



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Development

2012/2062(INI)

9.10.2012

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the review of the EU's human rights strategy
(2012/2062(INI))

Rapporteur: Alf Svensson

PA_NonLeg

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. Reaffirms that the universal human rights and freedoms stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights apply to every human being, regardless of all circumstance or situation and of religion or belief, sex, racial or ethnic origin, age, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity;
2. Calls on the Commission and the EEAS to live up to the pledge of a ‘human rights-based approach’ across the entire development cooperation process;
3. Urges the EU to maintain and honour its role as a leading defender of human rights in the world, through the effective, consistent and considered use of all available instruments for the promotion and protection of human rights and the effectiveness of our development aid policy;
4. Highlights the importance of Policy Coherence for Development with a view to ensuring that EU policies in all areas permit human rights to be increasingly realised, while ensuring that no human right is violated by any EU policy;
5. Requests the Commission to integrate human rights country strategies into the programming and implementation of all assistance to third countries, as well as in strategy papers and multiannual indicative programmes;
6. Calls for the inclusion of a human rights assessment in the deployment of EU country aid modalities, in particular regarding budget support;
7. Calls for renewed efforts to protect and support human rights defenders in third countries, especially those living under threat or in fear because of their commitment; looks forward to the more flexible, targeted measures which it will be possible to take to protect human rights defenders within the framework of the European Endowment for Democracy (EED);
8. Recalls that development, democracy and the rule of law are requisites for, but not identical to, the realisation of human rights and that they interact with and support each other; calls on the EU to support the establishment of democratic and human rights-based ideals throughout society, especially with a view to promoting gender equality and children’s rights;
9. Insists that enforceable and non-negotiable human rights clauses must be included in all agreements concluded by the EU with third countries;
10. Emphasises that the new EU Special Representative for Human Rights must take the development agenda into account in all actions aimed at promoting human rights in the world; in this respect, expects there to be close collaboration with Parliament and its relevant committees on this issue;

11. Invites the Commission and the EEAS, in the context of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child and the need to ensure the fullest protection of the rights foreseen by it and prevent their erosion, to provide particular support for the prioritisation of the needs of children of both sexes in terms of special safeguards and care, on the basis of the Convention and of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child;
12. Strongly condemns female genital mutilation (FGM) as a breach of the bodily integrity of women and girls, and urges the Commission and the EEAS to pay specific attention to such harmful traditional practices in their strategy for fighting violence against women.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	9.10.2012
Result of final vote	+: 22 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Thijs Berman, Ricardo Cortés Lastra, Corina Crețu, Leonidas Donskis, Catherine Grèze, Eva Joly, Filip Kaczmarek, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Gay Mitchell, Norbert Neuser, Bill Newton Dunn, Maurice Ponga, Jean Roatta, Michèle Striffler, Alf Svensson, Eleni Theoharous, Patrice Tirolien, Ivo Vajgl, Anna Záborská, Iva Zanicchi
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Cristian Dan Preda, Patrizia Toia