Basic information

1998/2006(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Human rights: activities of the European Union in 1996. Annual memorandum **Subject** 6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general	

Key players

	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
European Parliament	AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	BARROS MOURA José (PSE)	24/06/1997

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/02/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/10/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
28/10/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0410/1998	
16/12/1998	Debate in Parliament		
17/12/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/04/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1998/2006(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 101o-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/4/09636

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0410/1998 OJ C 398 21.12.1998, p. 0003	28/10/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0758/1998 OJ C 098 09.04.1999, p. 0200-0270	17/12/1998	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	11446/1997	22/01/1998	Summary

Human rights: activities of the European Union in 1996. Annual memorandum

1998/2006(INI) - 22/01/1998 - Document attached to the procedure

OBJECTIVE: the annual memorandum to the European Parliament summarises all the activities of the European Union in the field of human rights throughout the world in 1996. CONTENT: in addition to participating at various international human rights fora, such as the General Assembly of the United Nations, the OSCE or the Council of Europe, at which numerous declarations or resolutions on the observance of human rights have been adopted, the memorandum lists over 40 declarations and 80 measures in which the European Union has taken an official position on human rights violations throughout the world in 1996. Of these main positions taken, note should be made in particular of those relating to: - south-east Europe, especially Albania (with the call for new elections following those held in May 1996), Cyprus (where the violent acts perpetrated there have been criticised) and Turkey (where the European Union has emphasised its insistence on the observance of human rights); - central and eastern Europe, especially the countries of the former USSR (where the European Union has taken a position with respect to Russia and Chechnya and support for humanitarian organisations on the ground); - Asia, with numerous positions taken on the People's Republic of Korea (following the violation of the armistice agreement), Eastern Timor and Burma. In addition, human rights clauses have been included as a fundamental element in cooperation agreements signed with Vietnam, Cambodia et Laos; - the Middle East, with the establishment of the Barcelona process, which places human rights at the centre of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. The Union has also continued to apply a policy of "critical dialogue" with Iran with a view to influencing its policy in certain areas affecting human rights; - Latin America, with the implementation of a new 1996-2000 partnership focusing on the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law. In addition, a process of rapprochement has been initiated with Cuba; - Africa, where dialogue continued with all the states affected by the Great Lakes crisis and a European mediator was sent to the region. Several joint declarations were made condemning the atrocities committed in the region and a number of humanitarian initiatives were taken (release of ECU 169 million in addition to the ECU 500 million already granted in emergency aid). Other initiatives have also been taken, especially in Burundi (following the military coup) and Rwanda. In addition, the Union officially called for a regional peace conference for the region. Finally, as far as dialogue with the European Parliament was concerned, the Council had replied to some 120 written or verbal questions raised by members in 1996, a quarter of which referred to the human rights situation in Turkey and Cyprus.

Human rights: activities of the European Union in 1996. Annual memorandum

1998/2006(INI) - 17/12/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted its tenth report on human rights in the world and the EU's human rights policy, drafted by Mr. José BARROS MOURA (PES, E). The report recalls a number of principles and positions adopted by the Parliament. These include : - respect for freedom of expression; - the complete abolition of the death penalty; - equitable and humane policies with respect to asyslum seekers and refugees in the EU; - improved recognition and protection of the rights of communities, minorities and indigenous populations; - need for actions to combat sex tourism and to pursue persons involved in the sexual exploitation of children; - elimination of children labour and introduction of just social standards; - recognition that rape in time of war should constitute a war crime; - introduction of legal reforms with respect to inheritance and rights of succession. The Parliament called for a reform of the international financial institutions and the adoption of a code of conduct for companies working in developing countries. It also reaffirmed its support for the creation of a 'Social Label'. It also called for the speedy adoption of the Council Regulation concerning the legal basis for the promotion of human rights and democracy by the European Union and the establishment of a Human Rights Forum. The Forum would be empowered to make recommendations on the human rights dimension of EU policies and to evaluate the EU's human rights related activities; the Forum should include experts from international organisations, NGOs and the academic world, as well as representative of the Parliament, Commission and Council. Another important plea from the Parliament's point of view was to the Council, Commission and Member States to withhold assistance to regimes which devote excessive resources to military hardware.