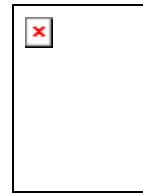




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***Joint declaration in the name of the Presidency of the Parliamentary Meeting
"From Tampere to The Hague: moving forward? Progress and Shortcomings in
the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice"***

Press Conference, 3 October 2006, European Parliament

At the end of the proceedings of the Conference, the Co-Chairs would formulate the following considerations:

(1) Seven years after the adoption of the Tampere Programme and its revision at the Hague Conference of November 2004, the European Council should take note that, whereas on the one hand considerable progress has been made in developing the EU as an area of liberty, security and justice, on the other hand the challenges facing the Union in connection with combating terrorism, controlling migratory movements and strengthening the protection of fundamental rights have become even greater than had been envisaged in 1999.

(2) In the face of those challenges, it is essential that the European Union define as soon as possible

- a coherent strategy at the international level,
- urgent reforms of its decision-making system by making use of the "passarells" provided for in Art. 67 EC and Art. 42 EU.

(3) As for the substance, the proposals submitted by the CEC and the Presidency of the Council for re-launching the area of liberty, security and justice largely constitute a more than solid basis from which the European Council can establish its new strategy in this sphere.

(4) However, it is of crucial importance for most members elected to the European Parliament and the national Parliaments that the following be secured in a sphere which is as sensitive as that of the area of liberty, security and justice:

- protection of fundamental rights,
- democratic scrutiny,
- effective judicial review.

(5) Dialogue between the national Parliaments and the European Parliament must be stepped up by:

- setting up a systematic exchange of information connected with the preparatory work for Union legislative measures. Existing systems, in particular IPEX, should be

exploited better in order to exchange information and enable legislative work appertaining to the area of liberty, security and justice to be followed on a day-to-day basis;

- holding debates on those subjects in the context of the proceedings of the EP committees responsible for following up the area of liberty, justice and security and of COSAC;

- convening at least once a year a parliamentary meeting to report on progress and delays in implementing the area of liberty, justice and security.