

SLOVENIE

EUROPEAN UNION

Human Rights Council
6th session
(Geneva, 10-28 September 2007)

Explanation of Vote (b.v.) on A/HRC/6/L.8
"Elaboration of international complementary standards to the international
convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination "

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union Member States that are members of the Human Rights Council.

The European Union is fully committed to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. It is our view that the development of international complementary standards might indeed be considered to address current challenges. But these must be elaborated on the basis of a comprehensive and consensual process of identification of gaps in international standards. It is also imperative that any complementary standards address real needs of the fight against racism and bring a real added value to the protection and promotion of human rights in general.

Against this backdrop, we regret that L.8 prejudices the result of the discussions in the Ad Hoc Committee on complementary standards by selectively mentioning international instruments dealing with the issue of religion and freedom of expression and arbitrarily outlining the content of these possible future norms. The draft before us creates moreover a hierarchy between various categories of victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. We are also disappointed on the non-constructive way L.8 addresses the crucial question of political will of States to fully implement the DDPA. We regret also that L.8 makes an evaluation of the work of the Five Experts on Complementary Standards even before any substantial discussion on it has taken place.

For these reasons, Mr. President, we will call for a vote on L 8 and vote against.

This declaration has been agreed by the European Union as a whole.

Thank you, Mr. President.