



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 6 July 2004
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**Joint Declaration on Political Dialogue between the European
Union and the Republic of Yemen**

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1. PREAMBLE

The European Union and the Republic of Yemen,

- reaffirming their commitment to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in accordance with the Charter of the UN, other instruments relating to human rights including the Vienna declaration and Programme of Action, and international law, and recalling that in the framework of the purposes and principles of the Charter, the promotion and protection of all human rights is a legitimate concern of the international community;
- reaffirming that their relations, as also stated in the Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and Yemen, which came into force on July 1, 1998, shall be based on respect for the democratic principles and fundamental human rights established by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, which directs the internal and international policies of the parties;

P R E S S

- recognising that democracy, development, respect for the rule of law and human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, recalling the obligations set out in relevant international instruments such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two optional protocols, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its optional protocol, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and its optional protocol, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two optional protocols;
- recognising the importance of an intensified political dialogue between the EU and Yemen leading to better understanding between the parties and to increasing convergence of positions on international issues;
- in the context of the EU Strategic Partnership with the Mediterranean and the Middle East of June 2004;
- recognising the importance of concrete follow-up to the Sana'a Intergovernmental Regional Conference on Democracy, Human Rights and the International Criminal Court of January 2004;
- considering that terrorism represents a serious threat to international security and stability and that international cooperation and solidarity constitute essential elements to fight this scourge and stressing the importance that the fight against terrorism is conducted in accordance with international law, including international human rights law;
- considering that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, both to state and non-state actors, represents one of the most serious threats to international peace and security;

have decided to intensify their relations.

2. AIMS

At the outcome of the 11th Joint EU-Cooperation Committee meeting of 6/7 October 2003, the EU Presidency announced the strong interest of the EU in enhancing relations between the EU and Yemen by starting a political dialogue to improve mutual understanding and have an exchange of views on issues of common interest, such as security, fight against terrorism, human rights, democracy and regional development. The Yemeni government welcomed this initiative. To that end, the Parties have agreed to initiate a political dialogue in order to further this understanding and exchange.

The European Union and the Republic of Yemen agree that this Joint Declaration should signal the beginning of closer and deeper relations.

The political dialogue is intended in particular to:

- facilitate rapprochement between the parties through the development of better mutual understanding and regular co-ordination on international issues of common interest;
- enable each party to consider the position and interests of the other;
- contribute to enhancing regional security and stability;
- promote common initiatives;
- promote respect for human rights, democratic principles and fundamental freedoms, including by acting in accordance with international legal obligations and the human rights set out in ICCPR and its two optional protocols, ICESCR, CAT and its optional protocol, CEDAW and its optional protocol, CERD, CRC and its two optional protocols;

- contribute to countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery through full compliance with and national implementation of their existing obligations under international disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and agreements and other relevant international obligations;
- promote the signature, ratification or accession, as appropriate, of all other international instruments;
- promote the development and the effective implementation of a national export control system, controlling the export, transit and end-use of dual goods and technologies, including effective sanctions;
- contribute to the fight against terrorism in the framework of the full implementation of Resolution 1373 of the UN Security Council and other relevant UN resolutions, international conventions and instruments, including the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism;
- contribute to the prevention and peaceful resolution of regional conflicts in accordance with relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, including in the context of the Middle East Peace Process. The efforts of the parties on this issue should aim at the emergence of an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian State, living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours.

3. DIALOGUE MODALITIES

The political dialogue between the parties shall take place through contacts, exchanges and consultations, including as appropriate, in a regional format. Meetings shall take place whenever necessary, in principle at senior official level between the Republic of Yemen on the one hand and the EU in Troika format on the other.
