

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5644/07
by Lydie Polfer (ALDE)
to the Council

Subject: Mr Putin's proposal to the EU to set up a joint institute to promote human rights in Europe

At the EU-Russia Summit, which was held in Mafra (Portugal) on Friday 26 October, Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed to the EU to set up a joint institute to promote human rights in Europe. The EU reportedly endorsed this proposal.

In this connection, I wish to put the following questions to the Council:

- What exactly is being proposed?
- What would be such an institute's specific objectives?
- What would be the added value of such an institute, compared to the Council of Europe or the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights?
- Given that the promotion of human rights in Europe already forms part of the tasks of these two bodies, would the establishment of a joint institute with Russia be a means of further promoting human rights in Russia?
- Will the Russian Government be the main stakeholder in such an institute?

If so, how credible does the Council consider Russia to be in the field of human rights?