



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 15 February 2007  
6376/07 (Presse 30)

## **The Council establishes the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights**

The Council adopted a Regulation establishing the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (16241/06).

In December 2003, the European Council agreed to extend the mandate of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, established by Regulation (EC) No 1035/97, and transform this Centre into the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights. The seat of the Agency will remain in Vienna (Austria).

The objective of the Agency will be to provide the relevant institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the Community and its Member States implementing Community law with assistance and expertise relating to fundamental rights in order to support them when they take measures or formulate courses of action within their respective spheres of competence to fully respect fundamental rights.

# **P R E S S**

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The Agency will collect objective, reliable and comparable information on the development of the situation of fundamental rights, analyse this information in terms of causes of failure to respect, consequences and effects and examine examples of good practice in dealing with these matters.

The Agency will have the right to formulate opinions to the Union institutions and to the Member States when implementing Community law, either on its own initiative or at the request of the European Parliament, the Council or the Commission, without interference with the legislative and judicial procedures established in the Treaty. Nevertheless, the institutions should be able to request opinions on their legislative proposals or positions adopted in the course of legislative procedures as far as their compatibility with fundamental rights is concerned.

In addition, it will present an annual report on fundamental rights issues covered by the areas of the Agency's activity, also highlighting examples of good practice. Furthermore, the Agency will produce thematic reports on topics of particular importance to the Union's policies.

The Agency will take measures to raise the awareness of the general public about their fundamental rights, and about possibilities and different mechanisms for enforcing them in general, without, however, dealing with individual complaints itself.

The Regulation repeals Regulation (EC) No 1035/97 with effect from 1 March 2007. The Agency will become operational by 1 March 2007.

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