Human rights

Respect for human rights and dignity, together with the principles of freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law, are values common to all European Union (EU) countries. They also guide the EU's action both inside and outside its borders.

European action in this area is based on the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to which the Charter of Fundamental Rights, proclaimed in 2000, is annexed. Since 2009, the Charter has been legally binding on the EU institutions and national governments (when they are implementing EU law). The Charter is consistent with the European Convention on Human Rights (adopted in the framework of the Council of Europe). However, it does not, as such, establish any new rights but serves to gather together existing rights that had been scattered between different sources.

See also:
- Human rights in the EU: fundamental rights
- Human rights in non-EU countries

External relations
Foreign and security policy
Justice, freedom and security