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REGIONS:

AFRICA

Somalia

- ▶ **EU Presidency statement on the unlawful detention of the Head of the UN World Food Programme in Somalia (17/10/2007)**

The Presidency of the European Union (EU) strongly condemns the seizure and detention of Mr Idris Osman, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Officer in Charge in Mogadishu, by members of the Somali National Security Service.

The EU Presidency expresses its full support and sympathy to the United Nations (UN). The UN plays a leading role in the coordination and distribution of international support to Somalia and its presence in the country is indispensable to alleviate the serious humanitarian situation. The WFP in particular is vital in the distribution of food aid in Mogadishu and in other parts of Somalia.

The EU Presidency urges the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia to ensure the immediate and unconditional release of Mr Idris Osman. The detention of Mr Idris Osman is an inexcusable violation of the UN privileges and immunities. Furthermore, it imperils the action of the international community as a whole to come to the aid of the people of Somalia.

The EU Presidency once again calls on the TFG and all other Somali political actors to show restraint, agree to a cease-fire and commit themselves to an inclusive dialogue in preparation of free and fair elections in 2009.

http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias_Documentos/Declaracoes_PESC/20071017cfspstatementunlawfuldetentionfoodprogrammesomalia.htm

Great Lakes Region

- ▶ **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU concerning stability in the Great Lakes Region-the situation in the eastern region of DRC (15/10/2007)**

The European Union voices its grave concern at the continuing violence and instability in certain regions in the east of the DRC, particularly in Northern Kivu. It is most concerned at the concentration of military forces, the breaking of the ceasefire by the rebel General Laurent Nkunda and the continuing activities of the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR) and other illegal armed groups.

The European Union calls on all the parties involved to cease hostilities immediately in order to prevent any military escalation and avert any further deterioration in the humanitarian situation on the ground. Noting the call for a ceasefire by Laurent Nkunda on 10 October, his proposal to integrate 500 of his men into the army should be implemented immediately. This should be followed by full integration of his forces in the near future. The EU calls for a constructive dialogue to be established on this basis.

The European Union reiterates its support for the Congolese authorities, which are the sole legitimate authorities with sovereignty over the whole territory of the Democratic Republic of Congo. It urges them to grasp this opportunity to seek a peaceful solution to the current crisis. At the same time, the EU would point to the importance of putting an end to the presence of all other irregular forces in Eastern Congo (FDLR and Mai-Mai) and working towards the return of all refugees.

The European Union emphasises that an exclusively military approach to the problems in the eastern region of the country will only worsen the situation, particularly in humanitarian terms, and that such an approach is likely to have negative consequences for regional stability. It emphasises the importance of a global and consistent approach to the various problems in the east of the country, which affect not only peace and stability, but also the humanitarian situation, respect for human rights, issues linked to security sector reform, economic development and regional integration. It welcomes President Kabila's proposal to organise a conference for peace and development in the Kivus, which should be held as soon as possible.

The European Union continues to be particularly concerned over the recruitment of child soldiers by armed groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is greatly worried by reports of serious human rights violations, including the discovery of mass graves and acts of systematic sexual violence, and calls for investigations to be carried out to identify those responsible and put an end to impunity. In this context, the European Union supports the process of formulating a National Action Plan on UN Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, which was launched by the Congolese authorities on 19 September 2007.

The European Union welcomes the many high-level diplomatic contacts which have taken place over recent weeks, particularly in the margins of the General Assembly in New York, and urges the Congolese authorities and the countries in the region to continue along the path of dialogue and consultation.

The European Union reiterates its support for MONUC activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo, particularly in the east of the country, and will continue its efforts to promote peace and reconciliation.

http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias_Documentos/Declaracoes_PESC/20071015DectLake.htm

Togo

► **Elections in Togo** (16/10/2007)

Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel, is delighted that, "Sunday's elections in Togo took place in calm conditions and with a massive turn-out at the polls by the electorate. I'm delighted to have witnessed the confident and mature manner in which the Togolese people carried out this democratic process. I would like to congratulate the people and the authorities of Togo as well as all those who helped bring this about. I call for the authorities and the political parties to respect the democratic path that the citizens of Togo have so clearly chosen."

Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations and the European Neighbourhood Policy, said "I congratulate the Togolese people on their turnout. I call on all Togolese to continue the democratic process peacefully. If the electoral process continues smoothly, the elections will be a major landmark in the return to democracy. I await with interest the initial findings of the EU election observation mission – which has been on the ground since 8 September – on the elections, which will be presented on Tuesday 16 October."

The European Union had sent an election observation mission (EOM), headed by Chief Observer Fiona Hall, to monitor the electoral campaign, the preparations for the elections and polling day. Over 80 observers were in the country on polling day. The mission will stay there to monitor the rest of the electoral process, which

includes the counting of the votes, the totting up of the results and the handling of any complaints.

The European Commission is supporting the transition process with a grant of €13.6 million from the EDF to the UN Trust Fund that has been specially set up.

Some measures to improve governance and restore Togolese confidence are already underway while others are in the pipeline.

For further information visit:

<http://www.eueom-togo.org/Main/default.html>

<http://ec.europa.eu/development/Geographical/RegionsCountries/Countries/Togo.htm>

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/human_rights/eu_election_ass_observ/index.htm

Chad/Central African Republic/Sudan

► General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions (16/10/2007)

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. The EU strongly supports the United Nations (UN) and the African Union (AU) ongoing efforts to solving the conflict in Darfur within a comprehensive and regional approach. Following the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1778 (2007), which approves the deployment in Chad and the Central African Republic of a multidimensional presence and authorizes the EU to provide the military element of it, the EU will conduct a bridging military operation in Eastern Chad and North Eastern Central African Republic (EUFOR TCHAD/RCA) in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy, for a period of one year from the date that its initial operational capability is declared. This deployment has been welcomed by both the governments of Chad and the Central African Republic. By addressing the regional dimension of the Darfur crisis, the deployment of EUFOR TCHAD/RCA and a UN police mission, in parallel to UNAMID in Sudan, is a crucial step to facilitate a long lasting solution to the conflict in Darfur.
2. The Council welcomes the designation of Lieutenant General (IE) Patrick Nash as the Operation Commander and Brigadier General (FR) Jean-Philippe Ganascia as the Force Commander. The Operation Headquarters of EUFOR TCHAD/RCA will be located at Mont Valérien (France). The Council underlines its determination to commit the necessary means, in order to allow the Operation Commander to fulfil his mandate with the necessary forces and capabilities.
3. The deployment of EUFOR TCHAD/RCA is a concrete expression of the EU's commitment to actively work for the improvement of the security situation in Eastern Chad and North-Eastern Central African Republic, by contributing to the protection of refugees and IDPs, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance, helping to create the conditions for displaced people to return to their places of origin voluntarily, as well as contributing to ensure MINURCAT's security and freedom to operate. EUFOR TCHAD/RCA will be conducted in consultation with the authorities of the countries concerned. The operation will be conducted with full independence, impartiality and neutrality. The planning of the operation will continue to take place in full coordination with the UN and in consultation with African partners. Potential third states contributors are also being consulted.
4. The establishment of EUFOR TCHAD/RCA forms part of a comprehensive EU effort to reinforce support for refugees and displaced people in Chad and the Central African Republic, including through continuing humanitarian assistance to both countries and the financing of substantial

rehabilitation and reconstruction work in the zones of return for displaced persons. In this context, the Council welcomes the Commission's intention to implement transitional programmes of recovery and rehabilitation, covering reconciliation oriented activities, support to the voluntary return of IDPs and to the rehabilitation in their places of origin, and support to local governance. In Chad, the Commission will contribute substantially to the UN programme for the establishment of the UN Police force, which will train and equip Chadian police officers as well as deploy them in the refugee and IDP camps in Eastern Chad.

5. The Council urges all states in the region, in particular Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic, to work to promote regional stability and ensure security along their common borders, and in particular to respect their engagement not to support rebel movements operating from their territory against one of the other countries. Similarly, the EU calls on Sudan and Chad to intensify efforts to normalise their relations, in accordance with the Tripoli and Riyadh agreements. The EU welcomes the constructive role played by other regional players, including Libya and Saudi Arabia, and urges them to continue. The Council also calls on the states in the region to promote internal peace and reconciliation. In this regard, it welcomes the recent developments concerning the internal political dialogue in Chad and encourages all parties to pursue the democratic process.
6. The Council recalls that sustainable peace in Darfur is only possible once a widely acceptable political settlement for Sudan has been successfully put in place. In order that Sudan be peaceful and remain united, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) will need to be implemented in full. While taking note of the progress achieved so far, the Council notes with concern that the implementation of some provisions of the CPA have repeatedly been delayed and urges the parties to step efforts to accelerate their implementation. In this respect, the Council is deeply concerned about the recent announcement by SPLM to suspend its participation in the Government of National Unity and calls on all parties to re-engage in the implementation of the CPA, which is of fundamental importance for the future of Sudan.
7. The Council expresses its utmost concern at and firmly condemns the increasing levels of violence in Darfur, and in particular the appalling attack on AU Peacekeepers in Haskanita, which was subsequently burned down and looted. The Council demands all parties to stop all violence and commit themselves to an unconditional, effective and verifiable cessation of hostilities as a necessary condition for the political process to succeed. The Council stands ready to consider further measures, notably in the UN framework, to ensure humanitarian deliveries and protection of civilians. As regards the killings of AU peacekeepers, the Council calls on the Cease Fire Commission to fully investigate the attack and to hold those responsible to account. This incident also stresses the need for the urgent deployment of the UN support package to AMIS and UNAMID. Expressing its appreciation for all contributions that have been pledged to UNAMID, the Council calls for an acceleration of the ongoing efforts to this end, and in particular urges the Sudanese government to give its full collaboration to the UN and the AU to ensure that UNAMID be deployed as early as possible. The Council reiterates its readiness to consider further measures, notably in the UN framework, against any party which obstructs the implementation of the UN support package and the deployment of UNAMID.
8. The Council welcomes the outcome of the High Level meeting on Darfur that took place in New York on 21 September as an expression of the international community's shared commitment to work towards lasting peace in Darfur. It reiterates its support for the mediation under the auspices of the UN and the AU and looks forward to the start of talks on 27 October. The EU confirms its readiness to provide all possible support to the talks, including through contributions to the Trust Fund, and also welcomes the commitments already made by Member States and the Commission. The Council recalls its position that any party failing to constructively engage in the

peace process is to be considered as an obstacle to peace and that it will promote appropriate further measures against it, notably in the UN framework, in line with Security Council Resolution 1591."

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_applications/applications/newsRoom/loadBook.asp?BID=71&LANG=1&cmsid=349

Libya

► **General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions** (16/10/2007)

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council expressed its satisfaction for the conclusion of the case of the Bulgarian medical personnel in connection with the HIV-AIDS infection in Benghazi.
2. The Council expressed its sincere appreciation for the efforts taken by all those involved in bringing this case to an end and acknowledged the Libyan authorities' constructive attitude.
3. The Council reiterated its solidarity with the Libyan children victims of the HIV-AIDS infection in Benghazi and confirmed the EU's commitment to provide medical assistance and care for them through the HIV Action Plan and the Benghazi International Fund, on the basis of voluntary contributions.
4. The Council acknowledged the importance of Libya in the Mediterranean region and in Africa, as well as the potential of EU-Libya cooperation in many areas of common interest.
5. The Council agreed that the policy of engagement with Libya which it decided in 2004 should be reinforced with a view to enhancing EU-Libya relations. The objective of this policy of engagement will be to set EU-Libya relations into an appropriate, coherent long-term framework that will take into account the interests of Libya and of the EU and its Member States.
6. The Council agreed that the EU and Libya should as soon as possible open discussions on an EU-Libya framework agreement which will include areas of mutual interest, such as human rights, migration among others, and invites the Commission to present draft negotiating directives to this effect according to the fundamental principles inspiring the foreign policy of the European Union."

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_applications/applications/newsRoom/loadBook.asp?BID=71&LANG=1&cmsid=349

AMERICAS

ASIA

China

► EU-China human rights dialogue (17/10/2007)

On 17 October 2007 the European Union and the People's Republic of China held the 24th round of the «EU-China Dialogue on Human Rights» in Beijing.

The Dialogue provided a platform for a substantive and frank exchange of views between the People's Republic of China and the EU on a wide range of human rights issues. Taking place at the same time as the 17th National Party Congress, the dialogue was conducted in a constructive atmosphere and was an occasion to express concerns and differences of opinion with regard to the implementation of international human rights standards in China and the EU.

Key issues for the EU were reform of the criminal justice system in China, freedom of expression, freedom of religion in Tibet and labour rights. The EU and China discussed a number of specific items tied to the reform of the criminal justice system, including the need for China to ratify the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to implement the recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture. The EU welcomed the reduction in the number of executions in China following the review of death sentences by the People's Supreme Court. The EU was pleased to note on going progress in the field of labour rights and employment. In a discussion that spurred the most robust debate of the session, the EU and China discussed freedom of religion in Tibet, specifically new measures tightening state control over approval of reincarnated lamas. China raised the follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action, as well as racism in the EU, as issues of concern, pointing to a number of alleged incidents of racial discrimination in some Member States.

Concerning cooperation in international organisations, the EU attached special importance to the renewal of special procedures in the Human Rights Council (HRC) and to possible visits of Special Rapporteurs to China. Both sides looked forward to close coordination on issues for the current session of the UN General Assembly. The EU welcomed China's cooperation in the HRC Special Session on Burma/Myanmar and called on China to continue playing a constructive role in support of Ibrahim Gambari's efforts.

In the framework of the dialogue, the EU troika undertook a field visit to Shanxi Province where it visited a legal aid centre, observed a murder trial, and discussed religious freedom with monks and provincial government representatives at a Chinese Buddhist temple. It also visited the Taiyuan television station and met with local representatives of the Communist Party of China.

In a side meeting, the EU and China expressed their commitment to continue the legal seminar, which both sides agreed added value to the Dialogue process by opening it up to academic and civil society participation. The Parties will now start preparations for the next seminar to be held during the first semester of 2008.

The «EU-China Human Rights Dialogue» has, with short interruptions, taken place bi-annually since 1995. The next regular meeting will be held in the first half of 2008 in Ljubljana under the Slovene Presidency.

http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias_Documentos/20071017UEChina.htm

Pakistan

► Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU on the terrorist attack in Karachi (18/10/2007)

The European Union strongly condemns the terrorist attack on the convoy of Mrs. Benazir Bhutto which killed more than eighty people participating in a peaceful procession through the streets of Karachi.

The European Union sends its sincere condolences to the families of the innocent victims of this attack.

In the run-up to elections in Pakistan such acts greatly endanger the electoral process. The European Union therefore urges the Pakistani Authorities and all political forces in that country to do their utmost to ensure that the forthcoming elections are prepared and will be held in a climate conducive to the free expression of the will of its voting citizens.

The European Union urges the Pakistani Authorities to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.

http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias_Documentos/Declaracoes_PESC/20071018attack.htm

Burma/Myanmar

► **General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions (16/10/2007)**

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The EU strongly condemns the brutal crackdown on demonstrators in Burma/Myanmar. It recalls its earlier declarations in which it urged the Burmese authorities to exercise restraint in the face of peaceful protests. The EU regrets that these calls have gone unheeded and regrets that arrests have continued over the recent days.
2. The EU demands that the authorities immediately cease all violent repression and intimidation and that they release all those arrested since mid-August, as well as Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners.
3. The EU welcomes the UN Security Council Presidential statement of 11 October on Burma/Myanmar. The EU strongly supports the actions by the UN, in particular the good offices mission of UN Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari. The EU backs further active UN engagement, including by the Security Council. The EU looks forward to a new visit by the Special Envoy in the coming weeks.
4. The EU welcomes the special session of the UN Human Rights Council and the adoption by consensus of a Resolution strongly deploring the continued violent repression and urging the authorities of Burma/Myanmar to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
5. The EU also calls upon the government to disclose information about the whereabouts of those arrested since mid-August and to allow international agencies access to them. The EU also calls for a thorough and impartial investigation of the deaths of demonstrators as well as other serious and continuous violations of human rights, and for those liable to be held to account. In this regard, the EU urges the authorities to cooperate fully with UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Myanmar, Sergio Pinheiro, including through the urgent facilitation of a visit by him to Burma/Myanmar.
6. In line with the Presidency statement of 25 September and in view of the seriousness of the current situation and in solidarity with the people of Burma/Myanmar, **the EU deems it necessary to increase direct pressure on the regime through stronger measures as well as the following additional restrictive measures:** an export ban on equipment to the sectors of

logs and timber and mining of metals, minerals, precious and semi precious stones; an import ban of products of the sectors mentioned before; and an investment ban in these sectors. It will therefore adopt a package of measures that do not harm the general population but that target those responsible for the violent crackdown and the overall political stalemate in the country. The EU stands ready to review, amend or reinforce these measures, in the light of developments on the ground and the results of the Good Offices Mission of the United Nations Special Envoy to Burma/Myanmar Mr. Ibrahim Gambari. The Council requests relevant bodies to elaborate further restrictive measures, including a ban on new investments.

7. The EU confirms the continuation of its substantial humanitarian aid programmes aimed at the most vulnerable populations of Burma/Myanmar and Burmese refugees in neighbouring countries. The EU stands ready to increase this assistance, subject to further assessments of the humanitarian situation. In this context, the EU urges the government to keep channels for the delivery of assistance open and calls on the authorities to cooperate with international actors in this regard.
8. The EU welcomes the unanimous condemnation of developments and the efforts by ASEAN and neighbours of Burma/Myanmar to positively influence the Burmese authorities. As the situation requires the sustained engagement of the UN and the support of the international community and all regional actors, the EU encourages all of Burma's neighbours to maintain pressure for a credible and fully participatory reform process.
9. The EU urges the Burmese authorities to recognize that a return to the situation before the recent demonstrations is both unacceptable and unsustainable. Only a genuine process of internal reform and reconciliation with the involvement of the opposition will deliver stability, democracy and prosperity to the country. The EU supports steps towards such an inclusive process leading to democracy, full respect for human rights and the rule of law.
10. The EU again expresses its readiness to assist Burma/Myanmar in its process of transition. The EU regrets that the Burmese government has made this impossible so far. Should this situation improve, the EU stands ready to review the restrictive measures, to engage with Burma in its development and to find new areas of cooperation.
11. The EU is determined to assist the people of Burma/Myanmar further on their path to democracy, security and prosperity."

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_applications/applications/newsRoom/loadBook.asp?BID=71&LANG=1&cmsid=349

EUROPE (OUTSIDE OF UE) AND CIS
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Azerbaijan

► EU-Azerbaijan Cooperation Council (16/10/2007)

The Cooperation Council between the European Union (EU) and the Republic of Azerbaijan held its eighth meeting on Tuesday 16 October 2007. The meeting was chaired by Mr Makhmud Mammad-Quliyev, Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan. The EU delegation was led by Mr Manuel Lobo Antunes, Secretary of State for European Affairs of Portugal. Mr Gunnar Wiegand, acting Director for Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and the Central Asian Republics, represented the Commission. The EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus, Ambassador Peter Semneby also took part in the meeting.

The Cooperation Council was the first meeting at this level between the EU and Azerbaijan since the EU-Azerbaijan European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan was adopted on 14 November 2006.

During the meeting, the parties discussed a wide range of issues. One of the main topics was the European Neighbourhood Policy, particularly the implementation of the ENP Action Plan. The Cooperation Council also provided a timely opportunity to take stock of developments in the South Caucasus, as well as political and economic reforms in Azerbaijan. The Cooperation Council also discussed energy and transport issues.

The EU underlined the importance of the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as further steps to strengthen democracy and media freedom in the country as essential elements in the bilateral dialogue. The EU stressed that it is very important that the next Presidential elections in Azerbaijan in the Autumn 2008 are held in full compliance with the commitments taken by the country with the EU, OSCE/ODIHR and Council of Europe and should correspond to international standards for democratic elections.

On the occasion of the Cooperation Council, the two Parties also signed the "Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Azerbaijan, of the other part, extending the provisions of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement to bilateral trade in textiles, taking account of the expiry of the bilateral textiles agreement".

The plenary meeting of the Cooperation Council was preceded by a joint ministerial working breakfast between the EU and Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to discuss matters of common interest, such as conflicts and regional cooperation in the South Caucasus. Mr Manuel Lobo Antunes, Secretary of State for European Affairs of Portugal represented the EU Presidency. He was accompanied by Ms Helga Schmid, Director of Policy Unit, and Ms Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy.

http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias_Documentos/20071016ConselhosCooperacao.htm

Armenia

► EU-Armenia Cooperation Council (16/10/2007)

The Cooperation Council between the European Union (EU) and the Republic of Armenia held its eighth meeting on Tuesday 16 October 2007. The meeting was chaired by Mr Vartan Oskanian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia. The EU delegation was led by Mr Manuel Lobo Antunes, Secretary of State for European Affairs of Portugal. Mr. Gunnar Wiegand, Acting Director for Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and the Central Asian Republics represented the Commission. The EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus, Ambassador Peter Semneby also took part in the meeting.

President Kocharian's recent visit to Brussels (9-11 October 2007) marked the continuing good political dialogue between the EU and Armenia.

The Cooperation Council was the first meeting at this level between the EU and Armenia since the EU-Armenia Action Plan was endorsed by the last EU-Armenia Cooperation Council on 14 November 2006.

During the meeting, the parties discussed a wide range of issues. One of the main topics was the European Neighbourhood Policy, particularly the implementation of the ENP Action Plan. The Cooperation Council also provided a timely opportunity to take stock of developments in the South Caucasus, as well as of

political and economic reforms in Armenia and progress made so far with efforts towards decommissioning the Medzamor Nuclear Power Plant. The EU side noted substantial progress achieved in a number of areas and encouraged Armenia to continue its efforts aimed at reaching common European values and principles on which ENP is built.

The EU underlined the importance of the respect of the rule of law, democratic principles, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms as essential elements in the bilateral dialogue. The EU stressed that in this respect it is very important that the next Presidential elections in Armenia in spring 2008 are held in full compliance with OSCE/ODIHR and Council of Europe commitments and should correspond to international standards for democratic elections.

The plenary meeting of the Cooperation Council was preceded by a joint ministerial working breakfast between the EU and Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to discuss matters of regional interest, as well as conflicts in the Southern Caucasus. Mr Manuel Lobo Antunes, Secretary of State for European Affairs of Portugal represented the EU Presidency. He was accompanied by Ms Helga Schmid, Director of Policy Unit, and Ms Ferrero Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy.

http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias_Documentos/20071016ConselhosCooperacao.htm

Georgia

► EU-Georgia Cooperation Council (16/10/2007)

The Cooperation Council between the European Union (EU) and the Georgia held its eighth meeting on Tuesday 16 October 2007. The meeting was chaired by Mr Gela Bezhuashvili, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. The EU delegation was led by Mr Manuel Lobo Antunes, Secretary of State for European Affairs of Portugal, and Mr Gunnar Wiegand, Acting Director for Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and the Central Asian Republics, represented the Commission. The EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus, Ambassador Peter Semneby also took part in the meeting. Mr Giorgi Baramidze, State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration Issues and Vice Prime Minister of Georgia, also participated in the meeting.

The Cooperation Council was the first meeting at this level between the EU and Georgia since the EU-Georgia Action Plan was endorsed by the EU-Georgia Cooperation Council on 14 November 2006.

During the meeting, the parties discussed a wide range of issues. One of the main topics was the European Neighbourhood Policy, particularly the implementation of the ENP Action Plan. The Cooperation Council also provided a timely opportunity to take stock of political developments as well as economic reforms in Georgia. The EU side noted substantial progress achieved in a number of areas and encouraged Georgia to continue its efforts aimed at a strengthened economic integration with the EU.

The EU underlined the importance of respect of the rule of law, democratic principles, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms as essential elements in the EUGeorgia bilateral dialogue. The EU stressed that in this respect the next legislative and Presidential elections planned to take place in the Autumn 2008 are expected to be held in full compliance with Georgia's OSCE/ODIHR and Council of Europe commitments.

The EU stressed its expectation that Georgia's judiciary system and democratic institutions need to function according to the rule of law and to their respective institutional competences. The Cooperation Council also discussed the bilateral cooperation in the field of Justice, Freedom and Security.

The plenary meeting of the Cooperation Council was preceded by a joint ministerial working breakfast between the EU and Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to discuss matters of regional interest, as well as conflicts in the South Caucasus. Mr Manuel Lobo Antunes, Secretary of State for European Affairs of Portugal represented the EU Presidency. He was accompanied by Ms Helga Schmid, Director of Policy Unit, and Ms Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy.

http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias_Documentos/20071016ConselhosCooperacao.htm

Uzbekistan

► **General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions** (16/10/2007)

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. The Council remains seriously concerned about the human rights situation in Uzbekistan and recalls its position to that effect set out in previous Council Conclusions.
2. The Council welcomes the increased willingness of the Uzbek authorities to engage in dialogue with the EU, and the positive developments which have occurred in EU-Uzbek relations in the course of this year: the holding of two rounds of experts' talks on the Andijan events and the first round of a human rights dialogue between the EU and Uzbekistan; the engagement by the Uzbek authorities to continue this dialogue on a regular basis; and the conditional release of the human rights defenders Ms. Niazova and Ms. Turaeva. The Council welcomes the recent abolition of the death penalty in Uzbekistan and the introduction of habeas corpus into Uzbek law, and looks forward to the implementation of these measures.
3. The Council reiterates its desire to pursue a comprehensive dialogue with Uzbekistan in a number of areas. It looks forward to further cooperation on the implementation of the EU Strategy on Central Asia, which should provide a new momentum to EU relations with Uzbekistan. The EU is ready to develop substantial political dialogue and to strengthen cooperation with Uzbekistan in all the areas identified in the Strategy, including human rights, judicial and prison reform, education, trade and economic reform, energy, climate change and water management and security, as well as important international issues.
4. The Council calls on the Uzbek authorities to make further progress in the area of human rights. It urges Uzbekistan to implement fully its international obligations relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as rule of law and, in particular, to allow full unimpeded access by relevant international bodies to prisoners; to engage effectively with the UN Special Rapporteurs to Uzbekistan; to let all NGOs, including Human Rights Watch operate without constraints in Uzbekistan; to release human rights defenders from detention and cease their harassment; to engage positively on human rights issues in the context of the forthcoming EU-Uzbekistan Cooperation Committee. The reform of the judiciary, law enforcement and police law should be pursued. Progress towards these goals will be evaluated on the basis of a report by the Heads of Missions, which will include an assessment of the upcoming Presidential elections.
5. **The Council decided to renew for a 12 months period the arms embargo set out in the Common Position 2006/787/CFSP and the visa restrictions for individuals listed in the annex of Common Position 2007/338/CFSP. With a view to encouraging the Uzbek authorities to take positive steps to improve the human rights situation and taking into account their commitments, the Council decided that the visa restrictions would not apply**

for a period of six months, at which point the Council will review if the Uzbek authorities have made progress towards meeting the conditions mentioned in paragraph 4 of these Conclusions. The Council may decide to apply the visa restrictions earlier if necessary, in light of the actions of the Uzbek authorities in the area of human rights. It also stands ready to lift all restrictive measures once Uzbekistan fulfils the conditions set out in these and previous Council conclusions. The Council stands ready to assist Uzbekistan to fulfil these objectives."

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_applications/applications/newsRoom/loadBook.asp?BID=71&LANG=1&cmsid=349

Western Balkans

► General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions (16/10/2007)

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"MONTENEGRO

The Council welcomed the signature of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and of the Interim Agreement with Montenegro as an important step on the country's path towards the EU. It looked forward to intensifying cooperation with Montenegro through the comprehensive framework offered by these Agreements and the other mechanisms of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

The Council highlighted the importance of Montenegro establishing a sustained and effective track record in implementing these Agreements. It encouraged Montenegro to push ahead with its reform agenda and called on all political forces to unite their efforts to accelerate that process. It urged Montenegro to intensify its efforts on the priorities set out in the European Partnership. In particular, it stressed the importance of further determined action and sustained progress in strengthening administrative capacity and in the area of rule of law, including the fight against organised crime and corruption, as well as the establishment of an independent and accountable judiciary.

The Council also underlined the importance to adopt, in a timely way and in a spirit of consensus, a Constitution that complies with international standards and the recommendations of the Council of Europe and its Venice Commission.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The Council expressed its full support to HR/EUSR Miroslav Lajcak, and his efforts to advance reforms which are essential for Bosnia and Herzegovina to move forward, in particular the police reform. The Council reiterated that agreement on police reform in accordance with the EU's three principles remains the key priority and one of the necessary conditions for further progress towards a Stabilisation and Association Agreement and the European Union.

The Council regretted the fact that not all political leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina have shown willingness to come to an agreement on the basis of the three EU principles. The Council noted some recent developments in terms of political engagement and urged the political leaders of the country to show responsibility vis-à-vis the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina and their desire to advance towards the EU. The Council took note of the upcoming PIC meeting on 30 and 31 October 2007 as the next opportunity for international community to take stock of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Council reiterated the need for Bosnia and Herzegovina to meet all the four conditions for the conclusion of the negotiations for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement as set out in the Council conclusions of 12 December 2005.

The Council reconfirmed its full support to Bosnia and Herzegovina's European perspective. Recalling the European Council conclusions of December 2006, it reaffirmed that the pace of progress on the EU path depends on the country's own merits.

KOSOVO

The Council expressed its full support for the Troika process and for the EU's Representative therein, Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger. The Council welcomed the intense pace of activity and the constructive atmosphere of the first rounds of talks.

Noting that the Troika process will be concluded by the Contact Group reporting to the UN Secretary General by 10 December, the Council urged both parties to engage in the remaining negotiations with creativity, boldness and in a spirit of compromise and to make every effort to secure a negotiated settlement of the status of Kosovo."

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_applications/applications/newsRoom/loadBook.asp?BID=71&LANG=1&cmsid=349

MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST

Iran

- ▶ **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union concerning the execution sentence on Mr Ali Mahin Torabi** (16/10/2007)

The EU is deeply concerned by the news of the imminent confirmation by H. E. Ayatollah Sharoudi, Chief of the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran, of the execution sentence on Mr Ali Mahin Torabi.

The EU recalls the Islamic Republic of Iran's international commitments, namely the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, both clearly prohibiting the execution of minors or people who have been convicted of crimes committed while they were minors.

The EU reiterates its longstanding position against the death penalty in all circumstances and recalls that any miscarriage or failure of justice in the application of capital punishment represents the irreparable and irreversible loss of human life.

The EU urges the Islamic Republic of Iran to halt the sentence on Mr Torabi and to have the case reviewed by the appropriate instances taking into account all facts and witnesses, in compliance with both Islamic Republic of Iran's domestic law and international obligations, namely articles 14, n. 1 and n. 2 on the right to a fair trial of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias_Documentos/Declaracoes_PESC/20071016PESC1.htm

Iran

- ▶ **General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions** (16/10/2007)

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. The Council discussed the situation concerning Iran's nuclear programme. The Council reaffirmed its support for efforts to find a negotiated long-term solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. The Council gave its full backing to the efforts of the High Representative on behalf of the EU and the international community to encourage Iran to return to talks on long-term arrangements.
2. The Council underlined its continuing commitment to the comprehensive package proposed to Iran in June 2006. This package, among many elements, reaffirmed Iran's right to develop nuclear energy in conformity with its obligations under the NPT and included active support to build new Light Water Power Reactors using state of the art technology. Iran still has the option to re-enter negotiations on that basis, in line with the double track approach.
3. The Council welcomed the agreement between Iran and the IAEA to resolve all questions concerning Iran's past nuclear activities and noted that full and timely implementation by Iran of the IAEA work plan, as interpreted by the Director General's report, would constitute a significant step forward. As stated in the IAEA Director General's report, confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme requires that the Agency be able to provide assurances regarding the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities, through the implementation of the Additional Protocol and required transparency measures. The Council urged Iran to fully implement the provisions of the Comprehensive Safeguard Agreement, including its subsidiary arrangements, implement the Additional Protocol pending its ratification, and to provide the Agency all information and cooperation requested. Moreover, the Council expressed its hope that the Director General of the IAEA would be able to show, in his report in November, a positive outcome of his efforts in line with the requirements of the workplan agreed with Iran.
4. The Council regretted that Iran had not complied with the unanimous call of the international community to suspend all enrichment-related activity and had not accepted the offer of negotiation. The Council reaffirmed its support for Security Council Resolutions 1696, 1737 and 1747 and underlined that the Security Council had expressed its intention in Resolutions 1737 and 1747 to adopt further appropriate measures under Article 41, Chapter VII of the UN Charter should Iran further fail to suspend its enrichment activities. The Council welcomed the 28 September statement by the Foreign Ministers of France, Germany, the United Kingdom, China, Russia and the United States with the support of the High Representative of the European Union. The Council agreed that the EU will consider what additional measures it might take in order to support the UN process and the shared objectives of the international community, and invited the relevant Council bodies to provide timely advice."

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_applications/applications/newsRoom/loadBook.asp?BID=71&LANG=1&cmsid=349

Iraq

► General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions (16/10/2007)

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. Iraq remains a central challenge for the international community. As a major global player, the Council reaffirms the EU's support to a secure, stable, democratic, prosperous and unified Iraq and reiterates its commitment to the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq.

2. The EU will continue to play a major role in supporting the Iraqi government in its work to bring stability, security and prosperity to all of its citizens, including through practical assistance. The EU is committed to enhancing its political engagement with Iraq and with its neighbours, as well as supporting the UN and other international actors in their efforts.
3. The Council warmly welcomes the unanimous adoption on 10 August 2007 of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1770, renewing and extending the mandate of UNAMI. The Council reaffirms its strong support to the central role of the UN in Iraq. In this connection it congratulates Mr. Staffan de Mistura on his appointment as the Secretary General's Special Representative for Iraq and Head of UNAMI and assures him of EU's support in leading UNAMI's work in Iraq to implement the new mandate. This mandate is of utmost importance for the stabilisation of Iraq. In addition to UNAMI's existing mandate in areas such as political dialogue, national reconciliation, economic reform, human rights and the Rule of Law, UNSCR 1770 adds important new fields: notably to advise, support and assist the Government of Iraq in areas such as facilitating the regional dialogue within the framework of the neighbouring countries process, implementing the International Compact with Iraq and strengthening donor coordination including with the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI). The EU is actively engaged in many of these areas and will continue to work closely with the UN. However, further improvement of the security situation will be an essential element in the effective implementation of the UNAMI mandate.
4. The Council trusts that, based on its mandate, UNAMI will continue to contribute to engaging all members of the democratic institutions in Iraq to participate actively and responsibly in an inclusive political process. It calls upon relevant Iraqi institutions to advance in the nomination of governorate election officers on the basis of rules that are in conformity with international best practice for a transparent, inclusive, independent and impartial process. Fundamental decisions regarding the achieving of national reconciliation must be taken in a spirit of sincere dialogue and consensus-building if they are to serve as the basis for a peaceful and prosperous future for Iraq.
5. The Council welcomes the support by the participants at the High Level Meeting on Iraq in New York, on 22 September, for a broader UN role and for the International Compact with Iraq.
6. The Council strongly encourages the Government of Iraq together with all parties to make substantial political progress on the promotion of national reconciliation, which is the key to sustained improvements in security, and to curb the deterioration of the humanitarian conditions in Iraq which has resulted in an estimated 2.2 million internally displaced persons. The Council recognises the heavy burden borne by neighbouring countries, particularly Jordan and Syria, urges the Iraqi Government to undertake appropriate measures to assist Iraqi refugees and those displaced within the country and assures that the EU will continue to play its part. Rapid humanitarian action is required by the international community and the Iraqi Government if the evolving humanitarian crisis is to be contained. The EU recalls the important role of UNHCR, ICRC, IOM, supported by Member States and Community instruments (including ECHO), as well as the need for strong support to the UN/OCHA Strategic Framework for Humanitarian Action in Iraq.
7. **The Council calls upon the Iraqi authorities to take the necessary measures to ensure the protection of the civilian population. In this respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Iraqis, including women and persons belonging to religious and ethnic minorities, should be protected and promoted.** The EU stands ready to continue its support to the Iraqi authorities in the fields of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

8. The Council welcomes the Ministerial Conference of Iraq's Neighbouring Countries to be held in Istanbul in early November. The Council underlines that the dialogue and cooperation between Iraq and its neighbours is crucial to achieve the stabilisation of the region and a peaceful and prosperous future for Iraq. It encourages Iraq and its neighbours to build on the progress made by the working groups on energy, refugees and security. The European Union reiterates its offer to assist and provide expertise in this process. In this connection it welcomes the proposal by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during the meeting on Iraq in New York on 22 September 2007 to create a support mechanism based in Baghdad to enhance regional dialogue. In the regional process as well as in bilateral relations, the EU encourages all neighbouring countries to play a constructive role in contributing to peace and stability in Iraq.
9. The Council reiterates its strong support to the International Compact with Iraq. It believes that the implementation of the ambitious programme set out in the Compact with Iraq demands strong Iraqi leadership and ownership and requires inclusiveness of the Compact process, broad involvement of the international community and active participation of Iraq's neighbours and partners in the region. Efficient co-ordination of donor efforts is of utmost importance. The Council reaffirms EU's readiness to continue developing a close cooperation and partnership with Iraq - also through the IRFFI - in accordance with the priorities indicated in the International Compact and Iraq's National Development Strategy.
10. The Council looks forward to work on this agenda being taken forward with renewed energy and vigour and to further discussions.
11. The Council strongly condemns the attack on 3 October on the Polish ambassador to Iraq, Edward Pietrzyk, which killed at least two people and seriously wounded the ambassador, who is representing the EU Presidency in Iraq."

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_applications/applications/newsRoom/loadBook.asp?BID=71&LANG=1&cmsid=349

Middle East Peace Process

► **General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions** (16/10/2007)

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. The Council warmly welcomes the present opportunity for progress on Israel-Palestinian peace. It commends the efforts of Palestinian President Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Olmert and encourages them to take courageous steps in their political dialogue. This dialogue must achieve concrete results, leading to meaningful final status negotiations and to their shared goal of a two-state solution with the establishment of a independent, democratic and viable Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours.
2. The Council expresses its full support to the upcoming international meeting as set out in the Quartet statement of 23 September 2007. The Council expects this meeting to provide support to the parties in their bilateral discussions and negotiations in order to move forward urgently on a successful path to a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza that will unite all Palestinians. It is a crucial opportunity for regional and international partners to effectively support a comprehensive Middle East Peace Process. It emphasizes the leading role of the Quartet in the preparation of the meeting and the implementation of its conclusions. Broad and constructive involvement by Arab States will be crucial. In this context, the EU supports the action taken forward on the Arab Peace Initiative. The Council invites the EU High Representative in full

association with the Commission to examine, and where necessary, re-focus EU activities with a view to developing an EU action plan in order to further support the parties in their ongoing negotiations and the subsequent implementation period.

3. In order to consolidate the progress achieved so far and to fulfil the potential of the current process, the Council calls upon the parties to desist from any actions that threaten the viability of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement, in conformity with international law. Progress in negotiations, enhanced cooperation on the ground and building Palestinian institutions should be concurrent and mutually-reinforcing processes and lead to improvements in the day to day life of the Palestinian population. The EU urges the parties to take additional steps to meet previous commitments, including those under the Road Map and the Agreement on Movement and Access.
4. The Council reiterates its full support to President Abbas and Prime Minister Fayyad. The Council endorses the extension of the Temporary International Mechanism until December 31, 2007 and stands ready to maintain its high levels of economic and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians and stresses that for this assistance to be effective in promoting economic development, it should accompany a credible political process. The EU reiterates the Quartet's call upon all countries able to do so to urgently provide financial support to the Palestinian Authority and undertakes to work with partners to facilitate the transition to direct international assistance as soon as possible. The Council underlines the importance of the donors' meeting in December and welcomes the offer of France to host it.
5. The Council supports the work of Quartet Representative Tony Blair in developing with the Palestinian Authority government a multi-year agenda to strengthen institutions, help to create a climate of law and order and promote economic development, and looks forward to his next progress report.
6. The re-engagement and expansion of EUPOL COPPS is an important element in the improvement of security. To this end the Council expects Israel to provide accreditation to the mission without further delay.
7. The Council reiterates its grave concern at the humanitarian situation in Gaza. It underlines the importance of uninterrupted emergency and humanitarian assistance without obstruction and calls for the continued provision of essential services. The Council reiterates its call on all parties to work urgently for the opening of the crossings in and out of Gaza for both humanitarian reasons and commercial flows. This is essential to ensure the viability of the Palestinian economy and to improve living conditions for the Palestinian people."

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_applications/applications/newsRoom/loadBook.asp?BID=71&LANG=1&cmsid=349

Lebanon

► General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions (16/10/2007)

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. The Council condemns in the strongest terms the car bomb attack perpetrated on 19 September in Beirut, which claimed the life of six people including Member of Parliament Antoine Ghanem. The Council welcomes the Security Council's decision to allow the UNIIIC to assist the Lebanese authorities in investigating Ghanem's case.
2. The Council underlines that this further destabilisation attempt on the eve of Presidential elections should not be allowed to weaken the Lebanese people's resolve to take a firm stand against violence. It urges all Lebanese parties and all actors in the region to refrain from any activities that would further endanger the political stability of Lebanon.
3. The Council is following closely the electoral process in Lebanon and has taken note that the Parliamentary session to elect a new President of the Republic has been adjourned to October 23. The Council calls for the holding of free and fair presidential elections, without foreign interference and in conformity with the deadline set by the Constitution. The Council hopes that in the forthcoming weeks the Lebanese parties will reach a solution through dialogue and in a spirit of consensus and in full respect of the Lebanese democratic institutions and constitutional norms, thus breaking the political deadlock in the country.
4. The Council welcomes the end of the crisis caused by extremist militants entrenched in Nahr el Bared Palestinian refugee camp and reiterates its full support to the Lebanese Government and Armed Forces. The Council also welcomes the formal commitment of the Lebanese Government to rebuild the camp and, in this context, stresses the importance of the conference chaired by Prime Minister Siniora on September 10th on the launching of the relief, recovery and reconstruction project of the camp, underlines its readiness to support those efforts and encourages the continuation of the work of the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee. The Council recalls the EU's long-standing support to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.
5. The Council recalls previous statements and remains determined to reinforce Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence, according notably to UNSC Resolutions 1559, 1680, 1701 and 1757. The EU commends the prolongation of the UNIFIL which took place last August and in which EU Member States are major contributors. The EU furthermore welcomes the preparatory work for the Special International Tribunal."

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_applications/applications/newsRoom/loadBook.asp?BID=71&LANG=1&cmsid=349

THEMATIC :

FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

EXTERNAL RELATIONS & DEVELOPMENT-RELATED ISSUES

EU / UN REFORM

Treaty of Lisbon

► Treaty of Lisbon (19/10/2007)

«We have accomplished all the proposed objectives for this Summit. Yesterday, we closed the Treaty of Lisbon. Today, we discuss the future of Europe», declared José Sócrates, Portuguese prime minister and president of the European Council, during the press conference at the end of the Lisbon Informal Summit.

To José Sócrates, «Europe is more confident and better prepared» to face the challenges of globalisation. The current president of the Council of the EU also stressed that, after this Informal Council, all the 27 European leaders believe that Europe must «lead the debate on globalisation».

This debate deals not only with the «redesigning of world institutions, so that they can face, more efficiently, the challenges of globalisation», but also with the launching of a new agenda on innovation, education and environmental and climate issues.

The Portuguese prime minister also said that, during the Summit on 13 and 14 December, a decision will be taken on the creation of a group of experts to analyse Europe's challenges within the context of globalisation, and a EU declaration on this theme will be approved.

José Sócrates declared as well that after this Summit Europe has reinforced its strength in the world. «We will be stronger when attending summits with Russia, China or India», he said.

«The Portuguese Presidency wrote an important page in Europe's History», declared José Manuel Barroso. The president of the European Commission also stressed that Portugal can be proud of its presidency.

http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias_Documentos/20071019socratesconfimp.htm

for the text see http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_fo/showPage.asp?id=1317&lang=en&mode=g

► New Treaty : a great success for the European Parliament and for EU citizens (19/10/2007)

European Parliament President Hans-Gert Pöttering this morning welcomed the agreement on a new Treaty as "a great success for the European Parliament, a victory for the European Union and for all its citizens."

"This is a very good result on a matter which is crucial to the future of the European Union, and which the European Parliament has made its top priority. With this Treaty, Parliament obtains co-decision over almost all Community legislation and sees its political role considerably strengthened."

President Pöttering also stressed that the Charter of Fundamental Rights will be binding, with the same legal status as the Treaties. "This is a very significant step forward for European citizens, and it

needs to be given proper prominence and attention." A formal proclamation of the Charter by the Presidents of the three EU institutions will take place in the European Parliament on 12 December, the day before the signing of the Treaties.

Regarding the distribution of seats in the European Parliament, President Pöttering welcomed the fact that Parliament's own proposal had been taken up almost in full and that a solution which was acceptable to all had been found. The Intergovernmental Conference agreed on the proposal made by Parliament, with the addition of one seat. After the 2009 elections, therefore, the European Parliament will be made up of 751 members. The new Reform Treaty does not call into question the right of the Parliament's President to take part in plenary session votes.

The three representatives of the European Parliament at the Intergovernmental Conference, Elmar Brok, Enrique Barón Crespo and Andrew Duff, also saw the summit outcome as very positive. In particular, they stressed that the appointment of the new High Representative for foreign policy would take place in a way which fully respects the prerogatives of the European Parliament, including in the case that a High Representative is appointed for the period before the June 2009 elections and the appointment of a new European Commission. According to the new Treaty, the European Council will need to take account of the European election results when proposing a candidate to Parliament for the Commission presidency.

President Pöttering also expressed his confidence that the new Treaties would enter into force before the European elections of June 2009. He added that he was pleased that the main achievements of the Constitutional Treaty had been preserved, albeit with additional British opt-outs.

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/010-11910-291-10-42-901-20071019IPR11909-18-10-2007-2007-false/default_en.htm

MISCELLANEOUS
