

# **EU2009.CZ**

České předsednictví  
v Radě EU

Czech Presidency  
of the Council of the EU

Présidence tchèque  
du Conseil de l'UE

2009

## **UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**11th Session**

**(2 - 18 June 2009)**

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### **Statement by**

**H.E. Ambassador Tomáš HUSÁK**

**Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to  
the United Nations Office in Geneva  
on behalf of the European Union**

### **Item 7:**

**Follow-up to special session  
"Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied  
Arab territories"**

**Geneva, 15 June 2009**

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**Human Rights Council – 11<sup>th</sup> Session  
EU Statement  
Item 7: Follow-up to Special Sessions**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The EU has deeply deplored the loss of life during the recent Gaza conflict, particularly the civilian casualties. We noted that Members of the Fact-Finding Mission were appointed by the Human Rights Council President on 3 April. We further note that the Fact-Finding Mission has carried out its visit to Gaza at the beginning of this month, entering Gaza from Egypt via the Rafah crossing point, and intends to present its report at the next Council Session in September. The EU hopes that the Mission will be, as stated by President Uhomoibhi on 3 April, „in a position to assess in an independent and impartial manner all human rights and humanitarian law violations committed in the context of the conflict” and that its findings will make a „meaningful contribution to the peace process in the Middle East and to providing justice for the victims”, as stated by the Head of the Mission, Justice Goldstone. A full impartial, comprehensive and balanced report into all violations is the only way to redress all human rights violations in the Gaza strip. On this basis, we call on all parties to fully co-operate with the Mission and believe that it will be in their best interests to do so.

We listened with interest to the oral report by the High Commissioner. We appreciate the work that the High Commissioner's Office is doing in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, notably the recent creation of a human rights monitoring framework. We support the emphasis she puts on the immediate easing of restrictions on the entry and exit of people to and from the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We also echo her calls for credible, independent and transparent accountability mechanisms which would allow to investigate the alleged human rights and international humanitarian law violations. We will address these issues in greater detail in the general debate under this Agenda Item, which is to follow.

Thank you.

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