

PART THREE:

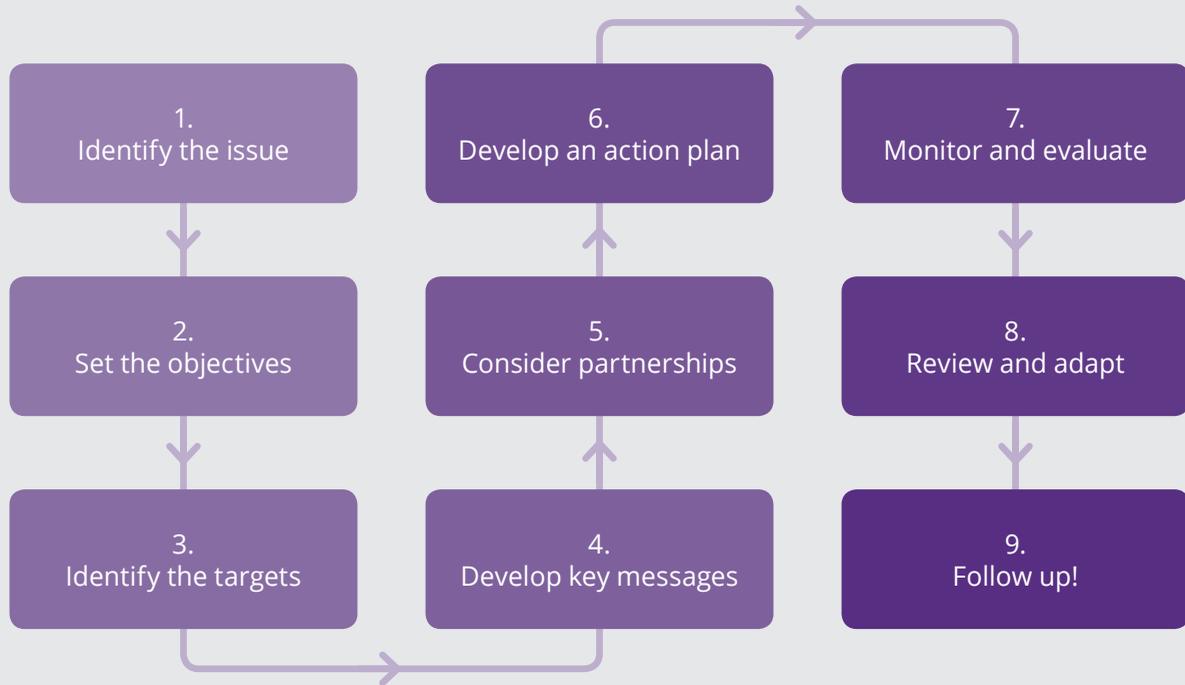
Designing an Effective EU Advocacy Roadmap

1. How to develop an advocacy roadmap?

Advocacy is a process of deliberate, planned and sustained efforts to advance an agenda for change. Human rights advocacy consists of organised efforts and actions applied to the policy-making process to establish and implement human rights-oriented laws and policies.

The advocacy planning and implementation process can be broken down into the following stages, each of them requiring thorough consideration to ensure the overall success of your advocacy actions.

Steps in planning a roadmap



1. Identify the advocacy issue

To ensure the success of your advocacy actions, it is essential that you are specific in identifying the advocacy issue. You must have a good understanding of the challenge you want to address and a clear idea of how it could be solved. If your focus area is too wide, it will be difficult for you to bring about concrete changes; if it is too narrow, it may be difficult to communicate to policy-makers, who might perceive it as too technical.

2. Set long, medium and short-term objectives

Once you have defined the issue on which you want to advocate, define what success would look like to you in the short, medium, and long terms. What form would the action or policy change take and how would it be implemented in the long run, what would be the intermediary steps to have this happen? In the short term, how can you ensure that the issue is placed on the agenda?

Defining what kind of action you want the EU to take will depend on the issue or case, its seriousness and extent: whether it requires an urgent response, whether it is a specific or isolated incident or a systematic and ongoing violation. The EU has different tools at its disposal, which can be used accordingly. You should therefore advocate for measures that are most appropriate for a given situation, and that will have the most impact.

If you are aiming to have a jailed human rights defender released, have the EU observe a trial, or end threats made against an individual, urgent action can be requested from the EU in line with the provisions contained within the human rights guidelines.

If your goal is to reach a longer-term objective such as policy change (e.g. advocating for the revision of law, the improvement of detention conditions, etc.), you should plan to target the established EU mechanisms such as human rights sub-committees and Association Councils, as well as attempt to influence the general human rights objectives of the EU in the long term.

3. Identify targets

Identify policy and decision-makers who have the power to introduce the policy changes you propose. Among these, establish:

- » what are the best targets for your efforts, considering which ones have the greatest influence;
- » who do you have existing contacts with, who do you consider an ally, and;
- » who is less sympathetic to your cause.

Advocate towards allies to get them to propose or support actions on your issues, as well as towards the less active actors to convince them not to block or water down the proposed measures.

Identify and **be in regular contact with allies** within the EU missions in your country and, if possible, in Brussels as well as in Member State capitals. At the country level, this may include the focal point on human rights or the head of the political section at the EU delegation, the heads or deputy heads of mission (ambassadors) at embassies of EU Member States. In Brussels and at the capital level, establish a relationship with the desk officers responsible for your country both in the geographic division and within the human rights unit, as well as with influential MEPs such as heads of delegations or committee chairs and members of national parliaments. Do this through telephone, email, missions to Brussels and EU capitals, and in meetings when the officials are visiting your country.



Useful tip: Contact the EuroMed Rights office in Brussels. It can help you identify the appropriate targets, establish what you can reasonably expect from them, as well as suggest the best timing for an advocacy mission.

4. Develop key messages

Develop a set of clear requests or recommendations for a limited number of key actions to achieve specific, concrete and realistic objectives. Prioritisation is key when addressing decision makers at all levels. Consider using political arguments when addressing political bodies, and technical and legal arguments when dealing with civil servants. Requests should be precise and targeted, tailored to the interlocutor and the kind of actions requested.

Tailor information to the target audience and situation, such as your interlocutor's level of knowledge and what action they can take. Briefing materials for advocacy purposes should be short: a one or two-page document with two or three clear and targeted requests. Prepare different kinds of input depending on the type of meeting. Human rights experts will understand a detailed presentation, while a brief overview may be better suited for a general political meeting. Adapt information when targeting officials based in Brussels or Member State capitals, who will not have the same level of expertise as an official based on the ground.



Useful tip: Refer to relevant EU policies such as the EU human rights guidelines, the revised ENP, ENP Action Plans/ Partnership Priorities, Council Conclusions, public statements, Association Agreements or good practices from other countries in the region. Do the same with EU Member States, i.e. confronting interlocutors with their own commitments.

5. Consider partnerships and networks

Consider the added value of forming coalitions with other local and international civil society organisations to make more effective advocacy calls. However, keep in mind that while partnerships may be very beneficial by increasing the pressure on advocacy targets, then can also slow down the internal decision-making process, and so must be entered into tactically.

Partnering with other organisations may be particularly strategic when trying to influence individual EU Member States, which can be as – or even more – effective in their actions than the EU, particularly if these organisations have significant influence over local authorities.



Useful tip: Co-operate with EuroMed Rights members or other civil society organisations in EU countries to make **coordinated advocacy calls** towards ministries or national parliaments.

6. Develop a timely action plan

Timing is crucial for achieving results. In order to ensure that the issue you are advocating for is discussed by policy makers, it is useful to link it to a topic which is already high on the agenda, or is receiving attention from the media or general public. You should ensure that you are aware of the timetable of policy discussions and prepare in advance to provide input towards them, in order to be able to influence the outcome.

It is crucial that you provide information to the EU at the most appropriate moment in time to be sure it will be considered.



Useful tip: Keep in regular contact with the EU delegation in your country to know when the agenda of a human rights sub-committee meeting is being set, when Member States start negotiations on EU positions ahead of an Association Council and when to provide input for Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategies or ENP Partnership Priorities.

7. Monitor and evaluate

Take time to discuss the chosen strategy and its outcomes. Assess what has been achieved, what follow-up is required, and which approaches need to be reviewed to better achieve objectives in the future.

8. Review and adapt

Review and adapt your strategy in line with the findings of the evaluation process.

9. Follow up

Have the policy makers taken the actions they had committed to? If not, find out why. What are the bottlenecks and blockages? How can they be overcome?

Personal contacts may sometimes be the only way to obtain information that is otherwise confidential, underlining the importance of maintaining a good relationship with relevant EU staff. Once you identify a blockage, try advocating at a different level, using other entry points: local, Brussels-level, EU Member State capitals. You can try using national parliaments to put pressure on EU Member States or the European Parliament to put pressure on the EEAS, the Council, the European Commission or the HR/VP.



Useful tip: As the HR/VP is obliged to respond personally to letters from MEPs, you may want to ask the MEP to write a letter requesting that action be taken on an issue or case, as it will then stand more of a chance of being considered. Contact individual MEPs, and provide them with background information, including recommendations for action the EU should take.

2. How to get the EU to act?

The EU has a number of specific tools at its disposal to react to human rights violations, short and long term. NGOs can take specific action to request for these tools to be employed, in order to address the situation in their country. Some of the most common tools at the EU's disposal, as well as tips on how to activate them, are described below.

IN THE FIELD

Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategies

As the Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategies set out the priorities for EU attention and action with regard to human rights in a given country over a five-year period, they can be useful influencing tools in order to mobilise EU to act on a particular issue. Civil society input is considered in the drafting and implementation process of these strategies.



To ensure that you will be consulted on the drafting, implementation and evaluation of the country strategy, contact the head of the political section or the human rights focal point at the EU delegation and if possible, the geographical desks and the human rights unit of the EEAS in Brussels. As advocacy can be part of any systematic civil society consultation on the drafting, implementation and evaluation of policies between third countries and the EU, you may wish to advocate for increased transparency of EU policies and procedures, and for the accessibility of documents.

Partnership Priorities (previously ENP Action Plans)

The Partnership Priorities will replace the existing ENP Action Plans. The inclusion of a specific topic into the Partnership Priorities should ensure that the EU monitors it on an ongoing basis, that relevant related reforms receive EU support, and that the agenda of meetings such as the human rights sub-committee systematically takes the said topic on board.



NGOs can advocate for the inclusion of particular topics by contacting the local EU delegation (the head of the political section or human rights focal point) to find out when the Partnership Priorities will be negotiated and about the opportunities for providing input into that process. Follow-up actions should include monitoring the implementation of the commitments made in the Priorities. Any lack of progress should be reported to the EU by providing documentary evidence, in face-to-face meetings, or by participating in civil society consultations organised by the EU. The EU should then report on the lack of progress achieved, which can be used in further advocacy.

Human rights dialogue

As the human rights dialogue⁴⁴ discusses both ongoing and structural issues in a country, as well as, in some instances, emblematic individual cases, it provides useful opportunities for advocacy on both types of issues. The agenda of the meeting is set jointly by the EU and the partner country, but should always include a number of points prescribed by the EU's guidelines on human rights, e.g. torture and ill-treatment, women's rights, freedom of expression, the role of civil society and the protection of human rights defenders.



Contact the head of the political section or the human rights focal point at the EU delegation to know when the sub-committee meeting, the political dialogue or the informal working group meeting will take place, as well as to get a specific issue on the agenda. As the human rights sub-committee meetings feature technical discussion, it can be useful to provide detailed briefing material with recommendations to the EU delegation, preferably during a face-to-face meeting. In its Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, the EU has committed EU delegations to holding consultation meetings with civil society ahead of sub-committee meetings as well as debriefings after, providing an opportunity for follow up. If the delegation in your country is not holding such consultations or debriefings, you should call upon them to do so, in line with the EU's commitments.

Local statements

The EU Heads of Mission can jointly agree to make local statements on human rights issues to condemn ongoing violations or take a stand on an individual case. This type of statement is generally issued by the EU delegation.



To achieve a local statement, contact the EU head of mission, the head of the political section and the human rights focal point at the EU delegation immediately after the incident or violation has taken place.

Demarches

Demarches are confidential statements or interpellations issued by the EU towards the third country. Issues or individual cases can also be raised with the local authorities by the HR/VP or ENP Commissioner when they visit a country. This measure is relevant in all situations, but especially for serious, urgent cases. Depending on the firmness of the position the EU adopts, the issuance of a demarche or raising of the case can have a significant impact. At the same time, as it is non-public, a demarche may be an easier action to advocate for from the EU than a public statement.



To call for an EU demarche, contact the head of the political section and the human rights focal point at the EU delegation. Specify which authorities (ministries, institutions, etc.) the EU should address and detail the exact concerns it should raise. If you are calling for the HR/VP or Commissioner to raise an issue in their meetings, you can further suggest to discuss this with them directly or to participate in meetings organised for local civil society. If it is a HRD case you are advocating for, you should also contact the EU liaison officer on HRDs (usually based at the EU delegation and the same person as the human rights focal point) and if possible, the desk officers responsible for the country at the geographic level and within the human rights unit of the EEAS.

Visiting a victim of a human rights violation in detention

A visit from an EU representative to a detained victim of a human rights violation can send a powerful message to the local authorities and usually improves the detention conditions, including the prevention or reduction of ill-treatment. While it may not always be possible for the EU to carry out a visit due to a lack of cooperation from local authorities, merely attempting a visit can have a positive impact.



To call for the EU to visit an individual in detention, contact the head of the political section and the human rights focal point at the EU delegation. In case of a human rights defender, contact the liaison officer on HRDs as well.

Trial observation

Trial observation is a common form of intervention by the EU, particularly when there are pre-existing doubts about the fairness of the trial or the country's judicial system in general. The presence of foreign diplomats can sometimes have a positive impact in terms of the conduct and outcome of the trial. Ideally, trial observation should be followed by a public statement in which the EU expresses an opinion about the proceedings and, if called for, a demand for corrective action to be taken by the authorities.



Trial observation is almost always carried out by EU delegations. Therefore, you should put in a request for trial observation to the head of the political section, the human rights focal point or the liaison officer on HRDs at the EU delegation. Alternatively, you can contact the embassy of an EU Member State if it is known to be active on human rights issues, which in turn can push for EU action. Provide briefing material detailing your concerns about the trial, information about the location and time of the hearing and observer accreditation procedures. Requests should be made as far in advance of the hearing as possible, meaning at least one week ahead.

Concrete assistance to individuals

The emergency fund for human rights defenders at risk, managed under the EIDHR, allows for EU delegations to quickly provide small grants of up to 10,000 euros directly to individuals or organisations in need of urgent support. This measure is especially relevant for urgent cases of individuals, such as human rights defenders, who are at immediate risk.



Approach the local EU liaison on HRDs or the human rights focal point in the EU delegation to request direct assistance as soon as possible. You can also contact the EIDHR team (europaaid-eidhr@ec.europa.eu) providing them with some information about the particular case to assist. The EU mechanism for the protection of HRDs, **Protect Defenders, run by 12 NGOs, can also provide small grants and emergency support, including for temporary relocation.**

BRUSSELS LEVEL

Council conclusions

Council conclusions are the most authoritative form of an EU political statement, as they are made jointly by the Member State governments (Ministries of Foreign Affairs). Through the conclusions, the EU can publicly raise human rights violations and state its position on them, as well as list the measures it will be taking, or considering. Given the strong political significance of the Council Conclusions, they provide an excellent basis for further advocacy efforts.

Getting a mention in Council conclusions is appropriate for both specific cases and systemic or ongoing violations. However, due to the time required for the drafting and adoption of the text by Member States, this tool may not be appropriate for urgent cases. It is the geographic desk officer of the EEAS in Brussels who is usually the first to draft the Council conclusions, which are then discussed by the EU Member States in the MAMA working party and proposed to the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC), through the Political and Security Committee (PSC). You should time your advocacy efforts at least four weeks before the FAC meeting – MAMA will agree on the proposed text a week before the meeting takes place.



It is important to remember that as Council Conclusions are agreed upon by consensus between Member States, national governments are key advocacy targets. It is crucial to not only advocate towards Member States that are sympathetic to your case but also towards those who could block or water down references to a specific issue.

EU bilateral relations with a Southern Mediterranean country

On top of advocating for the EU and its Member States to take specific action on human rights issues, NGOs can try to influence the EU's bilateral relationship with a country ahead of Association Council meetings or negotiations around DCFTAs or Mobility Partnerships.



Ahead of the annual meetings of the Association Council, you can advocate for the condemnation of the most serious and ongoing violations in a given country in the EU statement preceding the meeting. As it is a high-level and general political meeting, you should focus on one or two human rights issues and advocate for their inclusion by contacting the local EU delegation and the EEAS desk officer in Brussels. Both are responsible for the initial draft of the statement. You should also contact EU embassies in the country as well as representatives within the MAMA in Brussels. This contact should ideally be made six weeks in advance of the Association Council meeting.

To influence the general regional or local policies of the EU with Mediterranean countries, such as DCFTAs or Mobility Partnerships, contact the EU delegation (the head of the political section), the country desk officers at the EEAS and the officer responsible for the country at the European Commission's DG TRADE or DG HOME in Brussels.

Public statements

Public statements by the HR/VP on behalf of the EU or on behalf of the mandate holder are an appropriate advocacy objective if you are dealing with urgent situations/ individual cases, as well as for ongoing issues. Such statements can be effective at exerting pressure on the government in question by providing the issue with high visibility and suggesting further EU action. It may also be of interest when you want to give moral support and legitimacy to local human rights defenders.

Public statements can also be made by the President of the European Parliament, by members of an EP delegation visiting a country, or by chairs of a relevant EP committee.



To get the EU to adopt a public statement, contact the head of the political section or the human rights focal point at the EU delegation and the Brussels-based EEAS geographical and human rights desk officers responsible for the country. Highly sensitive and urgent cases may need to be communicated to EU ambassadors at the PSC level in Brussels, who will approve the final statement.

To call for a statement by the EP president or another MEP, contact their office directly and provide information on the issue or case you are advocating for.

European Parliament resolution

European Parliament resolutions on foreign policy matters are not binding to the EU, but are useful advocacy tools for exerting pressure on other EU institutions and the governments of Southern Mediterranean countries. The EP has at its disposal 'normal' resolutions that, for example, follow-up on a hearing on a specific issue or country in a committee or a delegation mission.

The drafting process of such resolutions routinely takes a few months. The Parliament also issues three 'urgency' resolutions on particularly worrying human rights situations, or specific cases, in individual countries at each plenary session – these types of resolutions are the fastest means of response, and are drafted over the course of one week. The EP can further request for the HR/VP to attend a foreign policy debate at one of its plenary sessions.



To initiate the procedure for an EP resolution, you should contact key MEPs, the chairperson of the relevant EP committee or delegation and the political group staffers. Try and win the support of several political groups, and at least one of the bigger groups (EPP or S&D). Prepare briefings, including precise details on the advocacy issue, with specific recommendations for the EP. The same information should be provided to the human rights unit of the EP.⁴⁵ To obtain an urgency resolution, this information should be provided at least three weeks ahead of a plenary session. Make sure that the resolution is followed up on, by asking MEPs whether the requested actions have been taken into account by the other EU institutions.

You can also advocate for a resolution by:

- making a presentation at a hearing of a parliamentary committee or at another public event organised by a committee or by an MEP. To do this, contact the chair of the relevant committee, its secretariat, or one or more key MEPs who are members of the committee.
- meeting members of an EP delegation during their visit to your country. Contact your local EU delegation or the secretariat of the relevant EP delegation to find out if a visit is planned, and request a meeting.

Parliamentary questions

MEPs can ask questions to the Council of the EU, the European Commission, or the HR/VP on what is being done to address a specific human rights issue in a country. The answers are useful for further advocacy or for information gathering purposes, although it may take a while before the MEPs receive them.



To suggest a Parliamentary question, contact the office of an MEP who might be supportive of your request directly. You can identify supportive MEPs based on their membership within particular committees and delegations, as well as past records, all of which can be accessed on the website of the European Parliament.

MEMBER STATE CAPITAL LEVEL

As EU Member States are the main decision makers when it comes to EU foreign policy, significant attention should be paid to advocacy towards individual Member State governments. This is crucial as the Member States shape EU policy, but also as they have the same types of tools available to address human rights issues in a given country as the EU, such as sanctions, public statements, demarches, etc.

To advocate towards an EU Member State government on a human rights issue:

- » Contact the embassy of EU Member State at the local level, either the Ambassador/ Head of Mission or the Deputy Head of Mission.
- » Lobby the EU Member State's Foreign Affairs Minister or staff of the ministry in the country capital.
- » Request for members of the national parliament to ask questions or propose resolutions urging the Member State to take action.
- » Meet with Foreign Affairs Ministers, foreign ministry staff, national parliamentarians or other national officials when they are visiting your country. Embassies can be contacted to find out when such visits will take place and to request a meeting.

3. Examples of advocacy roadmaps

THE EU VOTE ON THE UN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY REPORT ON THE 2014 GAZA CONFLICT

Preliminary remark: Although this example is not directly linked to the EU instruments described in this guide, it is useful to show that EU Member States are active in other fora, in this case the UN Human Rights Council. It is also a good example of how EuroMed Rights cooperates with member and partner organisations to achieve specific results.

1. Identify the issue

At its June 2015 session, the UN Human Rights Council was set to vote on the findings of the UN Commission of Inquiry (CoI) on the 2014 Gaza conflict. The CoI found that Israel and Palestinian armed groups committed possible war crimes and recommended actions to tackle the prevailing culture of impunity that fuels the conflict. The EU and its Member States previously failed to address this issue in their policies and, in some cases, even voted against the recommendations of UN accountability mechanisms on Israel/Palestine.

2. Set long, medium and short term objectives

EuroMed Rights identified the following objectives:

- » Long-term objective: Ensure justice for victims of past violations and prevent future ones.
- » Medium-term objective: The EU urges the relevant parties to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice and supports international mechanisms where domestic ones fail.
- » Short-term objective: EU Member States vote in favour of a UN Human Rights Council Resolution endorsing the recommendations of the UN CoI on fighting impunity.

3. Identify targets

The primary advocacy targets were the Geneva delegations and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the eight EU Member States on the UN Human Rights Council. Due to their role in coordinating EU position at the UN Human Rights Council, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Council of the EU Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM) were also targeted. Finally, member and partner organisations were contacted as they play an important

role in relaying messages to officials in Geneva, Brussels and EU Member State capitals.

4. Develop key messages

EuroMed Rights developed an in-depth briefing paper analysing the sensitivities, commitments and previous positions of the EU and its Member States on fighting impunity. Based on this analysis, the briefing outlined recommended messages and calls tailored to the EU and the Member States on the Human Rights Council.

5. Consider partnerships and networks

In order to simultaneously relay our messages to the different layers of the EU's decision-making process it was crucial to rely both on EuroMed Rights member and partner organisations, particularly those in EU Member State capitals and those conducting advocacy in Geneva. The EuroMed Rights briefing paper was therefore shared widely, allowing for a broader reach and a degree of burden-sharing. This was crucial given last-minute consultations which occurs between EU Member State delegations in Geneva and their Ministries before a vote.

6. Develop a timely action plan

EuroMed Rights cooperated with its members and partners in developing an advocacy action plan. It outlined the main advocacy initiatives (e.g. meetings/calls/submissions and emails to officials), media outreach activities (e.g. press-releases and Op-eds) and NGO coordination mechanisms (e.g. regular calls/a mailing list) that would be needed ahead of the vote. The action plan and a division of labour were agreed upon and regularly updated during NGO coordination calls.

7. Monitor and evaluate

Following the EU's unanimous vote in favour of the 3 July 2015 Human Rights Council resolution, EuroMed Rights and its members assessed the content of the resolution and – through meetings with officials and NGOs – sought to understand the internal negotiations that led to this shift in EU policy. A briefing was commissioned outlining how the Col's recommendations and the EU's commitments in this resolution could be used in further advocacy.

8. Review and adapt

Given that the UN Human Rights Council Resolution included specific calls towards the international community, it was decided to use it as a tool for further advocacy. The EU was encouraged to translate these commitments into further actions, including by e.g. calling for accountability in upcoming Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions and statements.

9. Follow-up

Shortly after the vote, several advocacy initiatives were conducted, including a mission to the United Kingdom with our Israeli and Palestinian members and a submission ahead of the July 2015 Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions. These initiatives, like the follow-up mission organised in Brussels in February 2016 aimed at encouraging the EU to translate its commitments on accountability into concrete actions. On 14 March 2016, EuroMed Rights disseminated a statement outlining five concrete steps the EU can take to support accountability.

THE EU VOTE ON THE UN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY REPORT ON THE 2014 GAZA CONFLICT

12 June 2015:

EuroMed Rights develops a briefing paper outlining recommended advocacy messages and calls to make towards the EU and its Member States on the Human Rights Council.

2014

2015

23 July 2014:

UN Human Rights Council mandates a commission of inquiry to investigate possible violations which occurred during the 2014 Gaza conflict.

23 May 2015:

EuroMed Rights meets its members to elaborate an action plan and coordinate advocacy activities ahead of the Human Rights Council vote.

2016

July 2015:

Meetings with officials and NGOs to understand the internal negotiations that led to the EU's vote in favour of the resolution and the commissioning of a briefing to determine how its commitments can be used in future advocacy.

24 June - 3 July 2015:

Various advocacy activities by NGO members and partners, including a mission to Geneva, advocacy at EU and EU Member State level and press work.

3 July 2015:

EU votes in favour of the UN Human Rights Council Resolution on accountability in Israel/Palestine.

February 2016:

Follow-up advocacy to encourage the EU to translate its commitments into actions and EuroMed Rights statement outlining five steps the EU can take at the March 2016 Human Rights Council.

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT URGENCY RESOLUTION ON ALGERIA

1. Identify the issue

Despite promises of reforms since 2011, the human rights situation in Algeria remains poor. Judicial harassment against dissenting voices has increasingly become common practice in Algeria, especially in the Southern regions of the country, with renewed intensity since the beginning of 2015. In particular, in early 2015, several workers' rights activists were arrested following socio-economic protests. Peaceful protests are regularly forbidden or forcibly dispersed by police, and peaceful protesters face arrests, detention and unfair trials, exemplifying thus the numerous restrictions to freedoms of assembly, expression and association in Algeria.

2. Set long, medium and short term objectives

Putting an end to violations of freedoms of assembly, expression and association is a long-term objective of human rights work in Algeria. In the early 2015 context, the release of detained activists became a key short-term objective.

3. Identify targets

The European Parliament (EP) adopts three urgency resolutions during each plenary session in Strasbourg. These resolutions send a political message to the country which it refers to, and gives visibility at the international level. Individual cases are often raised by the EP to address a specific issue in a third country. EP resolutions can also include recommendations addressed to other EU institutions and EU Member States. It was therefore decided to call Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to adopt an urgency resolution on Algeria. During a meeting with EP Vice-President for human rights, an Algerian activist urged him to act in favour of the imprisoned activists.

4. Develop key messages

As the EP Vice-President committed to support an urgency resolution on this issue, follow-up with him was made to make sure he initiates the process that leads to an EP resolution on Algeria. A briefing on the situation of the activists and updates on the human rights situation were prepared, with specific recommendations, to influence the content of the resolution.

5. Consider partnerships and networks

Obtaining an EP resolution is a difficult task that can require a lot of efforts, notably when contacting the different political groups in the EP. Furthermore, working in partnership with like-minded NGOs at EU level was considered as a clear added value, since it brings more visibility and enables burden-sharing.

6. Develop a timely action plan

In coordination with other NGOs, an action plan was developed. The action plan provided for the dissemination of the briefing to multiple stakeholders in the EP, direct contacts with them to ensure our key messages are mentioned in the resolution, and the publication of a joint press release right after the adoption of the resolution to welcome it and reinforce our messages.

7. Monitor and evaluate

Once the resolution was adopted, the NGOs involved in the process assessed its content, especially in comparison with the NGO briefing. A joint press release was prepared in order to react to the resolution and reiterate our demands. Finally, it was agreed to follow up on the resolution's implementation a few months later.

8. Review and adapt

As the resolution was adopted with specific recommendations addressed to the EEAS and EU Member States, it was decided to use it as a tool for further advocacy. With the EU-Algeria Association Council due to be held a few weeks after the resolution, the NGOs sent a letter both to the High Representative Mogherini and EU Commissioner Hahn in charge of the European Neighbourhood Policy and EU Ministers of Foreign, asking them to set human rights as a priority topic in the agenda of the Association Council and recalling the EP recommendations in the resolution.

9. Follow-up

As agreed, follow-up actions were discussed among NGOs a few months after the adoption of the resolution. The resolution led to significant outcomes, including having Algeria examined by the Standards Commission of the ILO in June 2015. However, since the EP had not really followed up on its own resolution, a two-page document was prepared with interested NGOs, listing actions that could be taken to strengthen support to Algeria's civil society. These recommendations were addressed to the EP, its political groups as well as individual Members of the EP.

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT URGENCY RESOLUTION ON ALGERIA

2015

13 March 2015:

Call to EP Vice-President's office to remind his commitment, get information on the resolution timeline and suggest inputs.

April 2015:

Advocacy to influence resolution content with different EP political groups. Tasks shared between the NGOs involved in the process.

4 March 2015:

EP meeting on human rights, during which the situation of activists in Algeria is raised. EP Vice-President commits to taking the lead on an emergency resolution on Algeria.

March 2015:

Coordination with other NGOs and drafting of a briefing paper.

30 April 2015:

EP resolution adopted.

Early 2015:

Increase of harassment of activists in Algeria.

1 April 2015:

Briefing sent to the EP Vice-President's office.

2016

December 2015:

NGO coordination meeting to finalise recommendations addressed to the EP on further actions on Algeria.

16 November 2015:

Meeting with the EP Vice-President's office to discuss resolution outcomes and possible follow-up actions.

Mid-January 2016:

Recommendations are sent, an advocacy mission is organised in Brussels, targeting the EP among others, to discuss concrete follow-up actions.

INFLUENCING THE REVIEW ON THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

1. Identify the issue

Early 2015, the EU expressed its intention to publish a Communication in the autumn on a review of its European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). On 4 March 2015, a paper was launched to trigger a wide consultation of stakeholders, including civil society. The previous ENP review had taken place in 2011 after the Arab uprisings, with a clear human rights-based approach.

2. Set long, medium and short term objectives

In a context of growing concerns expressed at EU level about security and migration issues; the main objective was to ensure the new ENP keeps a strong human rights focus, and that the EU moves up a gear in supporting human rights, democratic reforms, as well as civil society organisations in the region. Another objective was to strengthen civil society's contribution to the consultation, and in the longer term, to the setting-up and evaluation of reviewed bilateral relations.

3. Identify targets

The consultation and drafting processes leading to the ENP Communication were jointly managed by the European Commission (DG NEAR) and the EEAS. These were the main identified targets for advocacy efforts, along with – though to a lesser extent - EU Member State representatives and the European Parliament. Information gathered on consultations held by EU delegations on the ground was shared with members. To relay our key messages, like-minded NGOs were also identified as key allies.

4. Develop key messages

On 12 May 2015, EuroMed Rights published a 'White Book' in English, French and Arabic. Since 2015 was also the 20th anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration, the recommendations were listed under 20 steps towards a better ENP, around the following topics: a reinforced regional dimension, foreign policy coherence, ownership by civil society, women's rights, migration, conflict situations, and free trade.

5. Consider partnerships and networks

Due to the fact the ENP is at the core of EuroMed Rights interests, it was decided to develop the White Book on our own rather than making a joint submission with other NGOs. Yet, the recommendations contained in the White Book were shared with like-minded human rights and development NGOs, and some were included in their own inputs.

6. Develop a timely action plan

The action plan followed the consultation and Communication timing, while taking advantage of events such as the EU-Civil Society Forum Southern Neighbourhood of May 2015, and our General Assembly (GA) in June 2015. The GA workshop dedicated to the issue was the occasion to further discuss the ENP with members, leading to a second submission to the EU. A specific meeting with Brussels-based Member State representatives was also held to present our recommendations and get information on their respective positioning.

Meetings with the European Commission and the EEAS, including at Cabinet level, as well as with the European Parliament rapporteur on the ENP review took place by the end of the consultation process (30 June) with the involvement of EuroMed Rights Executive Committee members.

7. Monitor and evaluate

After the summer, a series of meetings were organised with EU officials, in order to get an idea of what the ENP review may look like and further influence the process. It was learnt that human rights were not a top priority and there might not be any specific chapter on the issue. Then, other EU officials were contacted so as to influence the final result.

The EU Communication was published on 18 November 2015, with a clear focus on security and 'stabilisation' of the region. Human rights were somehow marginalised in the Communication since they don't appear as a joint priority for cooperation. However, on the positive side, there is a chapter on 'good governance, democracy, rule of law and human rights', a clear focus on gender equality and women's empowerment, and a reaffirmed commitment to support civil society in the region.

8. Review and adapt

Following the publication of a rather disappointing Communication, it was decided to focus on the implementation of the ENP, in particular the need for publicising the country-specific evaluation reports and involving civil society in the negotiations of joint partnership priorities between the EU and its partner countries. Meetings with the European Commission took place to raise concerns about actual financial support to civil society under the ENP Civil Society Facility, and several fora from March to May 2016 constituted good opportunities to publicly and privately raise our concerns.

9. Follow-up

In order to inform member and partner organisations about the outcomes and implementation challenges of the ENP review, a seminar was organised in Brussels on 22 April 2016, gathering NGOs, EU and Member State officials, and academics. The EEAS managing director for the MENA was one of the keynote speakers, and he mentioned EU's intention to keep all country-specific reports public.

Later on, consultations with civil society were held to discuss the partnership priorities that were being negotiated with Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon. In the two latter cases, the EU also organised consultations with local civil society, and human rights were among the identified priorities. EuroMed Rights contributed to these consultations, and intends to follow up on the development of other partnership priorities closely.

INFLUENCING THE REVIEW ON THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

2015

4 March 2015:

EU launches a consultation on the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), with end of June as deadline for inputs.

Mid-May 2015:

Finalisation of EuroMed Rights 'White Book' with 20 steps towards a better ENP.

May-June 2015:

Advocacy with Cabinets, EU officials, Member States, and like-minded NGOs with active participation of Executive Committee members.

28-29 May 2015:

EU-Civil Society Forum Southern Neighbourhood, White Book widely distributed including among top officials.

September-October 2015:

Advocacy with EU officials to get a sense of the future ENP and influence its content.

18 November 2015:

Statement reacting to the EU Communication on the ENP review published on that same day.

2016

February 2016:

Meeting with EU to obtain information on ENP impact on financial support to civil society and its regional dimension.

April-May 2016:

Participation in preparatory meeting and 2016 EU-Civil Society Forum Southern Neighbourhood.

18-19 May 2016:

Consultations on the partnership priorities with Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon.

22 April 2016:

EuroMed Rights seminar on the ENP.