

11 August 2006 13.00

EU EOV

Mr President,

I am taking the floor on behalf of the European Union members of the Council and Romania.

The EU has expressed its utmost concern at the Lebanese and Israeli civilian casualties and human suffering, as well as the widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure, and the increased number of displaced persons following the escalation of violence. The EU deplores the loss of innocent lives and calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities to be followed by a sustainable cease-fire.

The EU believes that it is important that the Human Rights Council addresses urgent situations and expresses a united view. The EU regrets that despite repeated requests from our side, no genuine discussions took place, as provided for in resolution 60/251. This should take place in the form of open-ended consultations on the draft resolution. *We take note of the last minute efforts to modify the text and we appreciate these efforts but the changes ^{being} are not ~~meeting~~ ^{meeting} our concerns.*

The EU support the efforts by the United Nations Secretary General for a comprehensive investigation of recent events. The EU remains committed to the protection and promotion of the human rights of all individuals. In order to bring added value, this Council should address all human rights violations wherever they occur. Unfortunately, the ^{in essence} resolution in front of us fails to satisfy this basic condition. It ~~only (mentions)~~ ^{only (mentions)} addresses concerns related to one party ~~(without even mentioning that there is another party involved in the conflict as well)~~. The text thus falls short in a very fundamental way.

For the reasons explained, the EU members of the Council and Romania will vote against the draft resolution.

The European Union Member States that are not members of the Council align themselves with this explanation of vote.

Thank you, Mr President.