

24th Quadripartite meeting between the Council of Europe and the European Union (Brussels, 13 February 2007)

1. In accordance with the Declaration of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe of 5 May 1989 (paragraph 8) and with the decision of the Council of the European Communities of 20 March 1989, the 24th Quadripartite meeting between the Council of Europe and the European Union was held in Brussels on 13 February 2007 at the invitation of the San Marino Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.
2. It was attended on the Council of Europe side, by Mr Fiorenzo STOLFI, Minister of Foreign Affairs of San Marino, Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and Mr Terry DAVIS, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and, on the European Union side, by Mr Gernot ERLER, Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, President of the Council of the European Union, Mr Javier SOLANA, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union, High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and Mr Karel KOVANDA, Member of the European Commission, Deputy Director-general.
3. A full list of participants is set out in Appendix I, and the common pressline of the two presidencies is set out in Appendix II.
4. The following items were included in the agenda
 - I. Relations between the European Union and the Council of Europe
 - Memorandum of Understanding
 - Follow-up to the Juncker Report
 - II. Current political questions
 - Serbia, including Kosovo
 - Montenegro
 - III. Human Rights questions
 - EU Agency for Fundamental Rights
 - European Court of Human Rights: current state of play
 - IV. Any other business

¹ This document has been classified restricted at the date of issue. Unless the Committee of Ministers decides otherwise, it will be declassified according to the rules set up in Resolution Res(2001)6 on access to Council of Europe documents.

Appendix 1**24th Quadripartite meeting between the Council of Europe and the European union
(Brussels, 13 February 2007)****(Justus Lipsius Building, Room 50.4)****List of participants****Council of Europe Delegation****Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe**

Mr Fiorenzo STOLFI	Minister for Foreign Affairs of San Marino, Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe
Mrs Maria Lea PEDINI	Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, San Marino
Mr Guido BELLATTI CECCOLI	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of San Marino to the CoE, Chairman of the Ministers' Deputies
Mr Gian Nicola FILIPPI BALESTRA	Ambassador, Mission of San Marino to the European Communities
Mr Damiano BELEFFI	Deputy Permanent Representative of San Marino to the Council of Europe
Mrs Antonella BENEDETTINI	Counsellor, Mission of San Marino to the European Communities

Secretariat General of the Council of Europe

Mr Terry DAVIS	Secretary General
Mr Jean-Louis LAURENS	Director General of Political Affairs
Mrs Mireille PAULUS	Deputy Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Mr Jack HANNING	Director of External Relations
Mrs Verena TAYLOR	Director of the Council of Europe's Liaison Office with the European Union

EU Delegation**Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

Mr Gernot ERLER	Minister of State, MFA
Mr Dirk Joachim SAWITZKY	Head of the Office of the Minister of State, MFA
Mr Wilhelm SCHÖNFELDER	Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the EU
Mr Eberhard KÖLSCH	Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Council of Europe
Mr Johann-Adolf COHAUSZ	Head of Division for the Council of Europe and relations with Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Iceland and Norway, MFA
Mrs Christian FRITSCH	Second Secretary, Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany

General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union

Dr Javier SOLANA
Mrs Helga SCHMID
Mr Steven EVERTS
Mr Leo SCHULTE NORDHOLT

Secretary General/High Representative for CFSP
Director, Policy Unit
Special Counsellor, Cabinet SG/HR Solana
DG E VI, Desk Officer OSCE and Council of Europe

European Commission

Mr Karel KOVANDA
Mr Gilbert DUBOIS
Mr Jérôme LEGRAND

Deputy Director General, DG External Relations
Head of Unit, OSCE and Council of Europe, DG RELEX
Desk Officer for the relations with the Council of Europe,
DG RELEX
Assistant, Unit, Council of Europe, DG RELEX

Ms Sara GUALANDI

Appendix 2

Common pressline of the two Presidencies

The 24th Quadripartite meeting between the Council of Europe and the European Union was held in Brussels on 13 February 2007 at the invitation of the San Marino chairmanship of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers.

The Council of Europe was represented by:

- Mr Fiorenzo Stolfi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of San Marino, Chair of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers
- Mr Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

and the European Union by:

- Mr Javier Solana, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union, High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy
- Mr Gernot Erler, Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- Mr Karel Kovanda, Deputy Director General, DG External Relations, European Commission

• RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The participants reaffirmed their determination to join forces and improve their co-operation so as ensure that the values common to the Council of Europe and the European Union – democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law – prevailed in the face of the challenges and threats confronting Europe and its citizens.

In this connection, the participants were unanimous in underlining their resolve to complete the draft Memorandum of Understanding by the next session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg on 10 and 11 May 2007.

The participants pointed out the particular importance they attached to the valuable proposals put forward in the Juncker report, from the standpoint of closer co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union and, ultimately, of European construction. They reiterated their desire to make speedy progress with examining the proposals so that a report on action on them could be presented at the session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 10 and 11 May.

• CURRENT POLITICAL ISSUES

- . *Serbia, including Kosovo*
- . *Montenegro*

The participants took note of the positive assessment made by international election observation mission on the holding of the 21 January elections in Serbia and expressed the wish for a timely government formation and that the new government would maintain the course of the reforms towards European integration. They called upon the Serbian authorities to take full advantage of their future chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to secure the full implementation of their outstanding commitments.

As regards Kosovo, the participants recalled the great importance they attach to the full implementation of the highest European standards to Kosovo in the areas of human rights and the rule of law. Kosovo should not be left out of the protection system guaranteed across the continent, as set out in the European Convention on Human Rights. They re-iterated their wish for a continued and enhanced contribution by the Council of Europe to the international efforts led by the European Union following status determination.

The participants looked forward to Montenegro's accession to the Council of Europe as soon as the on-going accession procedure will be completed and expressed their readiness to continue to assist the authorities in their reform efforts, including through common projects where possible.

- **HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS**

The Council of Europe welcomed the agreement reached in the Council of the European Union that the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights inception and work would not encroach on the Council of Europe's position as the chief source and interpreter of European human-rights standards but, on the contrary, would provide added value to the important work carried out by the Council of Europe and other institutions.

The participants expressed satisfaction that the regulation of the Council of the European Union setting up the Agency would contain detailed provisions to promote synergies.

The participants unanimously expressed the wish that the negotiations on the future co-operation agreement between the Community and the Council of Europe with regard to the Agency should be concluded as soon as possible so as to give effect to these principles both on paper and in practice.

The Council of Europe pointed out that rapid European Union accession to the European Convention on Human Rights would greatly aid consistency in Europe regarding human rights.

The participants unanimously underlined that it is essential to preserve the effectiveness of the unique system of protection of human rights offered by the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).