



Der Präsident

Mr Iftikhar Muhammad Choudhry
Islamabad
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

203211 21.05.2008

Sir,

I wish to acknowledge, with thanks, your letter of 30 January 2008 which was transmitted through the good offices of the Ambassador-Head of Delegation of the Delegation of the European Commission to Pakistan.

As you may know the European Parliament is fully committed to the promotion, worldwide and as a matter of priority, of the core values of democracy, good governance, human rights and the rule of law. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan's transition from military to civilian rule has therefore been a major subject of attention for our Members thorough the year 2007, leading to the sending of an EP Election Observation Mission in mid February 2008 as part of the accompanying process of this transition.

Further reflecting its deep concern, the European Parliament voted during 2007 three resolutions on Pakistan, each of them addressing, inter alia, the issue of the independence of the judiciary. I attach those resolutions for your ease of reference. The European Parliament has also, through various informal channels, repeatedly raised the situation created by your dismissal as Chief Justice and house arrest. We were therefore delighted to learn that the new Prime Minister decided your release from house arrest on 25 March 2008.

Furthermore I will inform the Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament about our exchange of letters and invite him to ensure a swift and appropriate follow-up at the level of that Committee.

You can rest assured that we remain fully committed to the separation of powers, to the independence of the judiciary and to the protection of fundamental liberties: they indeed form the backbone of a democratic state.

Yours truly,

Hans-Gert Pötering