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ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

STATEMENT BY ENNO DROFENIK

COUNSELLOR

PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Item 124: Programme budget for 2006-2007

PBI on Human Rights Council

FIFTH COMMITTEE

New York, 6 March 2006

Mr. Chairman,

We wish to thank the Secretariat for presenting us with the statement of programme and budget implication for the draft resolution on the Human Rights Council and the ACABQ for the swift consideration and the presentation of their report.

The Human Rights Council will represent a major step towards further strengthening of the human rights system of the United Nations. The establishment of the Council has been mandated by our Heads of State and Government at the World Summit 2005 and draws the utmost attention from our governments and the civil society.

The EU welcomes that the outcome of the negotiations conducted by the President of the General Assembly is now before us. In line with the relevant regulations and in accordance with established practice the statement of programme and budget implication has been forwarded to the ACABQ and the Fifth Committee. It is now the task of the Fifth Committee to inform the Plenary which additional requirements will arise from the adoption of the proposed resolution. The EU is ready to engage in discussion without delay.

The EU concurs with the statement on programme and budget implications as put forward by the Secretary-General. Necessary resources must be made available to ensure the proper functioning of the Human Rights Council. While reiterating our longstanding position for a prudent use of the contingency fund, we take note and welcome that the additional expenditures can be accommodated from within the remaining balance of the fund.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.