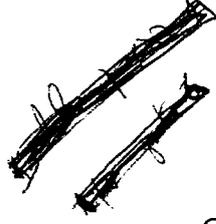


EUROPEAN UNION



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

GENERAL COMMENT (B.V.) on draft resolution on « The Social Forum » (L.17)

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 committed to enhance the dialogue on the protection and the promotion of human rights and considers the Social Forum as an adequate space for engaging in a fruitful debate between UN Member States, international organizations and civil society in general.

However, due to the already heavy workload of the Council and also due to the fact that there are issues in the agenda that we believe could be merged, the EU considers that two days would be sufficient for the Social Forum.

Furthermore, we consider that the establishment of the Social Forum will not prejudice the results of the ongoing process of the Review of Mandates. We also believe that a broader reference to the relevant Human Rights Council thematic procedures mandate-holders, without limiting its number, would have been more appropriate.

Despite these concerns, and given the importance of this matter, the EU will not oppose the adoption of draft resolution L.17 and we are thus willing to follow the work of the Social Forum in a constructive and cooperative manner.

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

Thank you, Mr. President