



José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission

Brussels, 16. 04. 2010
BARROSO (2010) A/1002
BARROSO (2010) D/ 863

Dear Mrs Gomes and Mr Howitt,

Thank you for your letter of 1 February in which you draw attention to the human rights situation in Cabinda particularly in the aftermath of the attack on the bus transporting the Togolese national football team on 8 January. We share your concerns and give great importance to the promotion and protection of human rights in Angola. The European Union (EU) delegation in Luanda is closely following the situation and will meet human rights defenders from Cabinda and also the relevant authorities.

The human rights' dimension takes even more relevance given the 7th United Nations Human Rights Council universal periodical review.

The Commission along with the EU Member States and international organisations have been closely following the 2010 review, where Angola is part of the agenda. The EU financed Angolan human rights defenders and civil society organisation representatives are travelling to Geneva to follow the event.

The Commission also aims to improve the overall human rights situation in Angola through its cooperation programmes. The enhancement of the judiciary, currently one of the main weaknesses leading to human rights abuses, is the object of projects and programmes financed both by the European Development Fund and budget lines, and implemented by civil society organisations, non-state actors and local authorities.

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*Mrs Ana GOMES, MEP
Mr Richard HOWITT, MEP
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Despite the fact that the situation has improved, human rights remain a sensitive area for the Angolan authorities. The Commission has been addressing critical issues that relate to the respect of human rights in the context of its political dialogue and envisages reinforcing this exchange in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a vertical line on the left that curves into a horizontal line extending to the right, ending in a small hook.

José Manuel BARROSO