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- ♦ **Committee on Foreign Affairs**
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- ♦ **Subcommittee on security and defence**
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- ♦ **Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality**

- June, 26-27, 2008 (Brussels)

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- ♦ **Journée Internationale de soutien aux victimes de la Torture : Projection-débat organisée par l'OMCT-Europe, « Restitutions extraordinaires, quel impact sur la protection de vos droits fondamentaux ? »**

- June, 26, 2008 - Espace Sanghor, 366 Chaussée de Wavre, 1040 Etterbeek

REGIONS

AFRICA

♦ **Somalia**

▶ EU Presidency Statement on Somalia (11/06/2008)

The Presidency of the EU welcomes the Agreement reached between the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG) and the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia (ARS) in Djibouti on 9 June, facilitated by the UN Secretary General's Special Representative Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah.

The Presidency particularly welcomes the Somali parties' engagement to terminate all acts of armed confrontation for a period of 90 days and to undertake all necessary measures to ensure unhindered humanitarian access and assistance to affected populations. It further notes that a Joint Security Committee should be established on security arrangements and a High Level Committee on issues of political cooperation and concerns over justice and reconciliation.

The Presidency notes the request to the United Nations, of both parties to the Agreement, to authorize and deploy an international stabilization force.

The Presidency of the EU lends its full support to immediate implementation of the Djibouti Agreement and calls on all Somali groups and individuals to adhere to this Agreement and continue to build the momentum for peace in Somalia.

http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/June/0611MZZSomalia.html

♦ **Zimbabwe**

▶ EU Presidency Statement on Zimbabwe (13/06/2008)

The Presidency of the EU is very concerned about the arrest of Tendai Biti, Secretary General of the MDC in Zimbabwe and the third detention of Morgan Tsvangirai within a few weeks.

The Presidency welcomes the call for an end to violence and intimidation in Zimbabwe ahead of the elections on June 27 2008 by the Prominent African civil society leaders issued on 13 June.

The Presidency condemns the campaign of violence, harassment and intimidation taking place in Zimbabwe and urges the Government of Zimbabwe to ensure its cessation in order to establish a

peaceful, free and fair environment that would enable Zimbabweans to express their fundamental democratic right to vote.

http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/June/0613MZZ_Zimbabwe.html

AMERICAS

• USA

▶ 2008 EU-U.S. Summit Declaration (10/06/2008)

We, the leaders of the European Union and United States of America, met today in Brdo, Slovenia to further strengthen our strategic partnership. We view this Summit, and the fact that it is being hosted by Slovenia in its role as Presidency of the Council of the EU, as symbolic of our endeavour to realise a free, democratic and united Europe. The process of unifying Europe is one of the outstanding historical legacies of our partnership over the past half century.

The strategic partnership between the EU and the U.S. is firmly anchored in our common values and increasingly serves as a platform from which we can act in partnership to meet the most serious global challenges and to advance our shared values, freedom and prosperity around the globe. **We seek a world based on international law, democracy, the rule of law and human rights, and strengthened by broad and sustainable market-based economic growth. The bond between the EU and the U.S. has proven its resilience through times of difficulty, and we continue to demonstrate global leadership and effective transatlantic co-operation in the face of the most pressing challenges of our day:**

- **Promoting international peace, stability, democracy, human rights, international criminal justice, the rule of law and good governance;**
- **Working together in conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction;**
- **Fighting the scourge of terrorism while protecting the fundamental freedoms on which our democratic societies are built;**
- Encouraging the world's fast-growing economic powers to assume their responsibilities in the global rules-based system;
- Fostering an open, competitive and innovative transatlantic economy, through free movement of goods, persons, services and capital, while working together towards a prompt, balanced and ambitious agreement in the WTO Doha Round that creates new market access and strengthens growth in both developed and developing nations;
- Combating climate change, promoting energy security and efficiency, helping developing nations lift themselves out of poverty, and fighting the most crippling infectious diseases.

Global Security, Peace, Human Rights and Democracy

In this decisive year for the Western Balkans, we underline the importance of the European and transatlantic perspective as an essential element in promoting stability and economic progress for the whole region. We welcome the commitment of the EU to extend membership to all the countries of the Western Balkans, as soon as necessary conditions are met. We also welcome NATO's recent decisions to extend its membership into the Western Balkans.

We welcome progress made by **Croatia, Serbia, Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro** in the processes of EU and NATO integration. We welcome the signature of the Stabilization and Association Agreement and of the EU Interim Agreement with Serbia as a confirmation of its commitment to a European perspective and an important step on the country's path towards the EU. We welcome the commitment of all political forces in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to remain united behind the national consensus to actively pursue Euro-Atlantic integration. We welcome the forthcoming signature of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina and urge the Bosnian leaders to remain committed to a sustainable reform process.

We will continue to support the stability and security of **Kosovo** and its regional integration, and will assist Kosovo in its economic and institutional development. We note that the Kosovo authorities are committed to the objective of a stable, democratic and multi-ethnic society. We commend NATO's contributions to Kosovo as well as those of the OSCE. We will co-operate on completing a smooth transition from UNMIK to EULEX responsibility for the rule of law and its full deployment throughout all of Kosovo, which is essential for the stability of Kosovo. The EU welcomes U.S. participation in the EULEX mission.

We welcome the recent steps forward toward Peace in the Middle East, and will pursue complementary efforts to support the Parties' efforts to reach a political agreement by the end of 2008, as foreseen at the Annapolis Conference. We are determined to support the subsequent implementation of that agreement, and call again on Israel and the Palestinians to implement their Roadmap obligations in full. The EU and the U.S. are doing important work in the area of Palestinian capacity-building to pave the way for a future democratic Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours. We underline the importance of continued broad and constructive involvement by Arab partners and commend the Arab League's Peace Initiative and its goal of promoting a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. We call on donors, especially those in the region to follow through on and, if possible increase, their pledges and deliver assistance to the Palestinian Authority.

We welcome the election of **Michel Suleiman as President of Lebanon**. We look forward to the full implementation of the Doha agreement and a full resumption of the functioning of all democratic institutions of the state of Lebanon. We reaffirm our joint commitment to the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon, and our support for its government. We call on all concerned parties, including Syria, to comply with UN Security Council Resolutions 1559, 1701, 1757, and other relevant resolutions, including full cooperation with the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. We reject the use of violence as a means to achieve political ends, and we reiterate our support for the extension of the full authority of the Government of Lebanon throughout Lebanese territory.

We expect **Iran** to comply with its international obligations concerning its nuclear activities, including the full and verifiable suspension of enrichment and full cooperation with the IAEA. Iran must fully restore confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme through implementation of the Additional Protocol. Iran must provide to the IAEA full disclosure of any weapons-related work and allow the IAEA to verify that any such work has ceased. We affirm the dual track strategy on this issue which was reinforced by the incentives package and reiterate our belief that a mutually satisfactory, negotiated solution remains open to Iran. At the same time, we will fully and effectively implement UN Security Council Resolutions 1737, 1747, 1803 and other pertinent resolutions and we are ready to supplement those sanctions with additional measures. We will continue to work together, including through the Financial Action Task Force, to take steps to ensure Iranian banks cannot abuse the international banking system to support proliferation and terrorism. We call upon the Government of Iran to cooperate in the fight against terrorism. We reiterate our concern about Iran's regional policies, especially its continued support for terrorist organisations, and call on Iran to play a responsible and constructive role in the region. We also underline our continued concern about the

deterioration of the human rights situation in Iran, especially those of human rights defenders, women and minorities.

We welcome the meetings of the Neighbouring Countries of Iraq and of the International Compact with **Iraq**, and acknowledge the value and importance of these ongoing processes, which remain essential to achieve security and prosperity in Iraq and in the region as a whole. We encourage the countries in the region to increase engagement with Iraq by opening diplomatic missions in Baghdad, exchanging senior-level visits, and making progress on bilateral debt negotiations. We welcome the more extensive role played by the UN/UNAMI in Iraq in line with UNSCR 1770. We will continue to work jointly in support of the Government of Iraq's efforts to hold provincial elections as part of its efforts towards national reconciliation and in promoting peace, stability, and security for the benefit of all Iraqis. We encourage all political actors in Iraq to do their utmost to bring an end to violence. We will work with Iraq to hasten its ability to join the WTO. The EU's substantial assistance in Iraq, including more high-level contacts with the Iraqi government, is complemented by negotiating an EU/Iraq Trade and Cooperation Agreement for which we look forward to a rapid conclusion.

We share a long-term commitment towards the stabilisation and development of a democratic **Afghanistan**. We appreciate NATO's work in leading the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, and will work closely to ensure the success of the mission of UN Special Representative Kai Eide. We are enhancing our strategic cooperation on assisting Afghanistan, including expanding the size and scope of our justice and police reform assistance and counter-narcotics efforts. We look forward to reaffirming our long-term commitment to Afghanistan's development at the June 12 Paris Support Conference. We call on the Afghan Government to further invigorate its efforts to improve governance and human rights, including media freedom, and fight corruption, drug production, and drug trafficking, and we call on our international partners to maintain their generosity.

We welcome the recent progress made in **Pakistan** towards a lasting democratic transition. We are committed to supporting the new democratically elected government in tackling the many challenges it faces, not least the threat from violent extremism.

We stand ready to work together with **Russia** on major regional and global issues of mutual concern as we recognise the important and constructive role that Russia should play on the international stage. We encourage Russia to meet its international commitments on human rights and democratic development, including in the Council of Europe and the OSCE. We also encourage Russia's engagement in a productive and transparent dialogue aiming at beneficial cooperation, in order to promote democratic values and freedoms.

We offer our deepest condolences to the people of **China** for the earthquake victims in Sichuan. Recognising China's growing role as an engaged member of the international community, we will continue our constructive engagement and will encourage China to assume a greater role in helping to tackle issues of global concern, such as the international financial and trading system, climate change, sustainable development and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We also encourage greater regional integration as a means for promoting prosperity and stability in East Asia. We are concerned about the recent unrest in Tibet and urge all sides to refrain from further violence. We welcome China's recent decision to hold talks with the Dalai Lama's representatives. We encourage both parties to move forward with a substantive, constructive and results-oriented dialogue at an early date. We urge China to take substantive steps to allow its citizens to enjoy internationally recognized human rights. We encourage China to address its poor human rights record.

We offer our deepest condolences and reiterate our concern for the **Burmese victims** of Cyclone Nargis and our commitment to assist them as they recover from this tragedy. We call on the Burmese authorities to meet their commitments to grant access to foreign aid workers to the cyclone affected areas. We confirm our intention to continue our substantial humanitarian aid to the people affected by the disaster, in particular through the combined efforts of the UN, ASEAN, international and local agencies, and NGOs. Separately, we remain deeply concerned at continued repression in Burma/Myanmar as well as the lack of progress toward national reconciliation and a credible transition to legitimate civilian government. We reiterate our support to the Good Offices Mission of the UN Secretary General, and will continue to pressure the Burmese authorities, including implementing targeted sanctions, to embark on an inclusive dialogue with all stakeholders in the country, including Aung San Suu Kyi and other democratic and ethnic minority representatives. We are deeply troubled by the Burmese regime's extension of Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest on 27 May and call upon the regime to release her and all political prisoners.

We commend the continued efforts of **Ukraine, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova** to meet European standards, we welcome their aspirations and we commit to help these countries achieve their reform goals as soon as possible. We note that NATO leaders sent a clear message in Bucharest that Georgia and Ukraine will become members of NATO. We are ready to work with all appropriate parties to promote resolution of the conflicts in the region. We reiterate our commitment to the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders, and call on all parties, in particular on Russia, to support these principles. We welcome the Georgian President's recent peace initiatives on Abkhazia, as well as the recent direct talks between the parties, hoping that they will contribute to a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

In Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan we will continue to promote democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. With regard to Belarus, we will continue to hold Belarusian officials responsible for human rights abuses. We call on the Belarusian authorities to release unconditionally and immediately all remaining political prisoners. We condemn the use of coercive measures taken against diplomatic missions in Belarus.

We will continue to act together in order to stabilise **Sudan, Somalia and the Great Lakes region of Africa**. We will coordinate our efforts to support African Union capacity-building including financial accountability and the development of the African Standby Force. We note the EU commitment to maintain its peacekeeping efforts in eastern Chad in line with commitments and deadlines contained in UNSCR 1778 and commit to work together to increase pressure on Darfur rebels and the Government of Sudan, including through the implementation of sanctions with the goal of accelerating the deployment of the UN/African Union Hybrid Mission in Darfur and promoting the peace process mediated by the UN and AU Special Envoys and in full compliance with UNSCR 1593 and UNSCR 1769. We will continue to support the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement as the bedrock of long-term stability and the way forward for democracy in Sudan.

We call on the government of **Zimbabwe** immediately to cease the state-sponsored violence and intimidation against its people that has occurred since the 29 March presidential and parliamentary elections, and which is so hostile to the tenets of democracy and human rights, and we strongly back the efforts of African leaders to bring about an expeditious resolution to this crisis. We urge the United Nations Secretary-General to send a team immediately to monitor human rights and to deter further abuses. The announced second round of presidential elections on 27 June presents the opportunity for the Zimbabwean people to express freely and democratically their will, opening the way for

delivering political stability to the country. A free and fair presidential runoff is critical to the resolution of the ongoing crisis.

We will continue to work together and in collaboration with partners in Latin America and the Caribbean, to spread the benefits of democracy in the Western Hemisphere; to promote economic opportunity and social development; to uphold democratic institutions and human rights; and to enhance security. We encourage democratic processes in the countries of the region consistent with the Inter-American Democratic Charter. We welcome Cuba's signing of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and urge the government to ratify the Covenant and demonstrate its commitment by unconditionally releasing all political prisoners. We will work together to support human rights, democratic values and an active civil society and the continued exercise of freedom of expression throughout the region. We condemn the taking of hostages in any circumstances whatsoever and call on illegal armed groups to release all hostages.

We will continue acting jointly bilaterally and multilaterally to promote democracy, safeguard peace and human rights and in this regard encourage all governments to promote and protect their citizens' human rights. We have co-sponsored a Declaration in the United Nations General Assembly to highlight the plight of prisoners of conscience throughout the world in honour of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We will continue to work cooperatively to promote democratic governance around the world and are prepared to encourage multilateral initiatives such as the Community of Democracies.

We are committed to support effective multilateralism, based on a stronger and more efficient United Nations. **We will work to strengthen the United Nations so that it can better fulfil the goals and objectives set forth in its mandate with transparency and accountability. We will work together to ensure that the multilateral system takes action to protect the freedoms of individuals, and will hold all regimes that fail to protect the human rights of their people accountable. We will support in the UN more effective peacekeeping, disarmament, and delivery of development assistance, and food assistance.**

We recognise the need for further cooperation to tackle international terrorism, particularly through an active role for the U.S., the EU and Member States in multilateral counter terrorism efforts at the UN. We stand ready to work for an effective implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We will continue to work together to reach international consensus towards an agreement on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism that enhances global efforts to combat terrorism and strengthens the existing international legal framework for counter-terrorism. We call for full implementation of UNSC counter-terrorism Resolutions 1267, 1373 and 1540 and support the work of the respective UNSC Committees. We will redouble our efforts to ensure that the UNSCR 1267 Consolidated List accurately reflects facts on the ground, including through proposals of new listings. We agreed to expand our cooperation on counter- terrorism finance including preventing misuses of charities and bulk cash smuggling to finance terrorism, and increase information sharing.

We will seek to deepen our ties in our common fight against terrorism. **We will ensure that efforts to combat terrorism comply with our obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law. We will take steps to ensure that members of designated terrorist groups do not misuse the law. We agree that the fight against international terrorism raises important legal questions. We have continued and deepened our dialogue on international law principles, relevant to our common fight against terrorism. Our dialogue contributes to a better mutual understanding of our respective legal frameworks and helps us work together more effectively.**

We look forward to the imminent ratification and entry into force of the EU-U.S. Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance Agreements, which are important tools for enhancing fully judicial co-operation and for better tackling organised crime and terrorist offences.

We will work together to combat the global threats posed by transnational organised crime, grand scale corruption, and terrorism. We recognise that transnational criminal syndicates, high level corruption, and terrorist networks destabilise societies by undermining the rule of law and impeding efforts to promote freedom and democracy. We look forward to strengthening international cooperation and working jointly to provide capacity to combat these global threats. We also call for full implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption, the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime and its complementary protocols, as well as other UN instruments and resolutions to fight organised crime, corruption, and terrorism.

We recognise that the fight against transnational crime and terrorism requires the ability to share personal data for law enforcement purposes while fully protecting the fundamental rights and civil liberties of our citizens, in particular their privacy and personal data protection, by maintaining necessary standards of personal data protection. Our ongoing discussions within the High Level Contact Group (HLCG) on EU and U.S. frameworks for the protection of personal data have allowed us to identify a number of significant commonalities in our approaches based upon our shared values. The best way to ensure these interests are met is through a binding international agreement that addresses all the issues identified in the HLCG report. Our challenge moving forward will be to translate insights into greater collaboration in all aspects of law enforcement cooperation.

We will continue to work together to strengthen and universalise relevant disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and regimes. We agree to continue and further develop our cooperation in promoting strict implementation of and compliance with relevant treaties, agreements and commitments on non-proliferation. We will cooperate as appropriate in programmes aiming at raising awareness and at improving national capacity to prevent and counter the weapons of mass destruction (WMD) threat, including by combating the financing of proliferation and the threat of nuclear terrorism. We will continue our joint efforts to better coordinate multilateral capacity building and third country assistance on non-proliferation, in particular drawing on our joint support for United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 and the decision by the Security Council to extend the important work of this universal effort through UNSCRs 1673 (2006) and 1810 (2008). We call for geographical expansion of the G8 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. We will address together the challenges posed by non-compliance with regimes restricting the use or proliferation of WMD, and continue our productive dialogue on verification and compliance, established at the 2005 Summit, with a view to identifying opportunities for joint initiatives. We will continue to develop our cooperation in combating nuclear terrorism, in particular through the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in which all EU Member States are partners.

We recognise the need for further cooperation on preventing and fighting international piracy, especially in the framework of the UN.

The security challenges we face call for enhanced cooperation on crisis management. We recognise that modern crisis management requires a comprehensive approach. We can improve our response to crises through close collaboration on all aspects of crisis management, consistent with and building upon cooperation with the UN, other nations, NATO, and other multilateral organisations as appropriate, with a particular view to enhancing transatlantic cooperation in civilian aspects of crisis management and conflict prevention through our agreed Work Plan. We recognise the contribution that a strong EU role in crisis

management can bring to the world and support closer EU-NATO relations to better address a wide range of issues of common interest relating to crisis management.

We will support and work together actively in a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation to advance international criminal justice and accountability for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity.

Recognising the serious threat presented by cocaine production and trafficking, we endorse intensified cooperation on intelligence sharing and interdiction in this field, and we commit in particular to facilitate an exchange of information and a coordination of assistance efforts to address drug trafficking from Latin America, especially to West Africa.

http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/Press_Releases/June/0610EU_USA_Declaration.html

ASIA

♦ China

▶ **Slovenian Minister Rupel heads EU-Troika meeting with China** (9/06/2008)

Today in Ljubljana, the current President of the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, headed the ministerial EU-Troika meeting with the People's Republic of China. Apart from Dr Rupel, the EU delegation included the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, the European Commissioner, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, and the State Secretary in charge of Cooperation and Francophony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Alain Joyandet, while the Chinese delegation was headed by the Chinese Foreign Minister, Yang Jiechi. The core issue under discussion was relations between the European Union and China, with particular emphasis on the framing of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, and an exchange of views on the situation in Tibet and human rights. The meeting also offered an opportunity for exchanging opinions on certain regional and international issues, including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Burma/Myanmar, Iran, Africa and regional cooperation with Eastern Asia.

EU-Chinese relations

Dr Rupel, on behalf of the European Union, conveyed the deepest sympathies to the Chinese delegation following the recent catastrophic earthquake in the Province of Sichuan. **The Slovenian Foreign Minister went on to express satisfaction at the development of bilateral relations between the EU and China, and the strategic and comprehensive nature of these relations.** "We sincerely hope to see dialogue and cooperation with China in many areas, both on bilateral and global issues," stressed Dr Rupel, adding that both sides, and indeed the international Community as a whole, would benefit from such close cooperation. He pointed out that the world is facing numerous challenges: "We will not find constructive solutions unless we have close mutual cooperation. These challenges demand a joint response from the EU and China," maintained Dr Rupel. **At the meeting, special attention was given to the negotiations on the new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.**

The Slovenian Foreign Minister also noted that the European Union appreciated the active and responsible role played by China in matters of international relevance such as cooperation in the Six-Party Talks concerning North Korea Nuclear Issues or supporting Gambari's mission in Myanmar.

Tibet

The Slovenian Foreign Minister stated that Europe had been monitoring the events in Tibet in March closely and with some concern. **"We issued a clear opinion stating that violent protests were not acceptable. We also stressed the need for substantive and constructive dialogue with regard to the concern expressed by the Tibet people, while taking into consideration the territorial integrity and sovereignty of China,"** he commented. He welcomed China's decision in favour of dialogue with Dalai Lama and his representatives on all issues related to Tibet except that of sovereignty. The informal contacts between the Dalai Lama's representatives and the Chinese authorities that took place on 3 May in Shenzhen are a first step in this direction. Dr Rupel expressed the EU's hope that this initiative would soon produce tangible results. He moreover called upon the Chinese authorities to facilitate access to Tibet for journalists, diplomats, UN agencies, tourists and others. "Opening Tibet up to the outside world would increase transparency and thus alleviate international concern," he added. The Slovenian Minister also commented that "establishing relationships across the Taiwan Strait is also a welcome move."

Human rights

The Slovenian Foreign Minister reported the EU's agreement with China's wish, as expressed last month, on the occasion of the 25th round of EU-Chinese talks on human rights, **that human rights should represent a positive component of relations and not a cause of tension.** "We agree: we would like to discuss human rights in a spirit of mutual respect," pointed out the Minister. Dr Rupel was pleased to note that, at the legal seminar, **Chinese and European experts and academics had openly and constructively presented views on important issues in the field of children's rights and the right to health.** However, issues discussed in the context of the dialogue on human rights are more complex and more sensitive: **this particularly applies to the freedom of expression and the rights of minorities in Tibet.**

Dr Rupel reported that the EU had expressed concern regarding restrictions of the freedom of expression which had included the enforcement of regulations on foreign journalists, the position of Chinese journalists and control of the internet. "I understand that China is not satisfied with the Western media's reporting of events in Tibet and the handover of the Olympic torch. However, I would like to point out how the Western media reported the terrible earthquakes which hit the Chinese province of Sichuan. They praised the Chinese authorities' response and showed great compassion for the suffering Chinese population. Consequently, we do not believe that the media are biased against China. Quite the opposite. This shows how important it is to let the media do their work," commented the Slovenian Foreign Minister.

While respecting Chinese internal affairs and the universal nature of human rights, **the EU expressed concern about human rights in Tibet, free access to the region and called on China to continue the dialogue with the Dalai Lama.** The Slovenian Minister also referred to a number of other issues, such as the proposal for the release of the remaining Tiananmen Square prisoners on humanitarian grounds. "At this important time, just before the start of the Olympic games, such a gesture would give a clear and positive signal," affirmed Dr Rupel.

Korea

Dr Rupel noted that the EU had repeatedly expressed its firm support for the Six-Party Talks on the denuclearisation on the Korean peninsula and was grateful to China for its constructive role in the process. A measure of progress was achieved last year. The Slovenian Foreign Minister emphasised, **"We call upon all the parties to continue the positive moves that would result in the issue of a proper final declaration on all North Korea's nuclear programmes and deployment of the third phase of the process. Verifiable and complete dismantling of all North Korea's nuclear programmes and**

denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula continues to be the ultimate objective.”

At international fora and in bilateral negotiations, the EU has also repeatedly highlighted concern about the status of human rights in Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. The EU is also concerned about food shortages in the country. The EU had asked the Korean government to be lenient with the North Korean citizens that were crossing the Chinese border in search of food; **Dr Rupel invited China to reconsider its policy towards these refugees, who risk being sentenced to death if they are returned to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.** The EU and its Member States will consider the option of providing humanitarian aid to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in the event of the humanitarian crisis due to the food shortage.

Burma/Myanmar

The Slovenian Foreign Minister then observed that recent news from Burma/Myanmar called attention to the political situation and continual oppression in the country, “The European public was shocked that the military junta, despite the large-scale humanitarian disaster, had not cancelled the national referendum immediately.” He added that this would reinforce fears that the procedure for the adoption of the draft constitution and its contents were completely irregular. Dr Rupel also underscored, “We are concerned about intimidation during the run-up to the referendum and pressure exerted on voters,” adding that the EU had publicly expressed its concerns about the extension of the detention of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The EU takes the view that national unity is needed in Burma/Myanmar and that extending her detention would not contribute to a better future or to the provision of additional foreign aid.

http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/Press_Releases/June/0609EU-Kitajska.html

♦ **China**

- ▶ **Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the CFSP, today met Yang Jiechi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of China** (11/06/2008)

They discussed the bilateral relations between EU and China and exchanged views on international and regional issues.

The following is an edited summary of Mr Solana's remarks to the press after the meeting:

"For me it is a great pleasure to receive Minister Yang, a good friend, here in Brussels in his first visit to this institution. **I started our conversation by showing our solidarity with the tragic event in China.** The Chinese people can be sure that we care about them and that we try to help them as much as we can.

Let me also say that the bilateral relations between China and the EU are very good, but we can still do better. In the time ahead of us we are committed to construct a solid and profound relationship. Today we had a good opportunity to talk about that, but also about how to look at the world as much as possible with the same eyes.

In the coming period of time, we have three very important events, for China and for the EU. First, the Olympic Games that we hope very much will be a success. That is in the interest of everybody, in the interest of the Olympic family. The second thing we have is the ASEM Summit that will take place in Beijing in October, and I hope very much that will be a success also. For us Europeans that is very important, for China also, and for the other countries of the region. And then we have the EU-China Summit set for the end of 2008 in Lyon, that will be to my mind a very good wrap-up of all this period of time in which China and the EU are working so much together.

We have in front of us important challenges that can only be solved with a good cooperation between important players. And without any doubt China is a very important player and the EU is also a very important player."

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/declarations/101073.pdf

- ♦ **China/Taiwan**

- ▶ **EU Presidency Statement on re-establishment of dialogue between authorized non-governmental organizations engaged in talks on issues related to exchanges across the Taiwan Strait** (13/06/2008)

The EU Presidency warmly welcomes the re-established dialogue between the China mainland's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait and the Taiwan-based Strait Exchange Foundation in Beijing on 12 June. The talks, revived after almost ten years, represent a significant step towards closer relations and the establishment of trust between both sides.

The Presidency is also pleased to note the arrangement on direct charter flights and on the exchange of tourist visits at weekends, which will contribute significantly to the strengthening of friendly ties between the people of mainland China and Taiwan, and to the development of economic, cultural and social ties.

The Presidency hopes that these steps will encourage all concerned to pursue a vision for long-term peaceful political and economic development of the region.

http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/June/0613MZZtaiwan.html

- ♦ **Thailand**

- ▶ **Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the CFSP, met Mr. Noppadon PATTAMA, Foreign Minister of Thailand** (9/06/2008)

The meeting focussed on issues related to ASEAN, in particular the situation in Burma/Myanmar, and provided an opportunity to address EU-Thailand bilateral relations.

Mr. Solana commended ASEAN on its active role in expediting humanitarian assistance to the population of Burma/Myanmar affected by cyclone Nargis and for taking the lead in organising the international conference on 25 May, which took place in close co-operation with the United Nations. Mr. Solana underlined the EU's substantial contribution to the aid effort and reiterated the importance of full and speedy access to the victims of the disaster.

In view of Thailand's forthcoming presidency of ASEAN, Mr. SOLANA encouraged Minister PATTAMA to continue to play an active role in this regard and also to maintain the diplomatic pressure on the leadership in Burma/Myanmar so as to obtain progress in internal developments.

Mr SOLANA and Minister PATTAMA also praised the excellent state of EU-ASEAN co-operation and discussed the important development that lie ahead in ASEAN's regional community building.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/declarations/101051.pdf

♦ **FYROM**

▶ **Minister Rupel visits Skopje** (13/06/2008)

Slovenian Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) Dimitrij Rupel is on a visit to Skopje today, where he met with the highest representatives of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. They discussed two key issues – **Macedonia's integration into Euro-Atlantic structures and preparations for repeat elections at certain polling stations that saw unrest and irregularities in the elections on 1 June.**

Minister Rupel first met with Foreign Minister Antonio Milošoski, and later with Macedonian President Branko Crvenkovski and Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski. As part of the preparations for Monday's GAERC meeting, Minister Rupel and Prime Minister Gruevski talked mostly about Macedonia drawing closer to the European Union. Minister Rupel pointed out that presently the EU's door is wide open, and thus it would be wise to seize this favourable moment.

Minister Rupel also held a discussion on preparations for the elections that will again take place at those polling stations where irregularities occurred on 1 June. This issue was the main topic of his talks with Interior Minister Gordana Jankulovska, who acquainted the Slovenian Foreign Minister with measures adopted by the government to ensure peaceful and regular elections and to prevent any unrest. Minister Rupel also discussed Sunday's elections with the leaders of three political parties – Radmila Šekerinska of the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia, and Menduh Thaçi (Democratic Party of Albanians) and Ali Ahmeti (Democratic Union for Integration), leaders of the two Albanian community parties.

http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/Press_Releases/June/0613MZZ_Skopje.html

♦ **Kyrgyzstan**

▶ **Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the CFSP, today met Ednan KARABAYEV, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan** (11/06/2008)

High Representative Javier SOLANA and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ednan KARABAYEV discussed the relations between EU and Kyrgyzstan, as well as the latest developments in the country and in the region. High Representative Javier Solana expressed his condolences on the passing away of the Kyrgyz Ambassador to the EU and a renowned writer Chingiz Aitmatov.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/declarations/101072.pdf

♦ **Serbia**

▶ **EU Presidency welcoming the arrest of Stojan Župljanin** (11/06/2008)

The EU Presidency welcomes the arrest today in Belgrade of Stojan Župljanin, one of the four remaining war crime fugitives, charged with crimes committed in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It underlines that Mr Župljanin now needs to be transferred to The Hague without delay.

The apprehension of Mr Župljanin is an important step towards Serbia meeting in full the condition of cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia. The Presidency hopes that the authorities of the Republic of Serbia will strengthen their efforts to that end, also in order for Serbia to be able to advance further on its path of approach to the EU.

http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/Press_Releases/June/0611MZZupljanin.html

♦ **Ukraine**

- ▶ Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the CFSP, today met Yuriy YEKHANUROV, Minister of Defence of Ukraine (13/06/2008)

They expressed satisfaction with the very good cooperation between the EU and Ukraine in the field of security and defence and the willingness on both sides to further intensify their cooperation. Mr Solana underlined the potential for using Ukraine's assets to a larger extent in EU operations. They also exchanged views on the situation in Georgia which they had both recently visited.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/declarations/101186.pdf

♦ **Uzbekistan**

- ▶ Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the release of the human rights defender Ms Moutabar Tadjibaeva by Uzbek authorities (10/06/2008)

The European Union welcomes the release on parole of Ms Tadjibaeva, a well-known human rights defender in Uzbekistan. It encourages the Uzbek authorities to grant her a full pardon. The EU hopes that Ms Tadjibaeva could travel abroad to receive the 2008 Martin Ennals Prize, which is awarded every year to a person who has demonstrated his/her commitment in the fight against human rights violations. **The EU also calls upon Uzbek authorities to release immediately all human rights defenders and prisoners whose situation has been brought to the attention of the Uzbek authorities by the EU.**

http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/June/0610MZZ_Uzbekistan.html

MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST

♦ **Afghanistan**

- ▶ Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the CFSP, participated in the Paris International Conference in Support of Afghanistan (13/06/2008)

"The fact that, today, over eighty countries are gathered around the table in Paris is very important. It shows that support for Afghanistan is increasing. **The EU will continue to stand by Afghanistan and support its government and the Afghan people**" said the High Representative. As an example, he recalled that the

EU had recently made a commitment to increase its efforts through its mission EUPOL Afghanistan by doubling the number of experts working for it.

Mr Solana welcomed the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and stressed the importance of ownership and accountability by the Afghans themselves in the reconstruction process. He recalled that 2009 and 2010, when presidential and parliamentary elections are to be held, would be fundamental years for Afghanistan.

Mr Solana also said: "I want to express my support to Kai Eide, the UN Special Representative for Afghanistan, who is performing a very good job in coordinating all the efforts being deployed in support of Afghanistan."

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/declarations/101131.pdf

- ♦ **Iran**

- ▶ **EU Presidency statement on the imminent execution of juvenile offenders in Iran** (10/06/2008)

The Presidency of the European Union urgently calls on the Iranian authorities to immediately halt the execution of three juvenile offenders, Mr Mohammad Fadaei, Mr Behnood Shojaee and Mr Saeed Jazee, who are scheduled to be executed on 11 June 2008.

The Presidency of the EU recalls its statement on 4 June and reiterates that these and as well as all other juvenile death sentences are in direct contravention of the Islamic Republic of Iran's international obligations and commitments to which the Islamic Republic of Iran has freely entered. **These obligations contravene specifically the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. These two international human rights mechanism clearly prohibit the execution of minors or people who have been convicted of crimes committed when they were minors. These international legal obligations must be fully and unconditionally respected by the Iranian authorities.**

The Presidency of the EU urges the Islamic Republic of Iran to fully comply with international law, taking in consideration alternative sentences for juvenile offenders and respect for international norms and standards that provide safeguards guaranteeing the protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty.

http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/June/0610MZZ_Iran.html

- ♦ **Iran**

- ▶ **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the execution of Mohammad Hassanzadeh** (13/06/2008)

The European Union strongly condemns the execution of the 17 year old Mohammad Hassanzadeh who was executed on 10 June 2008 in Sanandaj, the capital of the Iranian province of Kurdistan.

As Mohammad Hassanzadeh was a minor and his execution by the Iranian authorities is in direct contravention of international law.

There can be absolutely no justification for the use of the death penalty by the Iranian authorities in the case of juvenile offenders, which explicitly runs counter to the legally binding provisions of international law.

The European Union urges the Islamic Republic of Iran to immediately halt the use of the death penalty in the case of juvenile offenders (relating to crimes committed before the age of 18). The EU also calls upon the Iranian authorities to introduce a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in all instances.

The EU further calls upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to bring its domestic legislation and practice into line with the international human rights conventions which Iran has freely entered into and ratified, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. These two international human rights mechanisms clearly prohibit the execution of minors or people who have been convicted of crimes committed when they were minors. The provisions of these international legal instruments are legally binding on the Islamic Republic of Iran and must be respected by them immediately.

http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/June/0613MZZ_Iran.html

- ♦ **Iran**

- ▶ **Summary of remarks by Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the CFSP, at the press conference in Tehran (14/06/2008)**

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), visited Iran from Friday, 13 to Saturday, 14 June 2008. He had meetings with the Iranian Foreign Minister, Manouchehr MOTTAKI, and the Secretary of the Iranian Supreme National Security Council, Saeed JALILI.

On Saturday, the High Representative presented to Iran a proposal seeking to resolve the concerns that Iran's nuclear programme raises with the international community and to enter into a normalised relationship with Iran in all areas. The following is an edited summary of Mr SOLANA's remarks at his press conference in Tehran after he presented the proposals to the Iranian authorities:

"I am here in my capacity as the High Representative of the EU and **I am also speaking on behalf of China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.** I am in Tehran to **present a generous and comprehensive offer which we would like to be the starting point for real negotiations.** I have brought with me a letter signed by the ministers of the six countries and myself.

Iran is a very important country, a great country with an ancient civilisation and culture. It is a country with a very significant role to play in the international community. This is why we want to negotiate with Iran. Let me clear about what the international community is offering: we are offering a proposal which we would like to be the starting point for real negotiations.

The proposal would allow Iran to develop a modern nuclear energy programme. The proposal is full of opportunities for Iran to modernise and for both sides to restart their relationship.

The main lines of what we are offering Iran are the following: we are ready to fully recognise Iran's rights to have nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. We are ready to cooperate with Iran in the development of a modern nuclear energy programme based on the most modern generation of light-water reactors. We offer legally binding fuel supply guarantees, or to work together in designing a system to provide these fuel guarantees. We can help Iran with the management of nuclear waste. We can support Iranian research and development, including in the nuclear field once confidence is being restored. If we can settle the core issue, the nuclear programme, the door would be open to cooperation in many other areas.

Let me mention just a few of them: **in the political arena**, we are ready to cooperate in building up regional security in the wider Middle East region, in cooperation with many other partners. In **the economic field**, we can work on trade liberalization. There is scope for a longterm partnership on energy. We can work on projects in the field of the **environment, infrastructure, transport and communications, science and technology and high-tech**. We can support the modernisation of **agriculture**, we can work together on **education** and on **emergency response**. We could also look at civil aviation, and this is a very important area for the Iranian authorities, and people-to-people exchanges.

The fact that I am here today shows how seriously we regard this problem and how serious we are in our efforts to find a negotiated solution. A negotiated solution would enable Iran to fulfil its potential as a respected member of the international community. What is at the heart of all our endeavours is the need to restore confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. The best way to do that is to provide objective guarantees of the peaceful nature of its programme.

There is a potential win-win here: Iran gets cooperation from the international community and the international community gets the reassurance it needs that Iran's nuclear programme is of a peaceful nature. **In order to move forward, the Iranian leadership knows very well the condition. Cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency has to be total and the UN Security Council resolutions have to be implemented in full.**

As we have said many times before, we want to have a fully normalised relationship with Iran in the nuclear field and in all other areas. Iran is a great country. We want Iran to play its rightful role in the world. Starting negotiations on the basis of the proposal that we presented today will lead to this."

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/discours/101202.pdf

- ♦ **Yemen**

- ▶ **Declaration by the Presidency on the behalf of the EU on the deterioration of the security situation in Yemen** (12/06/2008)

The EU firmly supports the Government and people of Yemen in addressing the country's economic, political, security and social challenges. While acknowledging the need for the Government of Yemen to maintain security within its borders, the EU remains concerned by the recent escalation of the fighting around Sa'dah and the expansion of the conflict to the outskirts of Sana'a and other areas. Based on the assessment of needs and access to victims, the EU remains ready to consider urgent humanitarian assistance to victims, including the worrying number of internally displaced people. The EU calls on the Government of Yemen to do all it can to ensure that innocent civilians are not caught up in the conflict.

The EU considers that only a political solution can achieve lasting peace, and calls on all parties to show restraint and to work actively towards a negotiated settlement along the lines of the February 2008 agreement.

The European Union remains committed to reinforcing its partnership with Yemen in close co-operation with regional partners, especially the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC). The stability of Yemen is crucial for the people of Yemen and for the region as a whole.

THEMATIC

FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

EXTERNAL RELATIONS & DEVELOPMENT-RELATED ISSUES

EU / UN REFORM

- ♦ **The Lisbon Treaty – Finland and Estonia**
 - ▶ **Slovenian Presidency welcomes ratification of the Lisbon Treaty by the Finnish and Estonian parliaments** (11/06/2008)

The Slovenian Presidency welcomes ratification of the Lisbon Treaty by the Finnish and Estonian parliaments. Each endorsement scores a goal towards winning the European cup final – enforcement of the Treaty on 1 January.

The Presidency is following ratification procedures closely and notes that the Treaty enjoys high support. Until now, 17 Member States have already ratified the Treaty. Besides today's approval by the Finnish and Estonian parliaments, the Treaty has been endorsed by the parliaments of Hungary, Slovenia, Malta, Romania, France, Bulgaria, Poland, Slovakia, Portugal, Denmark, Austria, Latvia, Lithuania, Germany and Luxembourg. The Treaty is thus awaiting endorsement by a minority of Member States. Before its enforcement, the Member States have to deposit their ratification documents with the Italian government.

http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/Press_Releases/June/0611SVEZ_Eston_Fin.html

- ♦ **The Lisbon Treaty – Greece**

- ▶ Slovenian Presidency welcomes ratification of the Lisbon Treaty by the Greek parliament (12/06/2008)

http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/Press_Releases/June/0612Greek_ratificationLT.html

- ♦ **The Lisbon Treaty – Ireland**

- ▶ Prime Minister Janez Janša comments on the Irish referendum (13/06/2008)

Today, we have learned about the outcome of the Irish referendum on the Lisbon Treaty.

The Slovenian Presidency of the EU deeply regrets this outcome.

Nevertheless, we respect the democratic will of the Irish voters.

Next week, the Heads of State and Government of the EU Member States will meet in Brussels at the European Council meeting. I will invite the Irish Prime Minister to explain the reasons for the rejection of the Treaty by the Irish people. We will discuss the situation and look for ways to move forward.

http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/Press_Releases/June/0613KPV_irski_referendum.html

- ♦ **Common EU rules on the deportation of illegal immigrants**

- ▶ “Return directive”: first reading vote in the European Parliament (11/06/2008)

Parliament will put a draft directive establishing common EU rules on the deportation of illegal immigrants to a first-reading plenary vote in Strasbourg on 18 June. **This draft legislation (known as the "return" directive) lays down a maximum period of custody and a ban on re-entry into the EU by deportees. Parliament has been working on the directive on an equal footing with the Council under the co-decision procedure.**

The European Union could soon have a common immigration policy covering the following complementary areas: **the fight against illegal immigration (the "return" directive); measures to promote legal immigration by skilled workers (the Blue Card directive); and a third directive, currently being examined by MEPs, that would punish employers of illegal immigrants and thus discourage clandestine working. MEPs have meanwhile visited several detention centres for illegal immigrants around Europe to compare practices in different countries.**

A policy several years in the making

The idea of a common European policy on immigration was first mooted at the Seville European Council in 2002. The Amsterdam Treaty, in force since 1999, already provided the legal basis for a common policy. At Seville heads of state or government of the EU "15" recognised that immigration and asylum questions could not be solved purely at national level.

MEPs visit detention centres

In parallel to their legislative work, members of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Internal Affairs (LIBE) have visited several detention centres to see the real conditions in which illegal immigrants live. **Delegations of MEPs have visited Italy, Spain, France, Malta, Greece, Belgium, the UK, Poland, Denmark and lastly Cyprus in late May.** The aim was check whether existing Community law is being observed in the Member States. A report will be presented in the autumn by Martine Roure (PES, FR).

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/background_page/019-31069-168-06-25-902-20080609BKG31068-16-06-2008-2008-false/default_en.htm

MISCELLANEOUS

- ♦ **Former UN Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robison in Brussels**
 - ▶ **Former UN human rights chief debates with MEPS (10/06/2008)**

Human rights need to be at the centre of globalisation - this was the message former UN high Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson brought to parliament on Monday. Promoting her Ethical Globalisation initiative she told Members of the human rights sub-committee **that it was important the poorest thought of human rights as a "birthright". Ms Robinson also stressed the need both for accountability and capacity building.**

Using her time at the UN (1997-2002) and experience as the first female President of Ireland (1990-1997), Ms Robinson stressed two aspects of protecting human rights. She told MEPs that **"very often human rights people focus on standing up to violators and bullies" - but she stressed the need to use these rights to help form a "values-led globalisation". In her message on the need to help the poor she also noted that the poorest people are often outside the realm of the rule of law.**

Expanding on her theme of human rights being something we are born with **she noted that the Universal declaration of human rights was addressed not just to governments but "as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations". On a note of optimism she did say that human rights in Europe "were the strongest in the world".**

UN membership "can be a learning experience"

During the debate, Italian Liberal Marco Cappato asked Ms Robinson her views about reform of the UN. He noted that **the UN has the constraint of vetoes by powerful members and has dictatorial regimes as members.** He also mentioned the idea mooted by Republican Presidential candidate John McCain for a "league of "democracies".

In response Ms Robinson said she was not in favour of giving the "League of democracies" an institutional context as "there are a lot of double standards and ambiguity about what constitutes strong democracy". She said "the strength of UN is that it includes all countries and that UN membership can be a learning experience" noting that **"every country has human rights problems".**

"Stories need to be told"

The debate also included an exchange about the best way to deal with the legacy of history. Estonian Socialist Katrin Saks talked about the experience of Stalinism and wondered how important the honest evaluation of history is - "or we should just leave that because we have enough problems now?" The former Irish President replied that to move forward "stories need to be told in a structured way that is respectful and recognises the pain".

The need to look to the future was raised by Hungarian MEP Kinga Gál (EPP-ED). She spoke of Hungary, which has a parliamentary commissioner responsible for future generations, whose role is to connect issues such as ecology, demography and human rights. Ms Gál asked if a similar initiative would be possible at international level. Ms Robinson agreed that "the importance of understanding that our footprint is potentially very damaging for the future generations". She added "human rights voice and vision" is necessary for decisions over climate changes. She also said she was glad to notice big changes in the approach in the last years. Finally she stressed that in this area "the European Parliament could do really good work. To read more about the Ethical Globalisation initiative see the first link below.

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/015-31019-161-06-24-902-20080605STO30953-2008-09-06-2008/default_en.htm

♦ **EU Guidelines on the Death Penalty**

- ▶ **Council Conclusions on the tenth anniversary of the EU Guidelines on the Death Penalty and adoption of the revised and updated version of the EU Guidelines on the Death Penalty** (16/06/2008)

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council recalls the adoption of the EU Guidelines on the Death Penalty on 29 June 1998. They were the first ever EU Guidelines on Human Rights to be adopted, thus underlining the priority placed on the issue of the death penalty by the EU. These EU Guidelines have gone on to become a key practical tool of the EU's human rights policy towards third countries.

The Council adopts the revised and updated version of the EU Guidelines on the Death Penalty as set out in doc. 10015/08 and reaffirms that working towards universal abolition of the death penalty constitutes an integral objective of the EU's human rights policy.

The Council notes that since the adoption of these Guidelines 10 years ago, considerable progress has been made worldwide towards the abolition of the death penalty. The adoption by the UN General Assembly last year of a cross-regional initiative calling for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, in the view of the Council, is a significant achievement in this regard. The Council draws attention to the establishment of a 'European Day against the Death Penalty' in December 2007, which is to be celebrated on 10 October each year.

The Council recalls the opposition of the European Union to the death penalty in all cases and in all circumstances. The abolition of the death penalty contributes to the enhancement of human dignity and the progressive development of human rights. For this reason, the Council regrets that a number of States still maintain the death penalty. We call on all these States to abolish the death penalty; if necessary with the immediate establishment of a moratorium on the use of death penalty, with a view to abolishing it."

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/101210.pdf

- ♦ **EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflicts**

- ▶ **Council Conclusions on the Review of the EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict** (16/06/2008)

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council welcomes the review of the Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict and adopts the updated version of these guidelines as set out in doc. 10019/08.

The Council reaffirms its strong commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and in particular those of children affected by armed conflict, who are among the most frequent victims of serious human rights violations and abuses. **The Council reconfirms the close link between the Guidelines on Children's Rights adopted in December 2007 and the updated Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict in terms of their jointly reinforcing implementation.**

The EU recognizes the importance of ensuring coherence, complementarity and coordination between the various policies and actions targeting the situation of children affected by armed conflict in the various policy areas, including CFSP/ESDP, development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

The Council recalls its conclusions of May 2008 on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child in the EU's external action – the development and humanitarian dimensions, and on the Checklist for the integration of protection of children affected by armed conflict into ESDP operations. The Council also considers it of critical importance to raise awareness of this issue by giving more prominence to EU actions in this field worldwide. The Council underlines the importance of further strengthening the implementation of the Guidelines on Children affected by Armed Conflict in particular through further mainstreaming of this issue throughout the EU.

The Council invites all instances of its decision-making, civilian and military missions and all other offices, agencies, the special and personal representatives of the SG/HR, other bodies of the EU to redouble their efforts to implement the Guidelines. In this sense the Council welcomes the Handbook with Compilation of relevant documents on Mainstreaming Human Rights and Gender into European Security and Defence Policy. The Council looks forward to continued close co-operation with the Commission, Member States and civil society on this important issue.

The Council also stresses that EU actions should support and complement the work of the United Nations, including inter alia the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1612 on children and armed conflict."

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/101212.pdf

- ♦ **Conseil de l'Europe / Violence à l'égard des femmes**

- ▶ **Violence domestique à l'égard des femmes : le rôle des parlementaires reste déterminant pour adapter les législations nationales** (11/06/2008)

« Les parlementaires restent des acteurs de premier plan pour adapter les législations nationales afin de mieux protéger les femmes victimes de violence domestique, sanctionner les auteurs, et prévoir des dispositifs de prévention », a déclaré hier Paul Wille (Belgique, ADLE), Vice-Président de l'APCE, lors de la Conférence de clôture de la Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, qui s'est tenue ces deux derniers jours à Strasbourg.

"Par la mise en œuvre de la dimension parlementaire de cette campagne, l'APCE et les parlements nationaux ont démontré leur capacité à promouvoir concrètement les droits de l'homme au sein des parlements nationaux et contribué activement à la mise en œuvre d'une campagne du Conseil de l'Europe" a souligné José Mendes Bota (Portugal, PPE/DC), rapporteur de la Commission sur l'égalité des chances pour les femmes et les hommes de l'APCE.

Les deux parlementaires ont précisé que cette campagne avait permis un travail de sensibilisation indispensable au sein des parlements, des actions parlementaires nombreuses pour briser le silence et la mise en réseau des parlements nationaux. Ils ont également évoqué les standards législatifs minimums identifiées par l'APCE en octobre dernier pour lutter contre la violence à l'égard des femmes, et qui, dans de nombreux Etats membres, ne sont pas atteints.

M. Mendes Bota a rappelé que les participants à la conférence finale de la dimension parlementaire de la Campagne à Vienne, organisée par l'APCE en avril dernier, **ont appelé le Conseil de l'Europe à rédiger une convention-cadre pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes. Pour la Commission sur l'égalité des chances pour les femmes et les hommes de l'APCE, ce traité international devrait englober la lutte contre la violence domestique, les agressions sexuelles, la mutilation génitale, les mariages forcés et les crimes dits « d'honneur ».**

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♦ **Conseil de l'Europe / Application des droits de l'Homme au niveau national**

- ▶ **Les véritables progrès en matière de droits de l'homme doivent venir de décisions nationales, déclare le Commissaire Hammarberg (10/06/2008)**

Le Commissaire Hammarberg a pris part aujourd'hui à un colloque consacré à l'efficacité de la Convention européenne des droits de l'homme au niveau national, soulignant à cette occasion l'importance d'un dialogue constructif entre les acteurs nationaux et internationaux pour la protection des droits de l'homme.

Organisé les 9 et 10 juin à Stockholm sous l'égide de la Présidence suédoise du Comité des Ministres du Conseil de l'Europe, le Colloque sur la mise en œuvre de la Convention européenne des droits de l'homme au niveau national a rassemblé quelque 150 représentants de gouvernements, de la Cour et d'autres instances du Conseil de l'Europe, ainsi que des représentants d'organisations internationales gouvernementales et non gouvernementales.

Dans son discours, le Commissaire a mis en avant les initiatives concrètes qu'il a déjà engagées afin d'aider les Etats membres à protéger plus efficacement les droits de l'homme au niveau national. **M. Hammarberg a en particulier insisté sur l'importance que revêt le principe de subsidiarité et a attiré l'attention sur son rôle de facilitateur pour promouvoir des activités d'assistance spécifique aux Etats membres en vue d'éviter les violations de la Convention et de remédier aux situations où elle n'est pas respectée. Il a également souligné l'intérêt que peuvent avoir le soutien et la formation qu'il propose aux Structures nationales des droits de l'homme pour mieux mettre en œuvre les**
n o r m e s d u C o n s e i l d e l ' E u r o p e .

« Les échanges diplomatiques entre les Etats, de même que les traités internationaux et leurs mécanismes de contrôle sont importants et incitent effectivement à poursuivre les efforts au niveau national », a déclaré le Commissaire. « Pour autant, les véritables progrès doivent venir de décisions nationales. Il ne faut pas perdre de vue cette perspective, qui constitue une dimension essentielle du mandat du Commissaire. »

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