



## Parliamentary questions

1 December 2008

E-5675/2008

### Reply

The Council has not so far reacted formally to the decision of the Assembly of the African Union on the Abuse of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction (Egypt, 30 June to 1 July 2008). However, this issue is being discussed by the Council bodies.

At the request of the African Union (AU), universal jurisdiction was discussed at the 10th Africa-EU Ministerial troika meeting (Brussels, 16 September 2008). On that occasion, the EU took note of the African concerns at the abusive application of the principle which could endanger international law. The EU reiterated its attachment to the fight against impunity. Ministers agreed that further discussions between the AU and the EU should be held on the subject.

Under the framework decision of 13 June 2002 on the European arrest warrant<sup>(1)</sup>, both the decision to issue a European arrest warrant and the decision to execute such an arrest warrant in another Member State and to surrender the wanted person to the issuing Member State fall within the competence of the judicial authorities. In general, it is therefore impossible for the political authorities in the Member States, let alone the Council of the European Union, to intervene in the operation of European arrest warrants.

The Sirene bureaux exchange supplementary information relating to alerts entered into the Schengen Information System. These alerts, that are only applicable within the territory of the Schengen States, are entered by the relevant national authorities and are outside the Council's competence.

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(1) OJ L 190, 18.7.2002, p. 1.