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EUROPEAN UNION

Geneva, November 2006

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

2nd resumed Session  
(Geneva, 27-28 November 2006)

Explanation of vote (before the vote) on the Draft resolution entitled  
„Intergovernmental Working Group on the Review of Mandates”

*The Hon. President*

(L. 2)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union Member States that are members of the Human Rights Council, and the acceding country, Romania.

The European Union cannot support the draft decision presented on Intergovernmental Working Group on the Review of Mandates.

First, the Human Rights Council, at its first session, has already defined the parameters of the review of mandates and mandated this task to the relevant intergovernmental Working Group [decision 104/2006]. The ongoing review of mandates is a separate inter-sessional process. The deliberations in the Working Group allow for the participation of all stakeholders, including non-member States of the Council, NGOs, NHRIs and representatives of the Coordination Committee of the Special Procedures. This feature is essential to a democratic and transparent decision-making process on the future structures of our Council.

Moreover, it is of particular importance to avoid prejudging its outcome at this stage. The draft decision before us addresses to the Working Group specific requests which focus on selected aspects of the review process only. This would undermine the holistic approach of the working group process and prejudice the outcome of the ongoing review.

For these reasons the European Union requests that the decision be put to the vote, and will vote against it.

This explanation of vote has been approved by the European Union as a whole and by the acceding country Bulgaria.

*National  
rights  
institutions*