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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from : Political and Security Committee
to : Coreper / Council

Subject : Draft Council conclusions on the implementation of the follow-up to the 25 June 2001 Council conclusions on human rights and democratisation in third countries

1. Over the years, the Council has adopted various EU Guidelines on Human Rights, namely on the death penalty (doc. 9199/98), human rights dialogues (doc. 14469/01), torture (doc. 7369/01), children and armed conflict (doc. 15634/03) and human rights defenders (doc. 10056/1/04 REV 1). Moreover, the Council adopted conclusions on human rights and democratisation in third countries in June 2001 and asked for annual progress reports on the implementation of these conclusions (docs. 9547/01 and 15138/02).
2. The Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM) has reviewed the implementation of the various EU Guidelines on Human Rights as well as of the June 2001 conclusions during its meetings in November 2005. On that basis, COHOM prepared draft Council conclusions on the implementation of EU human rights policy (as set out in Annex) and a third annual progress report on the implementation of the follow-up to the 25 June 2001 Council conclusions (Annex to the Annex).

3. The Political and Security Committee (PSC) endorsed the draft Council conclusions and the annexed report at its meeting on 7 December 2005.

4. Coreper is invited to :
 - examine and endorse the draft conclusions and the annexed report at its meetings on 8 December 2005;
 - recommend that the Council approves these conclusions and the annexed report as an "A" item at its meeting on 12/13 December 2005

Council conclusions on the implementation of the follow-up to the 25 June 2001 Council conclusions on human rights and democratisation in third countries

The Council welcomes the third Annual Review on the implementation of EU policy on human rights and democratisation.

Recalling the high priority the EU has always placed on a strong and constructive EU performance in the UN Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), and its active engagement in preparing for the UN World Summit, the Council reiterates the commitment it expressed in November for the package of UN reforms agreed at the Summit, and in particular reaffirms its support for efforts to reform and strengthen the UN's ability to protect and promote human rights. The Council underlines the EU's continued support for the establishment of a Human Rights Council which is able to address human rights matters swiftly and effectively, and the focus of which is implementation of human rights on the ground as well as advisory services and technical assistance, representing a real improvement on CHR; as well as for General Assembly President Eliasson's plan to adopt a General Assembly resolution establishing the Human Rights Council and its essential characteristics by the end of 2005. In this regard, the Council stresses that the EU considers it indispensable that certain elements are contained in the resolution establishing the Human Rights Council, in particular its nature as a standing body; its ability to address urgent and ongoing human rights situations and thematic issues; the retention of the system of Special Procedures ; a strong level of NGO participation, and the free standing authority of its decisions.

Noting that the 61st session of the CHR and the 60th session of UNGA Third Committee took place against the backdrop of UN reform, the Council welcomes the progress made in a number of EU priority areas, including the adoption at CHR and UNGA Third Committee of all, except one, of the EU's texts on country situations, and all of the EU's texts on thematic issues. The Council, however, regrets the increasing use of no action motions, one of which prevented action on the human rights situation in Sudan, and acknowledges that the EU must continue to reflect on how to guarantee wider support from all regional groupings for its resolutions as well as how to promote further mainstreaming of human rights within the UN system.

The Council welcomes the strong contribution which the Personal Representative of the Secretary General/High Representative for Human Rights has made during his first year in office to the coherence and continuity of EU policy. It notes in particular his activities to promote further mainstreaming of human rights in Common Foreign and Security policy, and to raise awareness of the EU's human rights guidelines. The Council recalls the common responsibility of all its Committees and Working Groups to promote EU human rights policy, including implementation of the guidelines, and invites the SG/HR to consider how his Personal Representative can underpin their efforts to give practical, operational effect to mainstreaming. When considering additional priorities for 2006, the Council also invites the SG/HR to consider the role his Personal Representative can play in supporting EU action within the UN by ensuring that high-level lobbying takes place, and by helping to provide effective follow-up to that action.

The Council welcomes the range of measures taken during 2005 to implement each of the EU's human rights guidelines, noting in particular the lobbying campaign conducted by EU Heads of Mission on behalf of human rights defenders in all areas of the world who are suffering for exercising their freedom of expression. The Council reaffirms the EU's strong commitment to freedom of expression, noting that it underpins many human rights, as well as efforts to build democracy.

The Council believes that such campaigns on particular human rights themes are a useful way to enhance the impact of the Guidelines on human rights defenders, complementing other forms of action by EU heads of mission and the EU institutions. It welcomes suggestions for improving the impact of such campaigns, including by lengthening their timeframe, and integrating key campaign messages across a range of EU activities, consistent with mainstreaming.

The Council reaffirms that greater respect for human rights in Iran is essential for progress in EU/Iran relations. The Council regrets that Iran has failed to agree dates for a round of the EU-Iran Human Rights Dialogue in 2005, despite the EU's strong and repeated requests. In practice the dialogue has not taken place now since June 2004. The deteriorating human rights situation and the absence of action by the Iranian authorities to reform laws and official practices which allow human rights violations to occur cast serious doubt on their intention to respect the rights and fundamental freedoms of the Iranian people. The Council notes that-despite Iran's failure to engage effectively-the EU remains open to discussing human rights, including by means of the dialogue process. The Council calls upon Iran actively to demonstrate its commitment to human rights and to the dialogue. The Council affirms that, in particular in the absence of evidence that Iran is committed to the EU - Iran Human Rights Dialogue, the EU will continue to use other means to register its human rights concerns, raising in particular the plight of Iran's persecuted human rights defenders. The Council welcomes the adoption of a resolution on human rights in Iran at UNGA Third Committee, and hopes that Iran will move swiftly to address all the concerns of the international community expressed in it.

The Council welcomes the exchanges with China on human rights at the EU-China Summit; the EU China Foreign Ministers troika; and at two rounds of the EU China human rights dialogue. The Council acknowledges the progress China has made in improving the economic well-being of its citizens and work towards ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). It welcomes in particular the visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture in November, and hopes for the implementation of his recommendations by China. The Council continues to attach importance to other activities to complement the dialogue, including project work and seminars.

But the Council remains strongly concerned at other aspects of China's policies, which contravene the spirit of the ICCPR and other international human rights legislation to which China is already a party. The Council urges China to: announce a timetable for ratification of the ICCPR; release political prisoners; reform the administrative detention system; lift severe restrictions on freedom of expression, association and religion; and respect the legitimate rights of the Tibetan and Uighur minorities.

The Council also deplores the continued widespread application of the death penalty and ill-treatment of prisoners. The Council will continue to monitor the human rights situation in China carefully and hopes to see positive changes resulting from the dialogue process, noting that this will help to improve China's international image and reputation, which will attract increasing attention as the Olympic Games approach.

The Council welcomes the establishment of human rights consultations with Russia during 2005. This provides the opportunity for discussion on areas of concern, such as the on-going situation in Chechnya, increasing restriction on civil society, penal and judicial reform, media freedom, and other issues such as racism and xenophobia; as well as for exchanges on common goals in the area of human rights, including in the framework of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Council of Europe, and the UN. In this context the Council welcomes EU projects for the recovery and reconstruction of the Northern Caucasus and its humanitarian assistance in that area. The Council looks forward to developing these consultations in 2006. The Council notes in particular the lively interest taken by Russian civil society in the 2005 consultations, and hopes that they can be increasingly involved in future consultations.

The Council welcomes the significant role played by the European Commission in implementing the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), and underlines the importance of providing adequate financial means and legal framework under the new Financial Perspectives to continue supporting effective and concrete assistance projects promoting human rights and democracy and strengthening civil society worldwide.

The Council welcomes the continued close co-operation it has enjoyed with the European Parliament and civil society, in developing and delivering its human rights policy during 2005, and looks forward to building on this still further.

The Council reaffirms its commitment to include human rights and democratisation on the agenda for its annual external policy priorities discussion.

Annual Review of implementation of the follow-up to the 25 June 2001 Council conclusions on human rights and democratisation in third countries.

I INTRODUCTION

Following the Council conclusions of 10 December 2002, the Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM) has drawn up the following third annual progress report, covering the period 2005, on implementation of the follow-up to the 25 June 2001 Council conclusions on human rights and democratisation in third countries. The structure of this report largely follows that of the COHOM report dated 25 November 2002 annexed to the December 2002 conclusions (doc. 15138/02), but also includes some brief reference to other major areas of EU activity during 2005 for completeness and context.

II COHERENCE AND CONSISTENCY

1. Reinforcing the role of COHOM

- The debate on UN reform, and in particular the proposal to establish a Human Rights Council (HRC) to replace the UN Commission on Human Rights (CHR), was one of the most significant developments during 2005. The EU strongly welcomed the commitment to establish the HRC at the UN Summit. It has consistently been actively involved in the debate on UN reform. Regular deliberations in COHOM and two Special COHOMs; co-ordination in New York during negotiations; input from Geneva experts, and from civil society; and lobbying by EU Heads of Mission in New York and in capitals throughout the world have allowed the EU to develop and refine its position during the course of 2005, in order to contribute to and influence each stage of negotiations.

- EU action at CHR took place against the backdrop of this debate, and EU strategy for the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) reflected developments following the UN Summit. The Council was closely engaged in the the reform process, including its human rights aspects, throughout the year, underlining the support of EU Ministers, Heads of State and government for the process, for the President of the General Assembly and for the Secretary General.
- There was close co-operation between COHOM and geographic Working Groups in preparation of the 61st session of the CHR and the Third Committee of the 60th session of UNGA; and in March the Council adopted conclusions, prepared by COHOM, on the EU's general position at CHR;
- COHOM maintained a clear emphasis during 2005 on systematic follow-up to existing initiatives, and in particular implementation of the EU human rights Guidelines. There was a presentation and discussion of priorities at the beginning of the Luxembourg and UK presidencies.
- COHOM introduced the practice of considering topical or urgent human rights situations by means of a standing agenda item.

2. **Strengthening the role of the Council Secretariat**

- The Council Secretariat continued to provide wide-ranging assistance and support to the Presidency in taking forward initiatives, and acting as a focal point for inter alia civil society and the European Parliament.

- The nomination of the Personal Representative of the Secretary General/High Representative (SG/HR) for Human Rights, appointed in January, helped to increase the visibility and strengthen the role of the Council Secretariat in its continuing action throughout the year in the following areas:
 - mainstreaming;
 - implementation of the EU's human rights Guidelines;
 - participation in dialogues and consultations with third states;
 - promotion of EU human rights policy in the UN, OSCE and Council of Europe;
 - dialogue with the European Parliament;
 - outreach and public diplomacy;
 - special assignments.

COHOM welcomed the significant contribution of the SG/HR's Personal Representative to the coherence and continuity of EU human rights work within the Common Foreign and Security Policy during 2005, and suggested for consideration by the SG/HR the following areas of action for 2006:

- continued work on mainstreaming, including with Council geographic and thematic working Groups and committees;
- human rights aspects of EU crisis management;
- adding value to EU lobbying efforts, including ensuring high-level lobbying in support of EU action within the UN;
- ensuring follow-up to EU resolutions/action within the UN

3. Reinforcing the role of HOMS

- In addition to ad hoc lobbying on individual cases of concern and human rights issues, EU Heads of Mission in over 80 countries were asked to carry out demarches to: take forward a campaign on the death penalty; implement the EU's programme of action under the Guidelines on torture; tackle the issue of children and armed conflict; and to promote freedom of expression, with a particular emphasis on human rights defenders suffering for exercising their freedom of expression.
- EU Heads of Mission were given additional guidance (drawing on the 2004 EU NGO Forum in The Hague, on Human Rights Defenders) to further promote co-operation with local Human rights defenders
- EU Heads of Mission were actively consulted and involved (including by means of HOMS reports) in EU action at CHR and UNGA Third Committee, and in preparation of EU human rights dialogues and consultations.
- EU Heads of Mission were actively involved in drafting and updating EU Human Rights Fact Sheets.

4. Enhanced consistency between Community Action and the CFSP

- COHOM continued the practice of conducting a biannual overview of all relevant third country dialogues and consultations, including those conducted on the basis of human rights clauses in co-operation agreements and those related to the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). One of the immediate benefits of this exercise - which continues to evolve - has been to promote information flows between the troika, and between human rights experts and geographical desks within member states.

- COHOM profited from exchanges of view and briefings on a range of first pillar/cross-pillar issues during 2005, such as the preparation of negotiating mandate for framework agreement on Co-operation and Partnership with China; the human rights aspects of ENP Action Plans; and proposals for EU election observation priorities.
- EU action on human rights was reinforced by the wide range of project funding available through the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), and other external assistance programmes implemented by the European Commission.

5. Strengthening co-operation between Member States' embassies and Commission delegations

- Where possible human rights demarches, and other action in third countries, were carried out in troika format. There was also continued close collaboration on tasks such as drafting or updating EU Human Rights Fact Sheets.

6. Review of EU resolutions in CHR

- As noted, the Council endorsed in advance the EU's general position at the CHR; the Presidency made good use of troika meetings to lobby in support of EU objectives; and the EU made efforts to streamline and shorten resolutions where possible.

- Successes at CHR included the adoption of all the EU's texts on country situations (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Burma/Myanmar, Belarus (with the US), Colombia and Afghanistan), consensus adoption by CHR of resolutions on the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo; record support for the EU's resolution on the death penalty; the successful adoption of the EU resolutions on religious intolerance and Rights of the Child; the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Nepal and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) providing for a permanent OHCHR office in Kathmandu; and agreement to the appointment of a Special Representative on the issue of Human Rights and Trans-National Corporations and other Business enterprises and the establishment of a Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights while Countering Terrorism.

- Follow-up to EU action at CHR has included contacts with country Special Rapporteurs such as SR Pinheiro on Burma/Myanmar and SR Muntarbhorn on DPRK; support for the establishment of the OHCHR office in Nepal; an EU expert meeting in November with the SRSG on business and human rights; strong EU engagement on UN Special Procedures; and on-going contact with the US on the issue of Guantanamo Bay and the question of access by the UN Special Rapporteurs.

- This year's UNGA Third Committee saw the adoption of EU resolutions on the DPRK, Burma/Myanmar, the DRC, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan (with the US). The Canadian resolution on Iran was also adopted. This was despite attempts to run no-action motions on all these texts, apart from those on the DPRK and the DRC. It was regrettable however that the no-action motion on the Sudan was successful, though it passed by a far smaller margin than in 2004. The EU's resolutions on religious intolerance and the rights of the child were also successful. The EU welcomes the successful adoption of the majority of Member States' initiatives, though regrets that it was not possible for UNGA to agree a resolution on human rights mainstreaming in the UN system despite the importance the EU attaches to this issue.

7. Ensure coherence between internal and external EU policies

- COHOM was briefed on the Commission proposal, and Council Working Group discussions, to establish an EU Fundamental Rights Agency, including the broad consensus that the Agency should be focussed on Community Law; that it should provide advice and guidance on best practice; and that its third country mandate should be carefully defined in line with principles of coherence;
- The 2005 EU Annual Report on Human Rights covered both internal and external thematic priorities, with both issues merged in one chapter to underline their inter-dependence.

8. Regarding an EU common strategy on human rights and democratisation

- The EU conducted a biennial review of its Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict, including recommendations for improved implementation, for adoption by the Council in December;
- Action was taken under all the EU's human rights Guidelines during the Luxembourg and UK presidencies, including implementation of the Human Rights Defenders Guidelines by means of lobbying on behalf of human rights defenders suffering for exercising their freedom of expression, and a focus on freedom of expression at the 2005 EU NGO Human Rights Forum. A lessons-learned exercise was conducted at the end of the lobbying campaign, with recommendations for increasing further the impact of future campaigns.

III MAINSTREAMING

- New and updated EU Human Rights Fact Sheets were circulated to COHOM as well as to geographic Working Groups, and all EU institutions were encouraged to draw on these internal documents in drawing up policy and preparing for third country meetings. The Fact Sheets were used to inform a range of activities under the EU's human rights Guidelines on the death penalty, torture and human rights defenders.
- The Personal Representative of the SG/HR, accompanied by the Chair of COHOM, visited geographic Council Working Groups, COSCE, the Committee for Civilian aspects of Crisis management (CIVCOM) and the Military Committee to further promote mainstreaming of EU human rights policy, and raise awareness of the EU HR Guidelines, EU HR Fact Sheets and other human rights "tools".
- A human rights component was included in the Aceh Monitoring mission, representing a welcome step towards mainstreaming of human rights within European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) missions.
- Human rights components were included in newly established mandates of EU Special Representatives, including for Sudan and Central Asia.
- Human rights aspects were included in an EU paper on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (on Women, Peace and Security) in the context of ESDP missions.

IV OPENNESS

(a) General public

- EU Heads of Mission were encouraged to make human rights demarches public, where this did not undermine their effectiveness;

- Changes were introduced to the 2005 EU Annual Report on human rights, with a view to improving content and "readability". These included the introduction of concrete illustrations of EU project work, and some analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of EU policy and action during 2005;
- The Council Secretariat published the EU human rights Guidelines in booklet form in May; and the UK Presidency is completing a Farsi translation to complement Chinese, Arabic and Russian translations already published by the Council Secretariat.
- The EU institutions continued to update and enhance the human rights components on their websites.

(b) European Parliament

- Luxembourg and UK presidency representatives, the Commission, and SG/HR Personal Representative met regularly with the European Parliament Sub-Committee on Human rights during 2005;
- A chapter on the human rights work of the European Parliament was included for first time in EU Annual Report on Human Rights;
- Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) attending CHR met EU Heads of Mission, as well as other contacts organised by the Commission and Council Secretariat; and MEPs were active participants in the EU NGO Human Rights Forum.
- A member of the European Parliament secretariat participated for the first time in the human rights seminars organised in the framework of the EU-China human rights dialogue.

- Members of the EP secretariat were regularly invited for briefings on the human rights dialogues and consultations, as well as on implementation of the EU's human rights guidelines.
- The Chair of the EP Sub-Committee on human rights, and the Rapporteur for the EP Human rights report were invited for an exchange of views with the members of COHOM.

(c) Civil society/NGOs

- The EU sought civil society input before its participation in the UN Ad Hoc Working Group on the Disability Convention; before the EU-Russia human rights consultations (pressing, in September, for a role for NGOs in future consultations); before the EU-China human rights dialogue; and during negotiations on UN reform and the Human Rights Council.
- Senior representatives of Amnesty International, FIDH and Human Rights Watch were invited to meet the Secretary General/High Representative, and to have an exchange of views with the Political and Security Committee in November.
- The Presidency provided briefing for NGOs in Geneva during CHR, and in New York during UNGA Third Committee, as part of on-going contacts.
- Civil society continued to be essential implementing partners in the context of the EU's external assistance programmes, including the EIDHR.

(d) COHOM/Presidency/national fields of action

- Representatives of Amnesty International, FIDH and Human Rights Watch were invited to present their views to COHOM before and after CHR, and before UNGA Third Committee; and members of the NGO Coalition on Children and Armed Conflict were similarly invited to present views to inform the biennial review of the Guidelines on Children and Armed conflict;
- The troika gave regular briefings to the NGO-established "human rights contact group", convened usually twice per Presidency in the European parliament; and the presidency provided regular debriefs for representatives of Amnesty International, FIDH and Human Rights Watch after each COHOM; and for interested NGOs after the EU-Russia human rights consultations and the EU-China human rights dialogue.

(e) EU Human Rights discussion Forum

- EU NGOs were closely involved in the preparation of 8-9 December EU NGO Human Rights Forum in London, helping plan and run workshops on aspects of Freedom of Expression. Delegates included representatives of EU and third country NGOs, MEPs, accession countries, and specialists.

(f) Meeting Activities

Details included in part (d)

V REVIEW AND UPDATING OF EU PRIORITIES IN HUMAN RIGHTS

1. The death penalty

- The EU continued to carry out demarches on individual cases falling within EU criteria during 2005; and also carried out a lobbying campaign to "countries on cusp", i.e. those who are close to, or have recently shifted position, either in a positive or a negative direction, which proved useful in stimulating and focussing debate in a number of those countries. Periodic evaluation of the death penalty in third countries was provided by means of annual updates of EU Human Right Fact Sheets. The EU presented its annual resolution on the death penalty at CHR, attracting a record number of co-sponsors.

2. Torture

- The EU took forward its global Programme of Action under the Guidelines on torture, with a particular focus on countries which have not yet ratified UNCAT. Periodic reporting on Torture was included in annual updates of EU Human Rights Fact Sheets. All EU member states co-sponsored the successful Danish-led resolutions on torture at CHR and UNGA.

3. Children and armed conflict

- As noted above, COHOM conducted a biennial review of the Guidelines on children and armed conflict. Demarches to implement the guidelines were carried out.
- All EU members of the UN Security Council supported the French and Benin-led UNSC resolution 1612 on Children and Armed Conflict.

4. **Human Rights Defenders**

- As noted above, COHOM took action to implement the human rights defender Guidelines, including through lobbying to highlight the plight of approximately 180 human rights defenders in 28 countries, in all regions of the world, who were suffering for exercising their Freedom of Expression. EU Heads of Mission used these cases to promote freedom of expression more broadly. There was close co-operation with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on human rights defenders.

5. **EU Human Rights Dialogues**

- EU-Iran Human Rights dialogue. Following successive EU attempts to re-establish this dialogue, including a troika visit to Tehran in April, COHOM conducted an internal evaluation, reviewing developments since the extensive evaluation of October 2004.
- EU-China Human Rights dialogue. Two rounds of dialogue took place in February in Luxembourg, and in Beijing in October. The first included a visit to the European Court of Justice, and the latter included a field trip to Xinjiang. Associated human rights seminars took place in June in Beijing and in December in London.

6. **EU Human rights Consultations**

- New human rights consultations were established with Russia during 2005, with the first round in March in Luxembourg, and the second round in Brussels in September. The COHOM troika proposed that civil society should be involved in future consultations.

- During 2005, the COHOM troika held human rights consultations with the US, Canada; Japan; New Zealand and the Associated countries in advance of CHR, and further consultations with the US, Canada and Japan in advance of UNGA Third Committee, with a focus on UN Reform.

7. Reinforcing co-operation with the UN and other international and regional bodies

(a) OHCHR (and general UN/human rights)

- The EU was active in supporting the reinforcement of the role of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the doubling of her Office's regular budget resources over the next five years. Ms Arbour addressed the Political and Security Committee (PSC), and met the SG/HR, the Commissioner for External Relations and the European Parliament in April. The Special Representative of the UNSG for Human Rights Defenders addressed the PSC and the EP Sub-Committee for Human Rights in July, and a UNICEF representative joined the Personal Representative of the SG/HR when he addressed the Committee for Civilian aspects of Crisis Management (CIVCOM) and the Military Committee.
- Effective EU strategy during 2005 helped offset attempts to undermine the independence of the UN Special Procedures. The EU worked with the Co-ordinator of the Asian Group at CHR; produced a paper for the resultant inter-sessional seminar; and liaised with like-minded partners to ensure that this seminar was constructive. Additionally, the European Commission ensured continued EIDHR funding for the Special Procedures of the CHR.
- The EU provided a strong contribution to Ad Hoc Working group/Disability Convention, drawing on deliberations at two Special COHOMs and on NGO consultations. The EU delivered statements to contribute to work on the UN's draft Instrument on Enforced Disappearances.

(b) OSCE

- The EU was active at the 2005 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation meeting, with the Presidency represented at ministerial level. The European Commission through EIDHR ran a joint programme with the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) on criminal justice reform in Central Asia;

(c) Council of Europe

- There was a strong EU contribution to the Third Summit in Warsaw in May, reaffirming the Council of Europe's core mission of promoting human rights, rule of law, and democracy.
- Work on a Memorandum of Understanding on EU - Council of Europe relations was initiated; with on-going efforts to ensure complementarity between the EU's proposed Fundamental Rights Agency and the Council of Europe.
- The European Commission through EIDHR ran a joint programme with the Council of Europe on democratisation in Russia.
- The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights visited the SG/HR, the Commission and the European Parliament.
