



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council Conclusions on Review of the EU Guidelines on Torture

*2865th EXTERNAL RELATIONS Council meeting
Luxembourg, 29 April 2008*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. The Council welcomes the review of the Guidelines on Torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and adopts the updated version of the guidelines as set out in doc. 8590/08.
2. The Council confirms that the promotion and protection of the right not to be submitted to torture is a priority of the EU's human rights policy. To work towards the prevention and eradication of all forms of torture and ill treatment within the EU and worldwide is a strongly held policy view of all EU member states.
3. The Council recalls the EU's firm position to fully comply with obligations in respect of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, in the fight against terrorism, in particular the absolute prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.
4. The Council underlines the importance of further strengthening the implementation of the torture guidelines through follow-up of the lessons identified during the review, in particular through strengthening the cooperation with UN mechanisms and regional actors.
5. The Council further stresses the importance of the new implementation measures and underlines that the effective implementation of the guidelines i.a. depends on active awareness raising measures, but also on the cooperation between government bodies and civil society.

P R E S S

6. The Council recalls the importance to complement diplomatic action with financial support for torture prevention and rehabilitation programmes and welcomes efforts aimed at improving the impact of these programmes. The Council acknowledges the important work by the European Commission in this regard and calls on Member States to support torture rehabilitation centres."
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