

Coalition Welcomes New EU Decision on the ICC

21 March 2011, Brussels - The Coalition for the International Criminal Court welcomes the adoption by the Council of the European Union (EU) of a 'Decision on the International Criminal Court', which represents the reaffirmation of its commitment to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and international criminal justice and an important step forward in the implementation of the pledges made by the EU last year at the Review Conference.

The decision's objective is to advance universal support for the Rome Statute of the ICC, preserve its integrity and the independence of the ICC as well as its effective and efficient functioning, and to support cooperation with the ICC as well as the implementation of the principle of complementarity.

The decision - adopted by the Council on 21 March 2011 - replaces the Common Position of June 2003 (2003/444/CFSP) which has guided ICC activities by the EU and its Member States over the past decade, including through various initiatives contained in the Action Plan which implements the Common Position.

The EU has been a leading force in the establishment and the strengthening of international justice mechanisms such as the ICC. This update of the EU's stance on the Rome Statute system and the ICC reflects the EU's continued commitment to the advancement of the principles of democracy, the rule of law, the universality of human rights, and adheres to the pledge made by the EU at the June 2010 Review Conference to review and update its instruments in support of the ICC and to continue the promotion of the universality and preservation of the integrity of the Rome Statute.

The Coalition now encourages the EU and its Member States to continue to move forward with this pledge and other pledges, in particular to review and update the 2004 Action Plan on the ICC, in order to provide concrete measures to achieve the Decision's objectives.

The [Coalition for the International Criminal Court](http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org) is a global network of civil society organizations in 150 countries working in partnership to strengthen international cooperation with the ICC; ensure that the Court is fair, effective and independent; make justice both visible and universal; and advance stronger national laws that deliver justice to victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

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