not only leads to "the physical and psychological destruction of women" but seems to be used "as a way of humiliating women in front of their families and communities and thus destroying the integrity, morale and cohesion of those communities". The end result is to "destroy all social networks and represent a genuine national threat".

*Perpetrators can be prosecuted under national and international law*

Parliament's resolution "condemns the use of rape as a weapon of war and recalls that the International Criminal Court has jurisdiction over such acts", which are classified under the ICC's statute as crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The government of DRC also has a clear responsibility "to put an end to impunity and to implement the new law adopted by its Parliament outlawing sexual violence, which lays down stiffer penalties for perpetrators".

Parliament therefore urges that "the perpetrators of sexual violence against women be reported, identified, prosecuted and punished, in accordance with national and international criminal law".

*Support needed from global community*

The wider international community is called upon "to take all necessary steps to support the relevant national authorities in investigating these acts and prosecuting those responsible", while the EU is urged "to allocate substantial funds to providing medical, legal and social support for victims of sexual abuse and empowering women and girls as a way of preventing further sexual abuse".

The EU and the UN are asked "formally to recognise rape, forced impregnation, sexual slavery and any other forms of sexual violence as crimes against humanity, serious war crimes and a form of torture, whether or not they are carried out in a systematic manner". All UN member states that send personnel on the MONUC peacekeeping mission are urged "to bring individuals who have committed sexual abuse to court as quickly as possible".

Lastly, the DRC government and the UN mission (MONUC) are asked to guarantee security for members of humanitarian organisations.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress\\_page/015-19105-014-01-03-902-20080117IPR19103-14-01-2008-2008-false/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/015-19105-014-01-03-902-20080117IPR19103-14-01-2008-2008-false/default_en.htm)

## Kenya

- ▶ **Statement by State Secretary for European Affairs Janez Lenarčič at the plenary session of the European Parliament on the situation in Kenya** (16/01/2008)

Mr President, Honourable Members of the European Parliament,

I am pleased that today the European Parliament will discuss the resolution on the current situation in Kenya and vote on it. By appointing Mr Lambsdorff to head the EU Election Observation Mission and a delegation of the EP under the leadership of Mr Mulder, the Parliament has already given an important signal.

Elections in Kenya took place on 27 December. The very high participation of the Kenyans demonstrated their commitment to and belief in the democratic process.

The EU Election Observation Mission, present on the ground and led by distinguished member of this house, Mr Lambsdorff, noted irregularities in the counting and tallying process of the presidential election. These irregularities cast serious doubts on the actual outcome of that election.

As you know, violence erupted in Nairobi and other parts of Kenya when the results were announced. Supporters of opposition leader Odinga have repeatedly clashed with security forces, and also attacked supporters of President Kibaki. The security forces have fired against crowds, and made use of "disproportionate violence" in the words of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Madam Louise Arbour.

At least 600 people have lost their lives and 250 000 persons have been displaced in Kenya, the country that is used to harbouring refugees from Somalia and South Sudan. The economy is also affected, not only in Kenya, but also in the neighbouring landlocked countries.

This is a tragedy and, at the same time, a serious blow to the democratisation process in the whole of Africa, where Kenya was a model.

The EU has condemned the acts of violence in Kenya. We have called on the political leaders in Kenya to address the concerns about the integrity of the election process and to resort to dialogue and find a political solution. We have also, of course, responded to the humanitarian needs of the Kenyan people.

The EU has welcomed the mediation by the President of the African Union, President Kufuor of Ghana. We have also encouraged other efforts by our African partners to resolve the situation.

For the EU, it is essential that the violence stops immediately. The political leaders must take their responsibility in this regard.

It is also essential that the two candidates in the elections who received most votes, Mr Kibaki and Mr Odinga, find a way to open a dialogue on how to address the situation that has arisen through political and legal means. The EU is certainly ready to assist the parties in this process.

On behalf of the EU, I can say that the aftermath of the elections in Kenya has been very disturbing. This, however, is nothing in comparison to the disappointment that must be felt by the people of Kenya, who turned out massively for the elections in the hope of a better future.

Thank you for your attention.

[http://www.eu2008.si/en/News\\_and\\_Documents/Speeches\\_Interviews/January/0116SVEZ\\_Lenarcic\\_Kenya.html](http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/Speeches_Interviews/January/0116SVEZ_Lenarcic_Kenya.html)

## AMERICAS

## ASIA

### China

#### ▶ Arrest of Chinese dissident Hu Jia (17/01/2008)

In a resolution adopted on January 15th, MEPs called on the Chinese authorities to release human rights campaigner Hu Jia and to respect human rights in the run-up to this year's Olympic Games.

Hu Jia was taken from his home in Beijing by police on 27 December 2007 on charges of inciting subversion. He and his wife Zeng Jinyan, who were among the candidates for last year's European Parliament Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, have thrown the spotlight on human rights abuses in China over the past few years and spent many periods under house arrest as a result of their campaigning.

Last November Hu Jia spoke via audio-phone from Beijing to a hearing held in Brussels by the EP's Human Rights Subcommittee on *Human rights in China in the run-up to the Olympic Games*. At that time the subcommittee's chair, H el ene Flautre (Greens/EFA, FR), congratulated Hu Jia on his courage in speaking out and said he could always count on the support of the European Parliament.

Human rights organisations described the December arrest as another move by the Chinese authorities to silence critics ahead of the Beijing Olympics, and 57 intellectuals from China immediately published an open letter calling for the instant release of Hu Jia. European Parliament President Hans-Gert P ottering has already issued a statement criticising the arrest.

*MEPs demand immediate release of Hu Jia and other dissidents*

In the resolution of January 17th, Parliament "strongly condemns the detention of Hu Jia and demands his prompt release and that of all the dissidents who have been arrested and jailed for crimes of opinion". It also urges the authorities "to allow Hu Jia and all the other dissidents under arrest to receive medical assistance if necessary" (Hu Jia suffers from a liver disease).

*China urged to live up to its human rights commitments - especially in Olympic year*

MEPs call on China "to respect its commitments to human rights and the rule of law, in particular the provisions of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders" and "not to use the Olympic Games as a pretext to arrest and illegally detain and imprison dissidents, journalists and human rights activists".

Indeed, Parliament repeats its view that "human rights concerns should receive far more attention in the build-up to the Beijing Olympic Games", and points to Articles 1 and 2 of the Olympic Charter, which advocate 'respect for universal fundamental ethical principles' and the promotion of a peaceful society concerned 'with the preservation of human dignity'.

*Reform of Chinese criminal law needed*

In addition, MEPs call on China "to reform its criminal law to allow greater freedom of expression to journalists, writers, free-lances, reporters etc." who will report to the world on the Olympic Games. They also urge the authorities "to close the so-called 'black jails', places of detention set up to detain 'troublemakers' in advance of this year's Olympics".

Lastly, the EU Council is urged to take action in relation to the Chinese authorities regarding not only the arrest of Hu Jia but also the disappearance on 22 September 2007 of Gao Zhisheng, a noted human rights attorney.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress\\_page/015-18601-014-01-03-902-20080115IPR18590-14-01-2008-2008-false/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/015-18601-014-01-03-902-20080115IPR18590-14-01-2008-2008-false/default_en.htm)

## **Pakistan**

- ▶ **Statement by State Secretary for European Affairs Janez Lenarčič at the plenary session of the European Parliament on the situation in Pakistan after the Assassination of Benazir Bhutto** (16/01/2008)

Mr President, Honourable Members of the European Parliament,

The assassination of former Prime Minister and main opposition leader Benazir Bhutto has complicated an already highly complex picture in the run-up to general elections on 18 February 2008. Bhutto-murder disturbed a gradual process of transition to a more democratic system in Pakistan. A Bhutto-led civilian Government might have taken economic growth, decreasing levels of corruption and a tendency towards freer media to a next level.

Since the imposition of emergency rule on 3 November 2007, the EU, including the European Parliament, has emphasised the need for stability and called for reconciliation and a return to democracy. Recent developments underline that stability in Pakistan is our core interest. This means support to Pakistan's moderate majority in its struggle against a violent extremist minority.

The interests of the EU in Pakistan are closely linked to policy priorities regarding Afghanistan and the wider region and Counter-Terrorism, non-proliferation and human rights. This has repeatedly been underlined in our messages to the Pakistani authorities.

With Musharraf coming to Brussels, we are in a prime position to deliver our messages. Contacts with other major stakeholders in Pakistan are in place, including with international partners.

The core message of the EU Council is that holding free, fair and open-to-all elections in Pakistan by 18 February is of paramount importance. The Pakistani Government should strive to ensure proper political and security conditions for these elections. All parties should respect the decision of the Election Commission to hold elections on 18 February "with dignity and restraint", and participate fully in the general elections.

The Pakistani authorities should use the extended period to improve conditions for elections in line with international standards, including properly addressing concerns of fraud, intimidation and transparency, freedom of the media and release of political detainees. This should allow for a democratic and transparent electoral process under proper security conditions.

The EU will deploy a full Election Observation Mission to Pakistan. The EU hopes that a comprehensive international monitoring effort will take place. The EU will also support Pakistan's moderate majority in its struggle against a violent extremist minority.

Thank you for your attention.

[http://www.eu2008.si/en/News\\_and\\_Documents/Speeches\\_Interviews/January/0116\\_SVEZ\\_Lenarcic\\_Pakistan.html](http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/Speeches_Interviews/January/0116_SVEZ_Lenarcic_Pakistan.html)

**EUROPE (OUTSIDE OF UE ) AND CIS**



**Egypt**

► Democracy and human rights in Egypt (17/01/2008)

In a resolution adopted on Egypt, MEPs call on the government of that country to take a range of measures to improve democracy and human rights, such as ending the harassment of journalists and human rights defenders, lifting the state of emergency, investigating suspected cases of torture and guaranteeing the independence of the judiciary.

Parliament first of all "recognises the role that Egypt plays in the Middle East peace process and the importance that EU-Egypt relations have for the entire Euro-Mediterranean area and in the fight against international terrorism and fundamentalism" but it then "points out that respect for human rights is a fundamental value of the EU-Egypt Association Agreement and reaffirms the importance of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership for promoting the rule of law and fundamental freedoms".

*Government pressed to guarantee rights and freedoms*

In the wake of "recent arrests and action against NGOs and human rights defenders", MEPs call on the government "to end all forms of harassment, including judicial measures, detention of media professionals and, more generally, human rights defenders" and to "respect freedom of expression, in conformity with Article 19 of the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which has been signed and ratified by Egypt".

The government is also urged to "honour its undertaking to lift the state of emergency on 31 May 2008", "to amend law No 25 of 1966 on martial courts" and to ensure that all measures adopted to fight terrorism are "fully in accordance with international human rights law".

*Law on associations, judicial independence*

The EP strongly backs academic, media and religious freedom. The need for independence of the judiciary is also stressed, as is protection of the freedoms of association and expression for judges, in line with UN principles.

MEPs want measures against trade union and human rights bodies to be rescinded and urge that "the law on associations should not impose arbitrary restrictions on the peaceful activities of civil society organisations". They call for the release of dissidents, including Kamal Abbas and Ayman Nour.

*Rights for migrant workers*

Migrant workers and their families should have their rights protected through implementation by Egypt of two relevant conventions, say MEPs, who also back a call by a UN committee for investigations into the killing of 27 Sudanese asylum-seekers in 2005 to be re-opened.

*Torture allegations must be investigated*

Urging an end to all forms of torture and ill-treatment, MEPs call on the government to allow a visit by the UN Special Rapporteur on torture.

Lastly, Parliament urges the EU to put human rights developments "very high on its agenda" during the forthcoming meeting of the EU-Egypt Subcommittee on Political Matters.

The resolution was adopted by 52 votes to 0, with 7 abstentions.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress\\_page/015-19102-014-01-03-902-20080117IPR19101-14-01-2008-2008-false/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/015-19102-014-01-03-902-20080117IPR19101-14-01-2008-2008-false/default_en.htm)

## Egypt

- ▶ **Colère de l'Égypte après l'adoption au Parlement européen d'un texte sur les droits de l'homme (FR)(17/01/2008)**

A quelques jours d'une rencontre bilatérale qui s'annonce désormais houleuse, les députés européens ont adopté, jeudi 17 janvier, un texte critiquant la situation des droits de l'homme en Égypte, malgré les menaces émanant du Caire.

Le texte, soutenu par la quasi-totalité des groupes politiques du Parlement à Strasbourg, appelle notamment à "la libération immédiate d'Ayman Nour", ancien adversaire du président Hosni Moubarak à la première présidentielle pluraliste de 2005, condamné quelques mois plus tard à cinq ans de prison pour falsification de documents. Le Parlement européen exige également "qu'il soit mis un terme à tous types d'actes de torture et de mauvais traitements", en particulier à l'égard des "minorités religieuses, comme les Coptes, les Bahaïs et les Chiïtes qui continuent à être tristement paralysés par les chaînes de l'isolation sectaire et du fondamentalisme".

### RÉACTION "COMPLÈTEMENT DISPROPORTIONNÉE"

Avant même son adoption, cette résolution avait provoqué la colère des autorités égyptiennes. Jeudi matin, le ministre des affaires étrangères égyptien avait convoqué les vingt-sept ambassadeurs des pays de l'Union européenne pour leur exprimer le "refus absolu de l'Égypte au projet de résolution au Parlement européen". Pour sa part, le président du Parlement égyptien, Fathi Sour, avait menacé de "rompre les relations du Parlement égyptien avec le Parlement européen".

Mais les eurodéputés ne se sont pas laissés intimider. Le coprésident du groupe Vert au Parlement, Daniel Cohn-Bendit, a revendiqué le droit du Parlement de "critiquer la situation des droits de l'homme en Égypte, à Guantanamo ou ailleurs". La présidente de la sous-commission aux droits de l'homme, Hélène Flautre, a elle regretté une réaction "complètement disproportionnée" devant un texte basé sur des "engagements auxquels l'Égypte à elle-même souscrit en matière de droits de l'homme".

Les critiques des parlementaires risquent cependant de peser sur la réunion prévue les 23 et 24 janvier au Caire avec une délégation de la Commission européenne dans le cadre du récent accord de voisinage UE-Égypte, où la question des droits de l'homme doit notamment être abordée.

<http://www.lemonde.fr/web/article/0,1-0@2-3210,36-1000707@51-1000711,0.html>

## Gaza

- ▶ **EU Presidency statement on the latest events in and near Gaza** (15/01/2008)

The EU Presidency expresses its deep concern at the latest surge of violence in and near Gaza. The Presidency calls on all the parties to exercise utmost restraint and refrain from use of force. The Presidency appeals for calm, particularly in this time of renewed political process and furthermore encourages Israel and the Palestinian Authority to pursue negotiations in accordance with the Annapolis joint understanding.

[http://www.eu2008.si/en/News\\_and\\_Documents/CFSP\\_Statements/January/0115MZZGaza.html](http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/January/0115MZZGaza.html)

## Gaza

- ▶ **Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the CFSP, comments on violence in and near Gaza** (15/01/2008)

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), made the following comments on today's violence in and near the Gaza Strip:

"The casualties resulting from today's events in Gaza as well as in a nearby farming community across the border with Israel and the continued firing of rockets from Gaza into Israel are a stark reminder of the urgent need to advance on the path to a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict which was set out in Annapolis.

I call on all concerned to exercise restraint and to stop the cycle of violence which will only feed new atrocities and lead to further suffering by the people in the region."

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/declarations/98091.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/declarations/98091.pdf)

## Yemen

- ▶ **EU Presidency statement on attack in Yemen** (18/01/2008)

The EU Presidency expresses its sincere condolences to the families of the two Belgian tourists and their Yemenite driver, who were killed in an attack in Wadi Do'an in the Wadi Hadramaut region of Yemen on January 18th. The Presidency also wishes to send a message of support to all the victims who were wounded in the attack.

This is the second time in little more than six months that European tourists have been attacked and killed by criminals in Yemen.

The EU Presidency strongly condemns all forms of violence and calls on the Government of Yemen to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice.

[http://www.eu2008.si/en/News\\_and\\_Documents/CFSP\\_Statements/January/0118MZZ\\_Yemen.html](http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/January/0118MZZ_Yemen.html)

## Lebanon

- ▶ **EU Presidency statement on terrorist attack in Lebanon** (15/01/2008)

The EU Presidency strongly condemns the recent terrorist attacks on UNIFIL and on the US Embassy vehicle in Lebanon. The EU Presidency conveys its deepest condolences, sympathy and solidarity to the families of the victims.

The EU Presidency firmly condemns any attempt to undermine peace and stability in Lebanon. It also reiterates its support and calls upon the parties to reach a compromise for the benefit of all the people of Lebanon.

[http://www.eu2008.si/en/News\\_and\\_Documents/CFSP\\_Statements/January/0115MZZLebanon.html](http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/January/0115MZZLebanon.html)

## **Lebanon**

- ▶ **Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the CFSP, condemns today's bomb attack in Beirut (15/01/2008)**

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security policy (CFSP), made the following comments after today's terrorist attack in Beirut: "I condemn in the strongest possible terms the bomb attack that targeted a US diplomatic vehicle in Beirut today and killed four people. My thoughts are with the families of the dead, to whom I extend my deepest condolences. I also wish the injured a speedy recovery.

The vast majority of the Lebanese people do not accept the cycle of violence afflicting their country. I again voice my support and that of the EU for all the Lebanese leaders seeking stability and prosperity in good faith. The sooner a compromise is reached to resolve the current political impasse, the more likely it is that calm can return to Lebanon."

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/declarations/98090.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/declarations/98090.pdf)

## THEMATIC :

FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

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EU / UN REFORM

MISCELLANEOUS

### **EU Strategy on Child's Rights**

- ▶ **Rights of the child: the European Parliament set out its strategy** (16/01/2008)

An EU strategy on the rights of the child won Parliament's backing with 630 votes in favour, 26 against and 62 abstentions. MEPs call for the strategy to include tougher measures to combat paedophilia on the internet as well as steps to counter child sex tourism and enable suppliers of products manufactured with child labour to be prosecuted in Europe.

The report restates Parliament's opposition to all forms of violence against children and calls for a specific budget heading for their rights, with which to fund work required by the strategy.

#### **Hijab and headscarves paragraph deleted from final report**

MEPs deleted a paragraph in the original report from the Civil Liberties Committee (200 in favour, 367 against and 134 abstentions) which stated: "Is concerned at the multiple violations of rights affecting girls from a migrant background. The committee had "urged Member States to ban headscarves and hijab at least at primary school, in order to anchor more firmly the right to be a child and to ensure genuine and unenforced freedom of choice at a later age."

#### **Combating paedophile pornography and violence on the internet**

Among the European Parliament's many proposals, MEPs call for technical measures to combat the dissemination of paedophile content via the internet. They would also like to involve access suppliers, search engines and even banks, so as to block payment by would-be purchasers of illegal content.

In addition, the House wishes to protect children by tightening up rules on the transmission of harmful content via the internet or multimedia messaging services and the sale of violent video games. It would like a uniform classification and labelling system to be created for such games, and for all audiovisual content.

Children should be better informed of their rights via a dedicated internet site to be set up for this purpose, argues the European Parliament.

### **Enforce ban on child labour**

Among other points, MEPs advocate a mechanism to enable the prosecution, in Europe, of suppliers of products that have been manufactured with child labour. The Commission is urged to check whether production lines comply with rules prohibiting child labour.

### **Early warning system on child abductions and prosecution of sex criminals**

The House recommends setting up a European early warning system on child abductions and supports the Commission's plan to introduce a telephone help-line for children. It also urges the creation of a European strategy, and a single EU-wide set of extraterritorial criminal laws, to counter child sex tourism.

### **Community instrument on adoption**

Pointing out that every child has the right to a family, MEPs suggest establishing a Community instrument to facilitate adoption. Lastly, the EU is urged to sign up to the UN and Council of Europe conventions on the rights of the child.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress\\_page/019-18592-014-01-02-902-20080115IPR18582-14-01-2008-2008-false/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/019-18592-014-01-02-902-20080115IPR18582-14-01-2008-2008-false/default_en.htm)

## **Adoption of a non-binding report on the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights**

- ▶ **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights: adoption of a Multiannual Framework for 2007-2012** (17/01/2008)

In February 2007, legislation adopting the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights was published and the Agency became fully operational on 1 March 2007. The Agency's objective is to provide Community institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, as well as the Member States, with assistance and expertise in the field of fundamental rights – particularly so when formulating policies and legislation concerning fundamental human rights. The tasks entrusted to the Agency include the collection and analysis of information and data; the provision of advice through reports and opinions; and awareness raising.

Firstly, the report states that the Framework should include the fight against racism, xenophobia and related intolerance amongst the thematic areas of the Agency's activity and the protection of the rights of persons belonging to ethnic or national minorities.

One important amendment stipulates that the Agency shall deal with issues relating to discrimination based on sex, in particular instances of 'multiple discrimination'. The notion of 'multiple discrimination' should be examined closely so as to try and understand this complex form of discrimination. In its work in the thematic areas, the Agency shall seek to identify the economic, social and cultural factors that contribute to respect for human rights in those areas or which may constitute root causes of violations of human rights such as extreme poverty and social exclusion.

The report states that the Agency may work outside the thematic areas determined in the Multi-annual Framework at the request of the European Parliament, the Council or the Commission provided its financial and human resources so permit. The Commission, the Council and the European Parliament may request the Agency to investigate specific actions or concerns.

The report also calls for better democratic scrutiny and urges the other institutions to involve the European Parliament in this process as much as is possible. The Agency should report regularly to the European Parliament.

On the specific issue of the Agency's five year framework programme, MEPs consider that although this

framework provides stability for the work of the Agency, there should be a possibility to update or review this framework during this period as new challenges to the protection of human rights may arise.

Lastly, the report states that the Agency shall actively cooperate with candidate countries in the field of fundamental rights in order to facilitate their compliance with Community law.

### ***Debate 15 January 2008***

Speaking in the debate Michael **Cashman** the author of the report,(Labour, West Midlands, PES, UK) said: "There are some delegations, some politicians and some Member States who want the Agency to fail. They do not want it to be effective, and that is why I have been absolutely specific in the demands that we are making upon this Agency. I want it to succeed. I believe that the amendments that were adopted in committee will help it to succeed, while not placing upon the Agency undue demands which will go beyond the resources, both human and financial.

There have been suggestions amongst some of the women's groups that this does not go far enough, but we have introduced the gender perspective and taken account of the Gender Institute. Of course, there must be complementarity, but we must not have duplication because, again, that would waste the resources.

Of course minority languages are important, of course other areas are important, but there is nothing more important than an Agency for Fundamental Rights which is successful in the work that we set it to do."

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress\\_page/017-18591-014-01-03-902-20080115IPR18581-14-01-2008-2008-false/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/017-18591-014-01-03-902-20080115IPR18581-14-01-2008-2008-false/default_en.htm)