Basic information

2000/2105(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Human rights in the world. Annual report 1999-2000 **Subject** 6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	WUORI Matti (V/ALE)	07/11/2000

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	WYNN Terence (PSE)	05/12/2000
DEVE Development and Cooperation	COÛTEAUX Paul Marie (UEN)	22/11/2000

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2338	2001-03-19

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
14/04/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
09/10/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	11317/2000	
19/03/2001	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
29/05/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
29/05/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0193/2001	
04/07/2001	Debate in Parliament		
05/07/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0399/2001	Summary
05/07/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
14/03/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2105(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 101o-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/5/12699

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0193/2001	29/05/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0399/2001 OJ C 065 14.03.2002, p. 0176-0336 E	05/07/2001	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	11317/2000	09/10/2000	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	COM(2000)0726	14/11/2000	Summary

Human rights in the world. Annual report 1999-2000

2000/2105(INI) - 05/07/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In presenting his report on human rights in the world in 2000 and the European Union Human Rights Policy (refer to previous document), Matti WUORI (Greens/EFA, FIN) welcomed the fact that the Belgian presidency had underlined the need for increased coherence and consistency in the promotion of human rights and he emphasised the need for more transparency. Furthermore, he welcomed past comments from Commissioner Chris PATTEN that it would be 'intellectual vandalism' to ignore the views of NGOs. Overall, it was necessary to establish a clealry defined strategy - otherwise tactics became the strategy. Mr. Wuori cited the case of the extradition of President Milosevic as an example of principles of universal human rights overriding national sovereignity. He believed that criticism must be fair and the EU should ensure that human rights provisions were fully implemented in applicant countries. Otherwise they would simply become 'Potemkin villages' with only cosmetic changes. He considered that a thematic approach was the best way of moving forward. He considered too that agreements with third countries should have human rights clauses. He concluded that it was time the EU out its principles into practice on the issue of freedom of expression. Against this background, the report was adopted by an overwhelming majority. Amendments to the report related to the behaviour of Russia in Chechnya, to the recent United Nations Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva and finally, another amendment regretted that Council did not submit a resolution on human rights in China.

Human rights in the world. Annual report 1999-2000

2000/2105(INI) - 14/11/2000 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

This report sets out an overview of the activities in the protection of human rights and democracy funded by the European Commission in external relations between 1996 and 1999. It examines the major thematic priorities and the regional strategies of such action, and provides an analysis of some procedural aspects. In addition, an assessment of the performance of the Commission in this field is included. It is the fourth report of its kind, and describes the main lines of action followed in the use of resources available in the financial years 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 under the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) (Chapter B7-70 of the EU budget). During the period assessed by this report, approximately EUR 300 million were allocated to human rights and democracy projects from this part of the budget alone. This report is complementary to the EU Annual Report on Human Rights, adopted by the Council in October 1999. While the present document deals with activities funded under the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights by the European Commission from 1996 to 1999, the EU Annual Report on Human Rights has a wider remit. However, both reports share the same goals: to enhance the transparency, coherence and consistency of the Union's human rights policies. The present report sets out a detailed financial breakdown of where and how the money was spent. Furthermore, by highlighting individual projects as examples, the report illustrates the concrete action facilitated by Community finance. Ths survey also highlights that a major priority for the Union has been the development of its partnership with non-governmental organisations and civil society. NGOs are the principle implementing partners for projects under EIDHR. With regard to the development of activities between 1996 and 1999, it can be seen that funding has increased dramatically in certain areas. For example, the priority attached by the Union to promoting awareness and professional competence in the field of human rights is illustrated by a large increase for projects concerning human rights and education. Similarly, enhanced assistance for strengthening legal systems reflects the growing emphasis on institutional-building and the rule of law. Where certain activities are marked by an apparent decline in resources in 1999, such as those projects described contained in the section on 'target groups', this represents an evolution of projects which focussed on specific categories of individuals towards instruments which better ensue their protection through larger, thematic programmes. Lastly, this report can make a significant contribution to the dialogue on human rights issues and activities between the Commission and its partners. Above all, it demonstrates that the EU will always face a demand for assistance in the human rights field which will outstrip its ability to fund worthwhile projects. However, with the help of reports such as this, the EU will be better able to establish a strategy to make best use of its resources.

Human rights in the world. Annual report 1999-2000

2000/2105(INI) - 19/03/2001

The Council reaffirmed the Council conclusions of 10 December 1998, endorsed by the Vienna European Council, which highlighted the importance of human rights as a corner stone of EU foreign policy. The Council took stock of ongoing initiatives, notably the preparation of EU Guidelines against Torture, which will enhance EU actions aimed at the eradication of this abhorrent violation of human rights. These guidelines will add to the already existing guidelines on the death penalty and create a new instrument for the EU in its relations with third countries. It further noted that the Commission had prepared a Communication on electoral assistance and observation, on which the Council will adopt conclusions shortly. Both this Communication as well as the Communications on human rights and democratisation and on conflict prevention, which have been announced by the Commission, will be used as an input for the Conference on the EU and human rights in the framework of conflict prevention and resolution to be held on 28 and 29 May.

Human rights in the world. Annual report 1999-2000

2000/2105(INI) - 09/10/2000

PURPOSE : to present the second annual report on Human Rights in the world. CONTENT : the Council submitted to the Parliament the annual report on human rights which consists of two distinct parts: the first, dedicated to human rights in the Union (see INI/2000/2231), the second, Union action on human rights on the international scene. This report, which concentrates on human rights in the world, aims to ensure a greater transparency of the main positions and actions taken by the Union in the field. It analyses, in particular, the instruments to take action that are at the Union's disposal and their practical application from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000. More specifically, the report focuses on the European Union in relation to its partners and underlines its position on the international scene. It highlights that during Union's regular meetings in the traditional arenas (Commission on Human Rights, United Nations General Assembly), the time-period has provided a number of opportunities for the Member States to work together: - Peking +5 and Copenhagen +5 meetings; - preparation of European and world conferences against racism; - negotiation and adoption of two important protocols to the Convention of children's rights and on children in armed conflicts and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; - the creation of a Special Representative post of the Secretary General on the situation of defenders of human rights; - the human interest conferences and seminars of the OSCE on children in armed conflicts and on the treaty on human beings. The report stresses the importance of the dialogue with organisations in civil society. It recalls the intense activity of several leading organisations in this field throughout the past year, such as the EU Forum on human rights and the conclusions of the conference organised by the Portuguese Presidency and the Commission on the role of human rights and democratic principles in the Union's relations with third countries (held in Venice in May 2000). Lastly, with respect to the legal instruments at the Union's disposal to make progress on human rights in the world, the report stresses the important role of the European Parliament in this field, as well as that of the European Ombudsman and the Court of Justice of the European Communities. It should also be noted that annexed to this document is a list of specific actions taken by the Union with a view to advancing human rights in the world, including, in particular: 1) joint strategies led by the Union (e.g. Ukraine and the Mediterranean region); 2) joint actions (e.g. Palestinian Authority and Bosnia Herzegovina); 3) joint positions (e.g. against human rights violations in Kosovo and in certain African countries); 4) declarations or official Union approaches (e.g. in China and in Russia). In addition to these traditional instruments, the report alsodetails Union action in view of the abolition of the death penalty (including with regard to the USA), specific European missions to evaluate the human rights situations, as well as electoral missions.