



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Development*

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**2011/2185(INI)**

1.03.2012

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the Annual Report on Human Rights in the World 2010 and the European Union's Policy on the matter, including implications for the EU's strategic human rights policy  
(2011/2185(INI))

Rapporteur: Cristian Dan Preda

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the special relevance assigned to human rights, democracy and the rule of law in the Communication on Increasing the Impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change<sup>1</sup>, and stresses that democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, good governance, peace and security are prerequisites for – and have a synergetic and mutually reinforcing relationship to – development, the reduction of poverty and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
2. Urges the EU to undertake additional efforts, mainstream more effectively human rights and democracy across development cooperation and ensure that EU development programmes contribute to the fulfilment by partner countries of their international human rights obligations; also asks that human rights and democracy be integrated into programmes linking relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD), because of their vital importance in the process of transition from humanitarian emergency to development;
3. Is of the view that lessons should be drawn from popular uprisings for democratic change in northern Africa in order to address the underlying problems, ranging from high unemployment, rising food prices, persistent corruption, denial of basic human rights including social and economic rights, as well as limited participation of citizens in decision-making through dialogue;
4. Underlines the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights, including as well the rights set out in the UN Social Responsibility Pact, such as the rights to appropriate nutrition, minimum social standards, education, health care, just and favourable working conditions and participation in cultural life, which should all be treated equally; underlines in this respect the importance of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which should be taken into account in conformity with Article 21 of the Lisbon Treaty, General Provisions on the Union's External Action;
5. Reaffirms the importance of a human rights-oriented development policy and calls on the EU to set specific, measurable, achievable and time-bound objectives for human rights and democracy in its development programmes;
6. Urges the EU to apply the principles of the 1998 Aarhus convention on Access to information, Public Participation in decision-Making and Access to justice in Environmental Matters in its international environmental decision-making processes in order to guarantee transparency and public access to information and thereby to facilitate for parliaments, civil society and other stakeholders to carry out their duty of scrutiny in the name of good governance,
7. Welcomes the new strategy put forward in the Joint Communication on Human Rights Policy and Democracy at the heart of EU external action – towards a more effective

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2011)0637.

approach<sup>1</sup>, according to which development cooperation is part of an integrated approach to human rights across the whole spectrum of EU policies;

8. Notes that the 2010 Annual Report on Human Rights in the World does not include a specific section on development; stresses, especially after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty and given the current integrated strategy on human rights, that a thematic section in the Annual Report should be devoted to 'human rights and development';
9. Strongly recommends that within the future development instruments a special focus be put on thematic programmes, as they especially address human rights issues in order to promote mutually reinforcing bridges between development and human rights;
10. Requests greater complementarity and coherence in the planning of projects and actions of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and the other Financial Instruments;
11. Calls on the EU to focus its development assistance on strengthening institution-building and civil society development of recipient countries, as those elements are crucial for good governance, as well as for ensuring accountability and ownership of development processes; calls for a strengthening of the human rights and conditionality clauses in EU-supported programmes;
12. Takes the view that budget support should be more closely linked to the human-rights record and governance situation of recipient countries; reiterates its call for establishing more detailed criteria in this respect for the award of budget support;
13. Calls for an increase in financing for the implementation of European support mechanisms for democracy and human rights, as they are concrete means for the EU to promote democracy and human rights in the context of its cooperation with third countries;
14. Stresses that the EU should ensure that its actions in the field of development policy, peace-building, conflict prevention and international security are mutually reinforcing; underlines, in this context, the necessity of devising appropriate strategies for countries in situations of fragility;
15. Underlines that the right to development is a key element in scrutinising policy coherence for development;
16. Calls on the European External Action Service and the Commission to seek new ways to ensure better linkages between dialogues on human rights with partner countries and development cooperation.

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2011)0886.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	29.2.2012
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 27 -: 1 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Ricardo Cortés Lastra, Nirj Deva, Leonidas Donskis, Charles Goerens, Filip Kaczmarek, Franziska Keller, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Gay Mitchell, Norbert Neuser, Bill Newton Dunn, Maurice Ponga, Birgit Schnieber-Jastram, Michèle Striffler, Eleni Theoharous, Patrice Tirolien, Ivo Vajgl, Daniël van der Stoep, Anna Záborská, Iva Zanicchi, Gabriele Zimmer
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Isabella Lövin, Gesine Meissner, Cristian Dan Preda, Bart Staes, Patrizia Toia
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	Zita Gurmai