



Council of the  
European Union

**Brussels, 14 December 2015  
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**14640/15**

**COHOM 118  
DEVGEN 244  
CONUN 226**

### **OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 14 December 2015  
To: Delegations

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Subject: The European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 09/2015 on "EU support for the fight against torture and the abolition of the death penalty"  
- Council Conclusions (14 December 2015)

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Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 09/2015 on "EU support for the fight against torture and the abolition of the death penalty", adopted by the Council at its 3438th meeting held on 14 December 2015.

**COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS' SPECIAL REPORT NO 09/2015 ON "EU SUPPORT FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST TORTURE AND THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY"**

*Foreign Affairs Council, 14 December 2015*

1. The Council welcomes the overall balanced and positive European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 09/2015 on "EU support for the fight against torture and the abolition of the death penalty".
2. The Council reconfirms the strong commitment given to preventing and eradicating all forms of torture and other ill-treatment as well as to abolishing the death penalty throughout the world, and therefore welcomes the attention given by the Court of Auditors to this matter.
3. The Council welcomes the report's indication that the EU support in this area has been broadly performing well. As the Court of Auditors underlines, the projects funded under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) were generally implemented by motivated civil society organisations with good expertise through cost-effective project activities, and achieved sustainable results.
4. The Council takes good note of the Court's overall recommendations and the subsequent Commission's reply. The Council particularly underlines recommendations concerning the necessity to target resources better, taking into account the delicate balance between the general political context, the complexity of the issues tackled and the ultimate outcome to be achieved, and to improve coordination with other EU actions.

5. The Council recalls its commitment to bring more coherence and to ensure better articulation among the totality of tools, measures and policies on human rights. The new EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2015-2019) engages, through a specific action, all EU stakeholders to increase coherence and complementarity of existing EU tools, financing instruments and reporting mechanisms used to promote human rights and support democracy (action 33a).
6. Furthermore, through the Action Plan, the EU is committed to increase coherence between human rights objectives, human rights country strategies and the programming of assistance of the EU and member states on human rights (action 33d).
7. The Council reaffirms its willingness to actively engage and work together with civil society organisations in the fight against the death penalty and the elimination of torture and ill-treatment, conscious that the non-governmental organisations can provide a valuable and essential support in mobilising public opinion and increasing awareness to this end.

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