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- ♦ Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

➤ 13 June 2005

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REGIONS:

AFRICA
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♦ **Zimbabwe**

- ▶ The EU extended the list of members of the Zimbabwean regime covered by sanctions (13.06.05)

At the conclusion of the first working meeting of the "General Affairs and External Relations" Council, held on 13 June in Luxembourg, Jean Asselborn, Minister for Foreign Affairs and current President of the Council of the European Union, stated that "the European Union extended the list of members of the Zimbabwean regime covered by sanctions (visas and freezing of assets).

The European Union **condemns the expulsions and forced movements** of hundreds of thousands of citizens recently **carried out by the Government of Zimbabwe, the arbitrary destruction of their homes and their means of subsistence**, as well as the **flagrant disregard for the well-being of the civilian population**, particularly in the urban areas, whilst the inhabitants of Zimbabwe are already suffering from food restrictions and the country is beset with a serious economic crisis.

The European Union is asking the Government of Zimbabwe to immediately end these actions."

<http://www.eu2005.lu/en/actualites/communiqués/2005/06/13cag-zimba/index.html?print> (EN)

♦ **Ethiopia**

- ▶ Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Ethiopia (13.06.05)

The European Union commends the political parties and electoral authorities, for the joint declaration on the electoral process signed on 10 June. The agreement reached should ensure that the current electoral process, including the investigations aimed at resolving the differences regarding the election results, be concluded in a transparent manner and to the satisfaction of all parties.

The **European Union welcomes**, in particular, the commitment of the signatories of **the declaration to make every effort to avoid violence** or actions which might encourage violence, to show restraint, and to resolve differences peacefully and by legal means. The European Union firmly expects that the parties will honour the agreement and their commitments, so as to avoid a repetition of the deplorable situation which has come about in Addis Ababa in recent days, **leading to the loss of human life**.

The European Union calls on the government and opposition to continue to resolve their differences through dialogue, in accordance with Ethiopian law and the Constitution. In this context, the European Union emphasises that the representatives of all parties should be able to act in an environment free of intimidation and threats. It also recalls **the importance of the role of the media**, in particular the State-controlled media, in order to ensure that public opinion be informed in an impartial, balanced and pluralistic way.

(...)

[http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/cfsp/85176.pdf](http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/cfsp/85176.pdf) (EN)

♦ **Sudan and Congo**

► Freezing funds of arms dealers in Sudan and Congo (14.06.05)

The Committee on Civil Liberties approved on 13 June two draft proposals for Council regulations imposing sanctions on individuals and organisations who are impeding the peace processes in the Darfur region of Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In view of recent developments in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the United Nations Security Council decided to broaden the scope of restrictive measures in force against Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo in two decisions taken on 29 March and 18 April respectively. These measures include the freezing of funds and economic resources of persons and entities designated by the United Nations as impeding the peace process, constituting a threat to stability and committing violations of international humanitarian or human rights law or atrocities, or committing violations of the arms embargo.

As the Security Council was acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, the European Community and the Member States are obliged to implement the measures. A list of the individuals and entities subject to the measures will be drawn up confidentially by a Sanctions Committee to try and prevent the funds and economic resources targeted from being hidden away. Although the Civil Liberties Committee in principle backs this type of sanction, as it targets leaders without penalising the population, it adopted several non-binding amendments, one of which would add a specific reference to the Cotonou Agreement of 2000.

The list of persons and entities concerned, which is supposed to be included in Annex 1 to the draft regulation, contains no names at present as the Council has yet to establish the procedure for drawing up the list. During the debate the Commission representative stressed that the Commission cannot deviate from the list to be established by the Council. MEPs, however, were adamant that it was not acceptable for Parliament to be consulted on a regulation which did not yet contain the list. They therefore proposed that provision be made for the Civil Liberties Committee and the Development Committee to be given details of the list on a confidential basis.

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+NR-20050614-1+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=X&LSTDOC=N#SECTION2> (EN)

AMERICAS
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♦ Cuba

► The Council of the EU has decided to constantly monitor the evolution towards democratic pluralism and respect for human rights in Cuba (13.06.05)

(...) "The Council has decided to reaffirm the effectiveness and the validity of the Common Position of 1996, which, in the framework of relations between the European Union and Cuba, is intended to encourage the process of transition to democratic pluralism, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as increasing and improving the quality of life of the people of Cuba.

So as to achieve a tangible outcome in political and economic areas and in the areas of human rights and cooperation, the Council reiterated that it is prepared to maintain constructive dialogue with the Cuban authorities.

The Council also deplored the lack of new liberations of political prisoners and categorically condemned the unacceptable attitude of the Cuban authorities towards the European members of parliament and journalists who were expelled from Cuba or prevented from entering to attend an assembly organised by the peaceful political Cuban opposition.

In this regard, the Council calls on the Cuban authorities to refrain from engaging in such actions in the future, which are an obstacle to the normal development of relations between the European Union and Cuba.

The Council also confirmed that **there has not been satisfactory progress on human rights in Cuba**, but it has nevertheless decided that the measures taken on 5 June 2003 will remain suspended and will be re-examined in June 2006 because the Council viewed with satisfaction **the development of more intense links with the peaceful political opposition and with larger sectors of Cuban civil society** through a more intense and regular dialogue."

The Council has also decided to deepen this dialogue, and reiterated the necessity of continuing to hold meetings between representatives of the European Union and the Member States with the peaceful political opposition.

Finally, the Council of the EU has decided to constantly monitor the evolution towards democratic pluralism and respect for human rights in Cuba.

<http://www.eu2005.lu/en/actualites/communiqués/2005/06/13cag-cuba/index.html> (EN)

#### ♦ **United States of America**

- ▶ **Lawfulness of detention by the United States in Guantánamo Bay: the Committee of Ministers takes a stand** (16.06.05)

The Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers has just adopted a **reply to the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation on lawfulness of detention by the United States in Guantanamo Bay**: "The Committee of Ministers takes note of Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1699 (2005) on the lawfulness of detention by the United States in Guantánamo Bay together with the related Resolution 1433 (2005).

In doing so, it confirms its own commitment to the fundamental principles regarding detention, fair trial and the treatment of detainees including the **prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**, as affirmed in Articles 3, 5 and 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights and corresponding provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). It underlines the importance of **respect by all signatories including the United States of America** of their international legal obligations in particular under the ICCPR, the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the 1949 Geneva Conventions and Protocols thereto as well as the need to observe all other rules of international humanitarian law concerning the treatment of persons captured or detained in the context of an armed conflict.

The Assembly will be aware that the governments of certain member states, and not only those having citizens, nationals or former residents amongst the detainees, have been involved in intensive bilateral activity with the Government of the United States of America concerning this issue. The Committee of Ministers expresses its full support to all such efforts and to all efforts to obtain **a prompt release or fair trial of persons detained at Guantánamo Bay by an independent and impartial court**. It urges the United States Government to ensure that the rights of all detainees are secured and that the principle of the rule of law is fully respected. For its own part, it expresses the determination of the member states to ensure that the rights of persons released and returned to their jurisdiction are fully respected.

**The Committee of Ministers will convey a message in these terms to the Government of the United States of America."**

[http://www.coe.int/T/E/Com/Press/News/NoteRedac2005/20050616\\_guantanamo.asp](http://www.coe.int/T/E/Com/Press/News/NoteRedac2005/20050616_guantanamo.asp) (EN)

#### ♦ **Bolivia and Ecuador**

- ▶ **Final Act at Lima calls for Euro-Latin America Trade Area, voices concern over Bolivia and condemns child exploitation** (16.06.05)

On Thursday 16 June the XVII EU-Latin American Interparliamentary Conference, which this week in Lima brought **together representatives of the European Parliament and Latin American Parliament**, wound up its proceedings by **adopting - by consensus - a Final Act**. This document - the **Lima Act** - contains a range of proposals and undertakings for greater regional and transatlantic integration as well as references to some of the most serious problems affecting the two continents. (...)

**Child exploitation and juvenile delinquency** (...) Lima Act calls for new **financial mechanisms**, (...) **combat poverty and social exclusion**, as well as exchanges of information and cooperation to help combat the growing problem of **youth gangs** which are threatening individual security in Central America, the rest of Latin America and Europe.

The **EU-Latin America Conference condemns all forms of child exploitation** as well as the behaviour of economic agents who profit from this exploitation. It also condemns **trafficking in women and violence against women**. To tackle these problems it calls for a global action plan for children and adolescents in Latin America on the lines followed by UNICEF as well as a more determined and generous development cooperation policy by the European Union. (...)

In the Final Act, the conference voices concern at recent events in Bolivia and hopes that the forthcoming general elections will enable the country to begin supporting the rule of law, national sovereignty, stability, governability and stronger democratic institutions to encourage participation by all sectors and actors in Bolivian society. All these conditions are necessary to achieve the progress, development and prosperity desired by the Bolivian people.

On **Ecuador** the conference suggests that the political authorities of the country undertake urgent institutional reforms to **strengthen their democratic system** and thus achieve better social cohesion and levels of governability.

<http://www2.euoparl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+NR-20050617-1+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=X&LSTDOC=N#SECTION4> (EN)

## EUROPE (OUTSIDE OF UE ) AND CIS

### ♦ Uzbekistan

- ▶ The EU continues to be concerned over the situation in Uzbekistan (13.06.05)

Uzbekistan, and more particularly the recent events in Andijan, were on the Council's agenda for the second time in a row. At the conclusion of the 13 June Council meeting in Luxembourg, Jean Asselborn, current Council President, made the following statement about this subject: "We continue to be **concerned over the situation in Uzbekistan and regret the fact that the Uzbek authorities continue to oppose an independent international inquiry into the events in Andijan**. Furthermore, **the authorities have refused to give an entry visa to the personal representative of the EU's High Representative for Human Rights, Mr. Mathiessen**. The European Union will continue to monitor the situation in Uzbekistan closely and is **considering a partial suspension of the development cooperation mechanisms between the European Union and Uzbekistan** if the Uzbek authorities continue to ignore their international commitments in the area of democracy, the Rule of Law and the observance of human rights."

<http://www.eu2005.lu/en/actualites/communiqués/2005/06/13cag-ouzbek/index.html> (EN)

### ♦ Belarus



- Déclaration de la Présidence au nom de l'Union européenne sur les événements récents au Belarus (14.06.05)

L'Union européenne est particulièrement préoccupée par la répression grandissante des forces politiques de l'opposition, de la société civile, des syndicats et des media indépendants au Belarus.

L'UE condamne les arrestations et les procès motivés politiquement, à savoir en particulier ceux de MM. Skrebets, Statkevich, Severinets, Klimov, Bandajevski, Marinitch, Levonevski et Vasiljev. L'UE demande le respect de l'Etat de droit et la mise en liberté immédiate des personnes susnommées. L'UE perçoit ces actions en tant que tentatives du régime pour éliminer des opposants potentiels du Président Loukachenko en vue des prochaines élections présidentielles.

L'UE regrette le langage anti-occidental employé de plus en plus souvent dans les media contrôlés par l'Etat ainsi que dans les déclarations publiques. Elle est préoccupée par les tendances auto-isolationnistes du Belarus.

<file:///C:/DOCUME~1/omct/LOCALS~1/Temp/ATT00027.htm> (FR)

## MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST

### ♦ Middle East

- The GAERC summarised the Middle East peace process (13.06.05)

Jean Asselborn, current President of the EU Council, summarised the Middle East peace process at the conclusion of the General Affairs Council held on 13 June 2005 in Luxembourg:

"Today we felt that we have arrived at a very important time in the peace process. The long-awaited meeting between Prime Minister Sharon and President Abbas, scheduled for next 21 June, is in our opinion crucial for re-launching the political negotiations and for moving toward a just and lasting peace. We also hope that the Palestinian legislative elections can take place as quickly as possible. In any case, the European Union is still willing to support these efforts completely, and that includes sending a **European election observation mission**.

With regard to developments in the field, we applaud the statement of the spokesperson for the mayor of Jerusalem, who said that, in the end, the Israeli authorities do not intend to demolish the homes of Palestinians in Silwan, and the Israeli Supreme Court's decision on the legality of the withdrawal from Gaza. As you know, all the appeals filed by certain settlers have been dismissed.

Conversely, we called on the Palestinian Authority to **reinstate the death penalty moratorium** which had been in effect since 2002, after **four executions that took place yesterday in Gaza**.

We shall revisit the developments in the Middle East in greater detail during our discussions in the European Council."

<http://www.eu2005.lu/en/actualites/communiqués/2005/06/13cag-po/index.html> (EN)

## THEMATIC :

## FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVE

### ♦ Budget 2007 - 2013

► **EU fails to agree its budget** By Lucia Kubosova (18.06.05)

Despite around 15 hours of negotiations, numerous proposals counter-proposals, bilaterals and tour de tables, a meeting of EU leaders broke off in ill-tempered disarray with **no agreement on the bloc's future budget.**

**"Europe is in a state of profound crisis,"** said the main conductor of the talks, the Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker.

**Britain, the Netherlands, Sweden, Spain and Finland rejected the final compromise package put on the table by the Luxembourg presidency.**

**According to Mr Juncker,** the chief of the current EU presidency, the differences in the final positions were very small, but in some states **there was not enough political will for an agreement.**

**French president Jacques Chirac** was even more direct saying **agreement was not reached** because of the **"selfishness" of three countries.**

The Luxembourg leader hinted that the idea of a total restructuring of the EU budget at the final stage of the negotiations was not workable and those countries suggesting such re-arrangements - as Britain had - knew it right from the beginning.

"I'm not mocking the discussions we had but I'm sad and shamed by what I've heard," he remarked, pointing to the fact that most of the new poorest EU countries were willing to give up some of their own receipts from the budget to try and forge a deal.

"My enthusiasm for Europe has suffered a serious blow tonight," said Mr Juncker.

**British prime minister Tony Blair defended his position on the country's annual rebate and denied that he had been isolated at the summit.**

"We weren't alone at the table resisting this", he said.

#### **Negotiation marathon**

Failure came despite several attempts to save the agreement.

Mr Juncker expressed his pessimism about the prospects of a deal after the first round of talks, as all the countries merely repeated their positions.

But after the working lunch, the presidency announced it would prepare another list of amendments and give the debate a last try.

The proposal on the table listed several measures allowing the poorer among the old member states to keep their part from the structural funds.

Also, countries like Portugal and Spain got offers of extra sums for their less well-off regions, while Austria and Sweden got extra for their competitiveness programmes.

On top of that, the Netherlands and Sweden were offered a gross reduction in their annual GNI contribution of 210 million euros and 105 million euros respectively, plus a lower portion of VAT to be sent to the EU budget.

On the British rebate, the presidency suggested it should remain in place, but be frozen. According to commission officials, the figure on the table for the frozen rebate was an annual 5.5 billion euro per year.

Also, the EU chief suggested the whole system should be reviewed by the commission in 2010 and take into consideration "the agricultural reforms agreed in 2013".

#### **Crisis or not?**

With this failure will come the inevitable question of what weight it will lend to the perception that Europe is in crisis.

Before the meeting, various politicians had been making predictions about the dire consequences failure to agree would mean for the 25-nation bloc.

Politically, the deal was important to send a positive message about the EU's capability to bridge differences and national interests and find a compromise.

Shortly after the two negative votes on the constitution by French and Dutch citizens, Mr Juncker had insisted his European counterparts were "willing more than ever" to back down on their particular issues and make a deal on the budget.

The opponents of the Luxembourg package came to Brussels with a warning that they would not back down from their stance, and the UK, Sweden and the Netherlands played down the idea of a crisis due to the budgetary failure.

With no agreement on Friday, the budget question is set to be dropped from the agenda for the next half year under the UK presidency to be dealt with at the earliest under Austria's watch in the first half of next year.

<http://www.euobserver.com/?sid=9&aid=19361> (EN)

## JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

### ♦ Racism

- Council of Europe: Reports on racism in Albania, Croatia, Poland, Sweden and the United Kingdom (14.06.05)

The Council of Europe's expert body on combating racism, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), today released five new reports examining racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance (...). ECRI recognises that **positive developments** have occurred in all five of these Council of Europe member countries. At the same time, however, the reports detail continuing grounds for concern for the Commission:

In **Albania**, a "National Strategy for the Improvement of Living Conditions of the Roma" has been developed that aims **to eliminate discrimination towards Roma** in different fields of life. However, ECRI is of the opinion that there have been few detectable improvements in the situation of **Roma and Egyptians** who **suffer from a situation of particular marginalisation** and neglect in Albanian society. The disproportionate number of Roma and Egyptian **children** who are **victims of trafficking** is also a problem of particular concern to ECRI.

In **Croatia**, a Commission of Experts Working on Combating Discrimination began its work in 2004 and has prepared a **national strategy against all forms of discrimination**. But the problems surrounding **the acquisition of nationality encountered by persons of non-Croatian origin who have lived in the country for a long time have not yet been fully resolved**. Substantial progress remains to be made concerning the return of refugees and displaced persons, especially in the matter of housing.

In **Poland**, some measures have been taken in favour of the cultural and linguistic rights of national and ethnic minorities. However, there is still **no comprehensive body of civil and administrative legislation prohibiting discrimination** in all fields of life. ECRI is concerned that cases of racial hatred are rarely investigated and prosecuted while **publications containing racist, and particularly antisemitic** material are still available on the market.

In **Sweden**, a system to monitor progress towards the achievement of integration objectives has been put in place. But the situation of de facto **segregation in residential areas and schools** still runs counter to efforts to promote an integrated society. The active presence of **racist organisations** in Sweden and their activities, including the widespread dissemination of racist propaganda, notably through the Internet, are still of concern to ECRI.

In the **United Kingdom**, a strategy has been launched to promote community cohesion and race equality throughout the country. But, in spite of initiatives taken, members of ethnic and religious minority groups continue to experience racism and discrimination. **Asylum seekers and refugees are particularly vulnerable** to those phenomena, partly as a result of changes in asylum policies and of the tone of the debate around the adoption of such changes. (...)

[http://press.coe.int/cp/2005/325a\(2005\).htm](http://press.coe.int/cp/2005/325a(2005).htm) (EN)

### ♦ Immigration

► Immigration is an “opportunity, not a threat”, says Frattini (15.06.05)

At a public hearing on economic migration, Justice Commissioner Franco Frattini and Employment Commissioner Špidla emphasised the positive: **EU migrant workers can help the EU cope with growing labour shortages in specific sectors.**

The hearing, held on 14 June 2005, invited views on the Commission green paper on economic migration published in January 2005 (see Economic Migration LinksDossier). Introducing the issues, Frattini outlined the Commission’s provisional view that:

- \* procedures for **admitting third country workers** should be **harmonised** across member states;
- \* an **EU green card** should be considered;
- \* **fast-track procedures** for certain skilled workers should be introduced;
- \* **mobility** between member states should be encouraged;
- \* the community preference clause, giving EU citizens **first option on job vacancies**, could be expanded to **third-country nationals with a long work history in the EU**;
- \* **work and residence permits** should be combined into one.

The Commission is likely to face stiff **opposition from member states worried about high unemployment.** Commissioner Frattini was at pains to stress that concerns over migrants overwhelming the job market and displacing EU citizens would be fully considered.

The Commission will transpose the results of the discussions into a **policy plan on legal migration by the end of the year.**

[http://www.euractiv.com/Article?tcmuri=tcm:29-140979-16&type=News&\\_lang=EN&email=37503](http://www.euractiv.com/Article?tcmuri=tcm:29-140979-16&type=News&_lang=EN&email=37503) (EN)

♦ **Terrorism**

► UK flouting human rights, warns Council of Europe (17.06.05)

The Council of Europe’s human rights commissioner, **Alvaro Gil-Robles**, has published a **report severely critical of the United Kingdom’s recent anti-terrorism legislation.**

Despite EU assurances that **human rights are at the heart of anti-terror measures in the Union**, the Council of Europe (CoE) report calls into **question the truth of this claim at member state level.**

The report warns of an increasing tendency across Europe **"to consider human rights as excessively restricting the effective administration of justice".**

Gil-Robles found that the **UK’s use of control orders for terrorist suspects breached the fundamental rule on presumption of innocence.** Control orders were brought in to replace imprisonment without trial of terror suspects after the UK House of Lords found this to be illegal under the European Convention on Human Rights in December 2004.

The UK’s asylum laws and its **use of evidence obtained through torture in third countries** was also criticised. Despite condemning the use of torture, the EU has yet to take a stand on the use of torture evidence.

Reporting at the same time on Switzerland, Gil-Robles found that **Swiss asylum laws**, like those of the UK, were liable **to breach human rights, particularly of children.** (...)

[http://www.euractiv.com/Article?tcmuri=tcm:29-140764-16&type=News&\\_lang=EN&email=37503](http://www.euractiv.com/Article?tcmuri=tcm:29-140764-16&type=News&_lang=EN&email=37503) (EN)

<b>EXTERNAL RELATIONS</b>
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♦ **Reform of the United Nations**

► The European Union broadly supports the concepts and proposals in Kofi Annan’s report for the reform of the United Nations (13.06.05)

At the conclusion of the second working meeting of the General Affairs and External Relations Council, held on 13 June in Luxembourg, current EU Council President, Jean Asselborn, stated that **"the reform of the United Nations has now entered a decisive phase. The European Union broadly supports the concepts and proposals in Kofi Annan's report, and these concepts and proposals are included in the draft proposals from the President of the General Assembly, Jean Ping, and will be submitted to the Heads of State and Government at the September Summit. Over the past few weeks, we have had numerous contacts with third countries in order to contribute to the drafting of joint responses to the major issues of development, security and human rights. At this crucial stage in the process, we must continue our efforts to arrive at an ambitious and balanced result."**  
<http://www.eu2005.lu/en/actualites/communiqués/2005/06/13cag-nu/index.html> (EN)

#### ♦ Barcelona Process

- The EuroMed Parliamentary Assembly: a vital, new institution to rejuvenate the Barcelona Process By Javier Solana (15.06.05)

(...) We all know that **to realise Barcelona's full potential** - of building a zone of shared security and shared solidarity - we must **mobilise a wide range of stakeholders**, including parliamentarians and civil societies representatives. (...)

What, concretely, should be **our priorities**? Let me focus first on the issue of **political and security co-operation**, second on **good governance and human rights** and third on **involving civil societies and ensuring greater visibility**. I will end with some reflections on the state of play and future prospects of the Middle East Peace Process, since I know that many of you are especially interested in that crucial issue. (...)

- Speed up our efforts on economic modernisation, political reform and human rights.

Let us be clear: Our citizens are measuring Barcelona's success in terms of the economic and political improvements it has delivered. Thus far, we have not met all their expectations. That is why a crescendo of voices is calling for Barcelona to become a catalyst and supporter of reforms. (...)

**Involve civil society even more and ensure greater visibility.** (...). Barcelona has built a network of interlocutors, including academics, municipal authorities and of course parliamentarians such as ourselves. This transition is proof of the maturity of our relationship. (...)

In sum, I see **Barcelona** as a **tool**. What matters is what we make of it. Let us stick to our original Barcelona vision. **Promoting security, justice and development**: these are the right themes. But let us also **update our agenda** for our world has changed. And let us show more courage, ingenuity and urgency when implementing it.

- The **Middle East Peace Process**.

(...) the overall situation is delicate and fragile. (...) It is clear that we are at a critical juncture. (...) We all will have to work hard at:

**Maintaining the momentum of the Sharm el-Sheikh summit** of 8 February. This summit revived the spirit of **constructive co-operation** that had been lacking for far too long. (...) The implementation both sides of all their commitments is the only way to rebuild the necessary confidence. (...)

**Managing the Israeli disengagement from Gaza and parts of the northern West Bank.** The EU is convinced that a successful withdrawal could pave the way towards realising our long-held goal of the two-state vision. (...) Continuing our efforts **to help the Palestinians** build the institutions of their future state and improve the socio-economic situation of the Palestinian people. (...)

**Emphasising the full implementation of the Roadmap.** We continue to underline that the parties should adhere to all their obligations under the Roadmap. (...)

<file:///C:/DOCUME~1/omct/LOCALS~1/Temp/ATT00018.htm> (EN)