The year 2010 has seen both the adoption of the EIDHR Strategy Paper 2011-2013 and the launch of the Human Rights and Democracy Support Initiative to the Structured Dialogue on the involvement of civil society in EC external cooperation. Both events provided useful guidance in the preparation of a multi-annual indicative programme up until 2013 regarding the implementation of the instrument.

The EIDHR Strategy Paper 2011-2013 is mostly a continuation of the previous strategy. It however puts more emphasis on the situations where human rights are the most at risk and on CBSS.

The Structured Dialogue with civil society has provided valuable input for the 2011 EIDHR AAP in terms of rendering the instrument more efficient in its support for human rights and democracy actions around the world. It also highlighted the importance of strategic outlook and more efficient networking on the side of civil society, in order to make full use of the EIDHR's potential, which is targeting civil society organizations to 90% of its allocations. Most importantly, the structured dialogue has brought together international and local NGOs and underlined the need for supporting those organizations which are working in environments marked by pronounced harassment and oppression.

Drawing conclusions from the structured dialogue with civil society and aiming to strengthen the EC-CSO partnership in the area of democracy and human rights, the 2011 EIDHR AAP proposes following innovations:

- The launching of one global call regrouping priority themes under the EIDHR Strategy Paper 2011-2013 Objectives 2 and 3: regional and transnational actions, torture, death penalty;

- Launching one permanently open call for proposals (with 2 annual deadlines) with a target on human rights and fundamental freedoms in countries where they are most at risk and human rights defenders; opening the possibility for projects targeting emergency human rights situations to be "fast-tracked" under this call.

- The possibility of incorporating flexibility tools – using re-granting and working with informal partners - under all proposals, regardless of thematic focus;

The 2011-13 Strategy allocations 366,8 M€ to the EIDHR without Elections Observations Missions. 118 M€ will be committed through the 2011 Annual Action Programme.

1. The global call

The EC envisages to launch the call in the first months of 2011 – indicative dead-line: April 30. The indicative envelope for this call is €26 million.
Priorities:

1. Transnational and regional activities

   a) **Peaceful management, mediation or resolution of conflicting interests or sources of deep-seated conflict or potential violent conflict.**

   The aim is to support activities with the view of facilitating the peaceful conciliation and management of group interests and promoting solutions on divisive matters among stakeholders from neighbouring countries. The focus will be on regions which are plagued by conflicts with transnational implications, including regions of potential conflict and post-conflict regions.

   Expected results are, among others, contributing to the resolution of conflicting interests or sources of deep-seated conflict or potential violent conflict, increased inclusion of civil society priorities, including women's groups, in peace negotiations, enhanced women's leadership in peacemaking, stronger commitment by national and international actors to address the challenges faced by women and children in conflict and post conflict situations, reduced number of children in armed forces groups, the rehabilitation and integration of child soldiers and ex-combatants more generally, increased societal awareness, increased accountability mechanisms in place at the national level and actions undertaken at the international level to fight against impunity, development of civil society based early warning systems among stakeholders from neighbouring countries and addressing the needs of ex-combatants by reintegrating them into society.

   **Preference/priority will be given to actions aiming at increasing capacity building of civil society networks, particularly women's groups, to meaningfully contribute and participate in informal and formal peace negotiations, peace building efforts, democratisation and electoral processes.**

   There will be a geographical focus on specific “sub-regions” plagued by conflicts with transnational implications.

   b) **Reinforcement of the role of transnational civil society organisations and networks**

   The aim is to reinforce the role of civil society and its interaction with universal, international and regional human rights mechanisms and policies, as well as intergovernmental or political bodies, including monitoring and implementation of International Human rights commitments. Activities addressing root causes of violations that are regional in nature and activities aimed at discriminated groups/people in vulnerable situations are the primary aim of this action (e.g. women in politics in the MENA region, AIDS orphans in East Africa, etc.).

   Expected results are, among others, improved coordination of national policies targeting a regional human rights issue, increased responsiveness of regional civil society networks to protection needs of discriminated groups/people in vulnerable situations, adoption of international/ regional human rights conventions and their implementation into national legislation following a regional campaign, etc.
2. Global, regional or local actions against torture and other forms of Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading treatment or Punishment.

The EU Guidelines on Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as revised in 2008 constitute the general framework for EIDHR assistance in this area. In this context, EIDHR support should ultimately contribute to the absolute prohibition of torture and ill treatment worldwide by effectively implementing all aspects of the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), its Optional Protocol (OPCAT), which together with all other relevant international and regional instruments should be referred to as the wider normative framework of all projects supported under this objective.

To this end, the Action covers two types of priority activities: prevention of torture and other forms of ill treatment in all circumstances and/or the provision of comprehensive rehabilitation services for torture survivors:

- **Prevention** is mainly oriented to awareness raising, campaigns addressing, for instance, the normative framework and enforcement provisions with a specific focus on the promotion and implementation of the Optional Protocol to the CAT, capacity building (of institutional staff, services staff, NGOs etc.), effective advocacy, monitoring and reporting, documenting and education activities, etc

- **Rehabilitation** is generally considered to cover broadly defined assistance to victims and members of their families, including, among others, medical, and psychological care, social services, as well as redress at all levels (national, regional, international), thus contributing not only to the victims' recovery but also to the fight against impunity. Rehabilitation activities also contribute to strengthening the monitoring of the prevalence of torture, in particular through provision of data that can be used in prevention activities.

In the light of their complementarity, the EIDHR promotes an integrated approach to the fight against torture and other forms of ill-treatment. This approach foresees, where possible, an appropriate combination of both prevention and rehabilitation activities. Under this Action, **preference will be given to actions developing such an approach.**

Where relevant, activities may be linked to a post-conflict agenda of justice and reconciliation or campaigning against a culture of violence in society, including the phenomena of rape, domestic violence and trafficking in human beings. Rather than diluting the focus on torture, these broader dimensions should serve to reinforce the effectiveness of action against torture, building up a broader coalition of civil society actors. **Particular attention will be given to projects targeting people particularly prone to vulnerability/ particularly subject to discrimination e.g. women,**

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children, indigenous people, migrants and asylums seekers, LGBT persons, persons with disabilities, persons belonging to minorities.

Actors will be preferably civil society organisations based in the EU, the region, or the country concerned. No geographical prioritisation applies to this Action.

Rehabilitation activities within the EU are eligible when directly related to situations arising in third countries. Priority will be given however to those situations where access to rehabilitation remains demonstrably insufficient, namely where there is an evident lack of support from an EU Member State for such activities. These actions should demonstrate that a share of activities will clearly act as a catalyst to develop a greater financial commitment by EU Member States in this area and should seek to strengthen local professional capacities and networking and to enhance sustainability of local services capacity.

As regards expected results and performance indicators for activities focusing on torture prevention and rehabilitation of torture survivors, projects will be selected in the light of their expected results and likely effectiveness. The kinds of outcomes that may be anticipated include:

- Reduced prevalence of torture, increased reporting of torture, better conditions for proving incidence of torture;
- Enhanced number of State's Parties to the CAT and its Optional Protocol and other relevant international and regional instruments, including enhanced number of legal reforms adopted and increased number of National Mechanisms for the Prevention of Torture put into place and functioning.
- Clearer guidelines for security forces, more effective investigations and trying and sentencing of perpetrators;
- More effective monitoring and reporting of torture and ill treatment,
- Increase in level of effective rehabilitation, effective medical, psychological and social rehabilitation
- Restoration of the victims' rights to legal redress.
- More sustainable funding of rehabilitation, including by Member States.

3. Global, regional or local actions against the death penalty

The EU Guidelines on the Death Penalty provide the general framework for EIDHR assistance in this area. EIDHR support under this Objective aims at promoting the restrictive use of, the establishment of a moratorium on, and the abolition of the death penalty. Activities may include:

i) monitoring conditions of the use of the death penalty and the application of international minimum standards;

ii) provision of legal aid and assistance to persons at risk of or prisoners awaiting execution;
iii) support for legal and constitutional reform to restrict or abolish the death penalty;

iv) promotion of the signature, ratification and implementation of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other relevant international and regional instruments.

EIDHR support may also aim at the development of national, regional or global abolitionist coalitions, and at advocacy, lobbying and raising awareness among the public and key decision makers on the principal arguments against the death penalty. However, such projects must be focused, strategic and combined with other activities as mentioned above. In certain cases, projects which use scientific approaches to expose miscarriages of justice or contribute to a reduction in the use of the death penalty, such as studies of forensic evidence or DNA techniques, may also be supported. Periodical structured coordination will be ensured at central and local levels between the Commission, Member States and all the specialised NGOs which will be providing support in order to develop synergies, to guarantee complementing actions and to avoid duplication.

2. Human rights at risk and Human rights defenders

The new EIDHR Strategy Paper 2011-2013 is placing a renewed emphasis on the need to focus on countries where there is a serious lack of respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, where human security is most at risk and human rights defenders face grave violations to their rights and threats to their personal security, to their families as well as to their human rights work.

Therefore, a call for proposals targeting human rights and fundamental freedoms in countries where they are most at risk and human rights defenders will be permanently open the next three years. Proposals will be evaluated twice a year, but those targeting emergency human rights situations will be "fast-tracked". The indicative envelope for this call would be €15 million.

This Action will focus on countries and regions characterised by a serious lack of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, high risk for human security, high pressure on human rights defenders and difficulty for civil society to operate and little or no room for political pluralism.

The overall objective of this Action is to provide tangible support and means of action to local civil society and to human rights defenders and to contribute to their work in the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms in some of the most difficult, dangerous and
unpredictable political situations that exist in the world, and/or where they are the most vulnerable; i.e where they are subject to repression, threats, intimidation, harassment and persecution.

Considering the difficult context in which the beneficiaries will operate, the expected outcomes are primarily empowering local stakeholders and strengthening the capacity of local civil society and human rights defenders, etc. to organise and express themselves, to exercise their rights and to take part in international fora.

The activities under this action should promote a holistic approach to human rights and should, in these difficult countries or, regions, specifically seek to improve:

- freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief;
- freedom of opinion and expression; including artistic and cultural expression;
- access to information and the right to communicate, including freedom of the media, fight against censorship, and access to the internet;
- the right to peaceful assembly and association, including the right to form and join a trade union and the right to collective bargaining;
- freedom of movement within the borders of a state, and the right to leave any country, including one’s own, and to return to one’s country.

Provided the focus is on these freedoms, projects may be combined with campaigning or promoting other fundamental human rights, including social, economic and cultural rights.

All actions specifically targeting the support to human rights defenders who face threats to their rights and to their personal security, their families' as well as to their human rights work, should foresee the provision of urgent assistance and a timely reaction to situations of urgency for protection of individuals and organizations as well as the provision of longer term support.

The gravity of the situation and the effectiveness of the action are to be the two key considerations for assessing and prioritising project proposals.

Priority will be given to activities addressing in-country situations where fundamental freedoms as identified above are the least secure, and where human rights problems and violations as identified above are particularly grave and systematic. These situations can be characterised by the following selected indicators (non-exhaustive list):

- Restrictions on freedom of association (e.g. regular and widespread obstacles to the registration of civil society organisations and their independent operation, forced closure of civil society organisations, and physical threats to their members);
- Restrictions on the right to peaceful assembly (e.g. frequent prohibition or violent repression of peaceful protests);
- Restrictions on freedom of expression, access to information and the right to communicate (e.g. regular repression of and major reprisals for criticism of public policies; obstacles to the collection, publication and dissemination of information on human rights, including access to the internet; general censorship);
- A threatening and insecure environment which seriously undermines the right to life and physical and mental integrity (e.g. extra-judicial killings, death threats, beatings, torture, rape and ill treatment during questioning or detention);

- Restrictions on the right to a fair trial and due process (e.g. regular occurrences of disregard of due process, arbitrary arrests and detention, lack of impartial tribunal and appropriate jurisdiction, restrictions on the exercise of legal defence, legal harassment on baseless charges).

3. Country Based Support Scheme

After a consultation of all Delegations, it appears that needs expressed for CBBS go well beyond the available funds (contrary to the 2007-2010 period where Delegations' requests could all be accepted).

98 Delegations have submitted requests for funds, which the Commission services are currently analysing in order to allocate the funds in the most efficient manner, keeping in mind that reallocations can always be made in the course of implementation depending on actual absorption and quality of projects submitted locally through calls for proposals.

The indicative amount to be allocated to CBSS in 2011 is 59 M€.

4. Other actions

As each year, and in accordance with the EIDHR regulation and Strategy, the Commission will support international institutions, mainly the European Inter-University Center for Human Rights (EIUC) and the OHCHR. Moreover, the Commission will proposed to finance quality projects selected through previous calls, but put on reserve due to lack of funds. Finally, the European Commission will, as usual, organise human rights dialogues in countries still to be defined.

Consultation points (non-exhaustive list)

- How advantageous do you find the introduction of the global call with the same priorities open each year for civil society (international and local) in terms of reliability, transparency, equal opportunity, workload assessment relative to chances of success?

- How would you see the introduction of an open call for actions targeting human rights and fundamental freedoms in countries where they are most at risk and human rights defenders (i.e. Objective 1 and Human Rights Defenders together), in terms of quickness of response, workload assessment relative to chances of success, etc.?

- In terms of EC-CSO partnerships, which tools would you use to better target local civil society organisations in third countries and build their capacities?