

Joint Declaration by Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis and European Commission Vice-President Franco Frattini

EU Fundamental Rights Agency is a topic for discussions between the European Commission and the Council of Europe

Strasbourg, 06.07.2005 – Secretary General of the Council of Europe Terry Davis and European Commission Vice-President Franco Frattini (Justice, Freedom and Security) met yesterday to continue discussions on the proposed European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and its cooperation with the Council of Europe, as well as on joint action to organise a European Day against Death Penalty.

Vice-President of the Commission Franco Frattini and Secretary General Terry Davis said: “Ensuring respect and promotion of fundamental rights in Europe are common goals of our organisations. Human rights institutions, such as the proposed Agency are important tools to achieve these goals. Within its sphere of competence, the Agency should bring added value to the work already undertaken by the Council of Europe.”

They also noted that the Council of Europe will study the detailed proposals for the Agency which the Commission published on 30 June.

The Fundamental Rights Agency will be a centre of expertise on fundamental rights issues in the context of the European Union through data collection and analysis as well as networking. As such, it complements the work of the Council of Europe, in particular of its human rights mechanisms, which remains the major point of reference as regards human rights and the monitoring of human rights performance. Indeed, the Agency will build close institutional relationships with the Council of Europe.