



***SOUS-COMMISSION DROITS DE L'HOMME***

**Réunion**

**lundi, 22 janvier 2007, de 15:00 à 18:30, Bruxelles**

**HEURE DES QUESTIONS A LA COMMISSION**

**1. European Commission plans regarding Belarus (tabled by Mrs Hanna Foltyn - Kubicka)**

European Commission has dedicated much effort so far to support the opposition fighting the regime of Alexander Lukashenka. These include the aid for Belarusian students relegated from their universities, support for the independent press and radio programmes and many other initiatives.

According to Mr. Alexander Milinkevitch more than 40% of people in his country use the Internet and 20% have access to Euro News which is the only Western television programme that is available to the people of Belarus.

I would like to know whether the European Commission is aware of these figures and if so, is it planning to use them to exploit possibilities which come with them, for instance by creating a special Internet portal in Belarusian language dedicated to spreading independent news to the people or by preparing a set of programs that would be broadcasted within the Euro News channel?

**2. Sri Lanka (tabled by Mr Richard Howitt)**

As a member of the Tokyo Conference, the EU has a major role to play in conflict resolution in Sri Lanka. Therefore, would the Commission like to comment on the

actions and programming it has developed to help in the current climate of rising human rights violations in Sri Lanka, where there are reports of humanitarian aid worker executions, other extra judicial killings, kidnappings, disappearances, forced recruitment especially of children and a prevailing culture of impunity. In particular, would the Commission comment on any response to the recent murder of 17 aid workers working for the French NGO' Action Contre la Faim, discovered shot dead in their office in Muttur on August 6th 2006.

**3. Humanitarian Situation in Somalia (tabled by Mrs Elena Valenciano)**

In the full armed confrontation now appalling Somalia, with combats and air bombings, innocent civilians are already being displaced, losing their precarious live hoods and killed. This situation has the ingredients of a humanitarian disaster that compounds Somalia's already endemic human insecurity.

Could the Commission inform us about any programs to help in the humanitarian tragedy that is suffering Somalia?

**4. Human Rights situation of Colombian civilians (tabled by Mr Simon Coveney)**

How would the Commission assess the impact of the Colombian Government's new strategy regarding the peace process in this country, its successes and failures and how this strategy is affecting and/or improving the human rights situation of Colombian civilians?

Does the Commission have plans to propose an increase in funding and humanitarian assistance for the displaced people of Colombia, many of whom are living in inhumane conditions?