



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 22 February 2010

6280/10

**COHOM 35
COEST 38**

COVER NOTE

from: Council Secretariat
date: 22 February 2010
to: Delegations

Subject: Partially accessible COREU CFSP/SEC/1351/08: EU-Turkmenistan Human Rights Dialogue, 24 June 2008, Ashgabat - Report

Delegations will find in annex the partially accessible text of the COREU CFSP/SEC/1351/08.

Subject: COHOM COEST - EU - Turkmenistan Human Rights Dialogue, 24 June 2008, Ashgabat - Report

I. Summary

The meeting was conducted in a very friendly atmosphere with the Turkmen delegation providing long opening presentations on each agenda point as well as in-depth answers to most questions. It was not possible to organise a civil society event in the margins of the meeting as EU HoMs indicated that such an event would expose civil society activists to the risk of retaliation.

Since it was the first round of HR dialogue as foreseen by the Central Asia Strategy the EU explained in greater details its modalities, including the list of individual cases. The EU addressed a number of specific concerns about the human rights situation in Turkmenistan, in particular regarding freedom of association and assembly, freedom of expression and the media, freedom of thought and religion, prison conditions and torture and freedom of movement and forced displacement. **DELETED**

Turkmenistan repeatedly expressed its commitment to comply with international human rights standards and repeatedly listed the many international conventions to which it is party. Turkmenistan also emphasized its co-operation with the UN as demonstrated through submitting reports to treaty monitoring committees. Turkmenistan drew attention to its comprehensive legislation on human rights, and sought to forestall criticism by underlining that this legislation was subject to ongoing review in almost all areas with a view to improving it still further. Turkmenistan was unable to provide statistics on most of the areas raised by the EU but undertook to provide them later. **DELETED**

II. Detail

The EU troika was led by **DELETED**, accompanied by Riina Kionka, the Personal Representative of the SG/HR Solana for Human Rights, Tobias King, Human Rights and Democratisation unit, (European Commission) and **DELETED**

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

EU DELEGATION

DELETED

Council Secretariat

Riina KIONKA, Personal representative of Mr Solana for Human Rights
Audrone PERKAUSKIENE, DG E Human Rights, Desk Officer

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Toby KING, Policy Desk officer Human Rights and Democratisation, RELEX

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TURKMENISTAN DELEGATION

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