

**ADDRESS BY Mrs. AYFER YILMAZ, TURKISH MEMBER OF THE
CONVENTION, ON THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
(PLENARY SESSION OF THE CONVENTION
HELD BETWEEN 24-25 JUNE 2002)**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

-I fully share the views expressed concerning the importance of the protection of human rights and monitoring them. Indeed, this question should be handled in global scale and the Union should fulfil its responsibilities for the promotion of the human rights situation of millions of people around the world that face severe violations in their daily life.

-I believe that it is essential that the Union defend objective values without any discrimination and double standards and extend dialogue with the civil society for the implementation of these rights. This is crucial for the credibility of the Union.

-The Union should recognize that terrorism is a violation of human rights. The measures taken in this field should not be ostentatious. It is only with cohered and effective measures that we can fight against the scourge of terrorism which has caused the death of hundreds of thousands innocent people around the world. Also, organised crimes, illegal immigration, trafficking in human beings and drugs are important issues to be tackled at Union level.

-The Union should focus on gender equality issues more seriously than what is foreseen in the treaties.

-Last but not least, the Union should ensure the protection of the rights of non-EU citizens residing in member states since generations.

Thank you very much.