

Rt Hon Tony Blair MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
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28 June 2005
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UK Presidency of the European Union

Dear Prime Minister,

As the United Kingdom prepares to assume the EU Presidency, I am pleased to enclose a copy of *Delivering on human rights – Amnesty International's ten-point program for the UK Presidency of the European Union*. Our headline recommendations are summarized on page three of the document.


The United Kingdom takes over the EU Presidency at a time of political and constitutional crisis. This crisis has its origins in the absence of a compelling vision of the purpose of the European project. It reflects a sense among citizens that the EU is not delivering on the promises of its values, in the economic and social sphere, in terms of security and in confronting the pressing global challenges of poverty, conflict and massive abuse of human rights.

Amnesty International believes that the European Union has the potential to make a significant contribution to the human rights agenda. However, it is necessary for the EU to project a convincing sense of purpose and deliver on its promises.

The proposals included in *Delivering on human rights* represent an ambitious program that would help to reaffirm the EU as a Union of values both in its external relations and in its domestic policies. We do not underestimate the formidable challenges that exist, even without the current political crisis. However, the UK has demonstrated real commitment in areas such as arms export controls, freedom of expression and development in Africa. This represents a good platform for taking forward the EU's human rights agenda. At the same time, this positive engagement contrasts sharply with certain practices that are at odds with its human rights obligations, in areas such as counter-terrorism and the treatment of asylum seekers.

Amnesty International presents its proposals to the UK Presidency in the belief that the EU stands to gain in authority, both at home and in the wider world, if it can show consistently that human rights are not dispensable, not negotiable and not to be taken for granted. A strong and visible human rights profile through the UK Presidency would be of great importance to make the EU deliver on human rights, and so strengthen its leading role on human rights both at home and in the world.

Yours sincerely,



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