Hearing on the follow up to the 2010 EP report on Human Rights Defenders

10 January 2011
15h30-17h00
Room: ASP 3G-2
European Parliament, Brussels

**Draft Programme**

1. The hearing will focus on action taken by the EU, including Member States, to prioritise a more effective implementation of the existing tools and mechanisms for a coherent and systematic protection of human rights defenders worldwide. The role of EU Delegations as a primary locus of intervention will be assessed, and NGOs with direct experience of EU action will gauge whether measures taken have been effective and result-oriented, and implemented in a participatory way. Successful new initiatives in the field of human rights defenders' protection, the changes brought about by the Lisbon Treaty, and options for the future will also be examined.

2. **Speakers:**
   - Mrs Heidi Hautala, Chair of DROI and rapporteur, EP report on EU Policies in favour of Human Rights Defenders
   - Ms Mary Lawlor, Director, Frontline - the International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders
   - Mr. Helge Lunde, Executive Director ICORN - the International Cities of Refuge Network
   - Ms Véronique Arnault, Director for Human Rights and Democracy, European External Action Service

3. Debate with Members, and conclusions by the Chair.