Setting-up of specialized European Union bodies for human rights issues

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After the unanimous adoption of her report by the Committee, Mrs LENZ said a clear message has been sent to the Commission. 'We want a single consistent framework for coordination, as far as possible, of the implementation of human rights policy and measures to promote democracy. There is a political and administrative need for such a structure. We hope that the Commission will cooperate closely with Parliament in this area'. To improve the consistency, transparency, effectiveness and conspicuousness of human rights policy, MEPs propose that the coordinating structure should be modelled on ECHO. It would be placed under the responsibility of a Commissioner for human rights and democracy, with the aim of better programme and project management, and coordination of guarantees and sanctions policy. Appropriations for human rights and democracy would be most appropriately entered in the budget chapter on the European Initiative for Democracy. There is also a need for a European network for human rights and democratization, which would analyse information and make it available on the Internet. The network would come under the Commission's responsibility and a working party comprising representatives of the Commission and Parliament would receive the mandate for organizing the information.