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Subcommittee on security and defence

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Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and home affairs

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Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

- November, 13, 2006

Committee on budgetary control

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Committee on Development

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CONFERENCES / EVENTS

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REGIONS:

AFRICA

Côte d'Ivoire

- **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union concerning Côte d'Ivoire**
(10/11/06)

The European Union welcomes the fact that by adopting Resolution 1721 the international community has unanimously outlined a framework that will enable Côte d'Ivoire to emerge from the current crisis. The resolution was a product of the recommendations by ECOWAS and the African Union, and the European Union emphasises that it is fully binding on all Ivorian parties, who may not invoke any provision of law in order to obstruct the peace process.

The European Union welcomes the intention expressed by the Prime Minister in his speech on 8 November to take possession of all the means available to him under Resolution 1721 in order to perform the mandate with which he is charged. The European Union urges all Ivorian parties to give the Prime Minister the support he needs to bring the peace and reconciliation process to a successful conclusion. It condemns the declarations opposing the framework outlined by the Security Council and issues a warning against any initiative likely to violate it.

Conscious of their weariness and distress in the face of the continuing crisis, the European Union once again expresses its solidarity with the Ivorian people. It shares their rejection of violence and intimidation.

The European Union calls on the United Nations to impose targeted sanctions without delay in particular against anyone who obstructs by whatever means the process of peace and reconciliation.

The European Union welcomes the decision to entrust the task of mediation to the Congolese President, Mr Sassou Nguesso, in his capacity as Chairperson of the African Union and reiterates its support for the International Working Group in its role as guarantor and impartial arbitrator of the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire.

The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of

the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

http://www.eu2006.fi/news_and_documents/cfsp_statements/vko45/en_GB/1163180146249/

Northern Uganda

► Council Conclusions on Northern Uganda (13/11/06)

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"1. The Council reaffirms its support to the peace talks between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army, which are currently being held in Juba under the auspices of the Government of Southern Sudan.

2. The Council congratulates the mediator, the Vice-President of Southern Sudan, Dr. Riek Machar and all the other actors supporting the negotiations on the achievements made so far, in particular on the signature on 26 August of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, and the further signature on 1 November of the Addendum to that Agreement, and on all subsequent efforts to keep the negotiations alive.

3. The Council notes that these peace talks provide a historic opportunity to bring an end to a protracted conflict which has taken an appalling toll on the lives of the people for more than twenty years and which has undermined security in the region and displaced up to 2 million people, of whom up to 1.5 million still live in camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

4. The Council urges the Government of Uganda to increase further the protection of its citizens, in particular all the children affected by the armed conflict, in Northern Uganda, and to facilitate a properly managed, voluntary repatriation of all IDPs, thus alleviating the humanitarian crisis and promoting the economic and social development of the region.

5. The Council therefore welcomes the co-operative approach of the Government of Uganda towards the international community, including the Core Group on Northern Uganda, and the Joint Monitoring Committee. Strengthened implementation of the Emergency Action Plan will contribute to improving the living conditions of the people and enhancing development in Northern Uganda.

6. The Council urges the parties to remain fully and constructively engaged in the peace talks and to implement in full their respective obligations under the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and the Addendum thereto. The Council strongly encourages the parties to continue their joint efforts to reach a sustainable peace agreement, which provides both peace and justice, and is compatible with the rights and the aspirations for peace of the local communities and with national and international law including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

7. The Council also urges all stakeholders in the region to maintain a supportive attitude towards the peace negotiations and to work to promote peace and stability in the Great Lakes in general, including through full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries in the Great Lakes region. In particular, the Council notes that a successful outcome to the political transition in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) will have far-reaching consequences for the stability of the entire region, and therefore encourages the Government of Uganda to continue supporting the transition and to cooperate with the newly elected government in the DRC, once it is in place.

8. The Council stands ready to provide technical, logistical and financial support for the peace process, as appropriate, and to sustain the efforts of the parties to achieve reconciliation, as well as social and economic development, in Northern Uganda."

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/91616.pdf

Africa

► **Council Conclusions on Strengthening African Capabilities for the Prevention, Management and Resolution of Conflicts** (13/11/06)

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"1. The Council welcomes that the Council General Secretariat and the Commission have jointly prepared an European Union concept for strengthening African capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. The concept is intended to provide a coherent and comprehensive EU framework for the implementation of key aspects of the Peace and Security cluster of the EU Strategy for Africa, adopted by the European Council on 15 and 16 December 2005 ("The EU and Africa: towards a strategic partnership", 15961/05).

2. The Council confirms that the EU stands ready to step up its support for the efforts of the African Union (AU) and African sub-regional organisations to promote security and development on the African continent. The Council stresses that this needs to be a demand driven process, based on intensified dialogue with African partners, in full respect of African ownership. Measures and initiatives proposed in the concept would directly support the AU's ongoing establishment of an African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), including the creation of the African Stand-by Force (ASF).

3. The Council underlines the importance of strengthening the consistency of EU policies and actions in this field in order to provide more effective and comprehensive support for African programmes and priorities and to develop a stronger partnership with African partners, including through reinforced dialogue and interaction.

4. The Council notes that the EU, collectively and through individual Member States, has already made a substantial contribution in this area through capacity-building, support for the AU's APSA policy development process, training and material assistance. The EU is also currently supporting the AU and African sub-regional organisations in undertaking a comprehensive long term needs assessment.

5. The Council draws in this context particular attention to the Union's ongoing engagement in support of AU/AMIS in Sudan/Darfur, EU missions in the DRC, as well as its assistance so far in the establishment of the ASF. The Council underlines the need to draw lessons learned from these activities.

6. The Council recalls the recent EU decision to strengthen and replenish the African Peace Facility (APF) with substantial, long-term, flexible, sustainable funding. APF support has already made a key contribution to the development of African capabilities. There is a continuing need for activities financed under the APF to be complemented by and coherent with activities undertaken under other appropriate EU instruments, including the EU's CFSP/ESDP instruments. Member States' bilateral contributions should also be taken into account.

7. The Council recognises that the broader international community is also committed to the development of African capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts and underlines the importance of co-operation in this respect.

8. The Council looks forward to proposals by the Council General Secretariat and the Commission for the speedy implementation of the concept, in light of the recommendations given by the relevant Council bodies and taking into account consultations with African partners and the Member States, as well as with other relevant international actors. In this context, the Council also encourages further progress towards the holding of the second Europe-Africa Summit in Lisbon in 2007, where a Joint EU-Africa Strategy should be adopted."

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/91615.pdf

AMERICAS

EUROLAT

► **MEPs forge closer links with Latin America** (10/11/06)

Promoting democracy, trade and supporting the environment will be among the priorities of EUROLAT, a new parliamentary assembly that brings together MEPs and lawmakers from Latin America. Inaugurated in the European Parliament, its 120 members are hoping that it will provide a strong parliamentary link to existing political, human and economic ties between the EU and Latin America. All participants stressed their desire to strengthen and expand those links.

By joining this parliamentary assembly the 25 states of the European Union will be entering into closer partnership with the countries of Latin America - Mexico, Central America, South America and the Caribbean. It includes small countries like El Salvador and major international players like Brazil and Argentina.

Last year the EU exported €58 billion worth of goods to the region - mainly capital goods, transport equipment and chemical products. In turn it imported €67 billion worth of agricultural products, transport equipment and energy.

A "lively affair"

In the opening ceremony on Wednesday 8 November, Parliament's President Josep Borrell stressed the relationship is not just about trade but also "shared values". An important part of the meeting was the election of EUROLAT's two Co-Presidents and 12 Vice-Presidents. Spanish MEP José Ignacio Salafranca from the European People's Party and Ney Lopes - current president of the Latin America Parliament - will act as Co-Presidents. Mr Salafranca said he hoped the new assembly would remain a "lively affair". Mr Lopes said the challenge is to "make sure...it grows, develops and consolidates". The origins of the European Parliament's involvement lie in resolutions adopted in 2001 and 2006 in favour of a body to improve cooperation with Latin America. In Vienna last year heads of government meeting at the EU-Latin American Summit in Vienna expressed their support. Latin America has three main regional bodies for stimulating cooperation in the region. They are Mercosur (Mercado del Sur), SICA (Central American Integration System) and the Andean Community. Mexico and Chile are not members of any of these regional organisations and so the EU has developed specific relations with them. The establishment of EUROLAT builds on the 17 EU-Latin American parliamentary summits that have taken place since 1974.

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/030-12473-312-11-45-903-20061110STO12472-2006-08-11-2006/default_en.htm

ASIA

Nepal

- **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on recent developments in Nepal** (10/11/06)

The European Union warmly welcomes the significant progress in the peace process in Nepal, and in particular the signing of the agreement to form an inclusive interim government in Nepal.

The EU also welcomes the decision on **setting up democratic institutions and the decision on elections to a Constituent Assembly**. The most important challenge ahead will be securing an environment conducive to the holding of free and fair elections.

The EU stresses its continued support to the peace process in Nepal, in close cooperation with the international community. The EU expresses its support to the United Nations and believes that the United Nations' role in assisting in the electoral and arms management processes will be vital.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_applications/applications/newsRoom/loadBook.asp?BID=73&LANG=1&cmsid=359

Maldives

► **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the situation in the Maldives** (9/11/06)

The European Union is concerned about increasing tensions in the Maldives. We **urge the Maldivian government and the Maldivian Democratic Party to act responsibly and to exercise utmost restraint in order to avoid further civil unrest, violence and arrests**. Both sides should avoid any steps that could endanger the political reform and democratisation process.

The EU calls on the both sides to resume discussions as soon as possible on the implementation of the democratisation process and the promotion of democracy in the Maldives.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_applications/applications/newsRoom/loadBook.asp?BID=73&LANG=1&cmsid=359

EUROPE (OUTSIDE OF UE) AND CIS

Uzbekistan

► **EU reaches out to Uzbek regime** (10/11/06)

The EU is set to reopen formal political dialogue with Uzbekistan but keep a visa ban on 12 Uzbek officials and its arms embargo on the country, amid NGO criticism that sanctions should be expanded instead of reduced due to Tashkent's woeful human rights record.

EU ambassadors meeting on Thursday (9 November) agreed the move, with EU foreign ministers set to rubber stamp the decision on Monday. The new position will see the visa ban last an extra six months and the arms ban 12 months, with a review of the policy tabled for February.

The shift comes after Uzbek foreign minister Vladimir Norov earlier this week agreed to host an EU experts' meeting in Tashkent **before the end of the year on the 2005 Andijan massacre and to start a regular human rights dialogue with the EU, as well as hinting the Red Cross may get access to prisoners in future.**

The Andijan massacre saw Uzbek soldiers gun down at least 180 civilians during a protest last May, with the EU sanctions coming into force last November after Tashkent blocked an international enquiry into the events and following reports the country routinely tortures political prisoners.

German 'Ostpolitik'

Germany led the push to relax sanctions in line with its new "Ostpolitik" strategy of greater EU engagement in Central Asia, arguing that freezing talks has done nothing to advance human rights while pushing Uzbekistan - a strategically important country for EU gas supplies and NATO's Afghanistan campaign - closer to Russia.

"It was a long discussion, a sharp discussion [at Thursday's EU ambassadors meeting]. At the beginning the UK, Sweden, Denmark and the Baltic states pushed to keep the full package of sanctions but then people began to move toward a compromise," one EU diplomat said.

"There was no talk of putting extra names on the visa ban list, but the three month review can change this," he added, after the European Parliament plus NGOs Human Rights Watch and the International Crisis Group called to put Uzbek president Islam Karimov under a travel ban as well.

"The risk is, if you want to have something more from [Uzbekistan], it's not a good idea to just sit back and call them the bad guys," another EU official stated. "We've been told we can talk about Andijan and there are also signs this [Red Cross access] is going to happen."

"A Belarus-type approach [the EU also has a visa ban on 35 Belarus officials] has not proved effective in

Belarus or Uzbekistan," a French diplomat stated. "This is consistent with what we are doing in Iran: we say 'yes, we are preparing sanctions, but the door to negotiation should never be closed.'"

EU policy 'failure'

The EU's decision to reopen formal ties with Uzbekistan is unlikely to be greeted with enthusiasm by Human Rights Watch however, with analyst Veronika Szente-Goldston telling EUobserver that last year's EU sanctions have "failed" in Uzbekistan only because they were never followed up with sustained diplomatic pressure for reform.

"We're not asking for the moon: just for the Uzbek regime to take some actual concrete steps on human rights before the EU softens its stance," she said. "This weak 'boiler plate' language on a human rights dialogue is often a screen for inactivity, for not raising human rights at senior bilateral level." Human Rights Watch sees Uzbekistan as a litmus test for EU foreign policy principles, arguing that if the the upcoming German EU presidency does not take a tough stance on gas-rich Tashkent then the EU's public commitment to pro-democracy reform overseas would be open to a charge of "hypocrisy."

Karimov 'cannot be reformed'

President Karimov's regime has given rise to one example - documented by Human Rights Watch - of boiling a prisoner alive and many more cases of people having teeth smashed out, finger nails pulled off or facing years-long jail sentences for 'crimes' such as owning a tape of the underground song "There was a massacre in Andijan" by the singer Hassan.

"Europe should understand one thing: [Kazakh president] Nazarbayev can be reformed, so can [Tajik president] Rahmanov and so can Kyrgyz president Bakiyev, but not Karimov or [Turkmen president] Niyazov," Uzbek dissident Tolib Yaqubov said to Uznews.net in October.

Meanwhile, a Kazakh diplomat warned that the EU should not try to stimulate change in the region too fast for fear of sparking fresh protests and violence. "We have a different view on the world," he said. "We are constructing a new society and we need time. Believe me; it's better to do it step by step without revolutions and shocks."

<http://euobserver.com/9/22833>

Belarus

- **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the sentencing of Dmitry Dashkevich, a member of the unregistered Belarusian opposition youth organization Malady Front, and the situation of Aleksandr Kozulin** (08-11-06)

The European Union is deeply concerned about the **sentencing of Dmitry (Zmitser) Dashkevich**, a member of the opposition youth organization Malady Front (Young front) to 18 months' imprisonment on 1 November 2006. The accusations against Dmitry Dashkevich of running an unregistered organization seem **to be politically motivated and show the Belarusian authorities' repeated unwillingness to respect international human rights standards, especially the right to a fair trial. The European Union also expresses its concern about the denial of access of observers to the trial.**

The European Union also reiterates its concern about the wellbeing of the former Belarusian presidential candidate Aleksandr Kozulin and urges the Belarusian authorities to grant family members and international monitors free access to Aleksandr Kozulin.

The European Union calls upon the Belarusian authorities to promptly release Dmitry Dashkevich, Aleksandr Kozulin, the members of the Belarusian NGO "Partnership" as well as all other political prisoners.

The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/91558.pdf

MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST



THEMATIC :

FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVES



JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Great Britain

► Britons are the most spied on in Europe (3/11/06)

Britain has emerged as surveillance society number one, while Germany is the only EU country offering significant privacy protection, according to a study by civil liberties group Privacy International.

It estimates that there are now over four million cameras in Britain, one for every 14 residents, a 300 percent increase in just three years.

The average Briton is captured about 300 times a day on film.

The study, called The Privacy and Human Rights Report, assesses the state of technology, surveillance and privacy protection in all EU countries together with eleven benchmark countries.

Britain ranks as the worst western democracy at protecting individual privacy, at the level of Russia, China, Malaysia and Singapore.

Only slightly better were the US, Thailand and the Philippines, described as "extensive surveillance societies."

The report runs to almost 1,200 pages and holds a chapter for each of the countries ranked.

The aim of the study was not to humiliate the worst ranking nations, according to its foreword "but to demonstrate that it is possible to maintain a healthy respect for privacy within a secure and fully functional democracy".

<http://www.privacyinternational.org/survey/phr2005/phrtable.pdf>

<http://euobserver.com/22/22786>

EXTERNAL RELATIONS & DEVELOPMENT-RELATED ISSUES

Gender equality and gender mainstreaming

► Council Conclusions on promoting gender equality and gender mainstreaming in crisis management (13/11/06)

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"1. The Council underlines the importance of promoting gender equality and gender mainstreaming in the context of CFSP/ESDP at all levels. The Council expresses its determination to put in practice the decisions taken to promote gender equality in the context of ESDP and the related checklist, which seek to ensure gender mainstreaming and implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) from the early planning to the conduct and evaluation of ESDP missions and operations.

2. The Council emphasises the importance of effective monitoring to ensure a systematic follow-up of the commitments made. Also the Generic Standards of Behaviour, inter alia, against sexual exploitation and prostitution should continue to be fully implemented by all ESDP missions and operations. Where not already in place, national measures, such as action plans for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 by Member States as well as third states participating in ESDP operations, should also be encouraged.

3. The Council underscores the importance of improving gender balance in the ESDP operations, also at the senior-management level. The Council therefore invites the Member States to ensure that they nominate more female candidates for upcoming CFSP/ESDP assignments, including the posts of EU Special Representative and Head of Mission. The Member States are also invited to pursue active recruitment strategies and to identify and address specific obstacles limiting women's participation. Mission reports should include relevant statistics in this respect.

4. **The Council stresses that gender equality and human rights should be fully integrated in the planning and conduct of all ESDP missions and operations, including fact-finding missions. Gender awareness and sensitivity contribute generally to the operational effectiveness and situational awareness in standard assignments.** Regarding certain tasks, such as checkpoints and outreach activities, it is of particular importance to include in the mission personnel both men and women. A gender adviser or a gender focal point should be appointed for all ESDP missions and operations. In this context, the Council welcomes the work of the gender adviser appointed to the EU's military operation EUFOR RD

Congo. The Council notes that support for improved gender sensitivity must be assured throughout the chain of command.

5. The Council emphasizes the importance of training activities, tailored to the needs of the military and civilian personnel taking part in the ESDP operations, in particular on gender equality and human rights as well as gender-based violence, and encourages the Member States to intensify these training efforts. Such training should include those highest in command. A particular emphasis should be put on mission specific training. The Council encourages the development of public information campaigns and public material on women's and men's involvement in the security sector, including the military and police, in order to change stereotypes regarding women's participation, assignments and tasks.

6. **Gender perspective needs to be fully integrated in peace building. All reconstruction efforts should draw on the knowledge and expertise of women's groups and networks within the community.** The Council encourages the development of targeted EU activities to promote gender equality and the role of women in post-conflict situations. In this context, the Council stresses the importance of actively supporting women's participation in civic education and political processes, including right to vote and stand as candidates in elections.

7. The Council underlines that policies aimed at the protection and reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) / refugees should take gender issues into account.

8. The Council emphasizes that gender perspective should be incorporated in EU's policies and activities on Security Sector Reform (SSR) and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR). DDR programmes should ensure that female combatants are identified and registered early and that both sexes can participate equally in these programmes. Women need to be ensured equal access to the assistance package to which they are eligible under the DDR programme and to be involved in economic reintegration activities.

9. The Council underlines the importance of addressing gender perspective in the context of rule of law activities. Gender equality could also be promoted in post conflict situations through legal reforms in the justice sector, inter alia through revising discriminatory laws, such as laws concerning inheritance, family relations, property and employment, and through empowering women to access rule of law and economic and social justice institutions.

10. The Council emphasizes the importance of including measures against sexual and gender based violence in transitional justice mechanisms. All peace building and reconstruction plans should include comprehensive victim-protection and support mechanisms. The Council notes that the mandates of ESDP missions and operations could also address the possibilities to assist, if so requested, the ICC or other specialised courts and accountability mechanisms (e.g. truth commissions) in carrying out their work, including in cases relating to systematic sexual exploitation and gender based violence. In this context, **the Council recalls that on 10 April 2006 the EU and the International Criminal Court (ICC) have concluded an agreement on cooperation and assistance. The Council also highlights the responsibility of all states to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for sexual and gender based violence."**

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/91617.pdf

EU / UN REFORM



MISCELLANEOUS

