

2026 ROEU PUBLICATIONS



europe.ohchr.org

OHCHR Submission on the Open Public Consultation on the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive Guidelines

August 2026

UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
Representation Office
to the European Union

Implementing the CSDDD

Joint United Nations Brussels Team (UNBT) submission to the European Commission's consultation on the guidelines to support the implementation of the CSDDD

July 2026

UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
Representation Office
to the European Union

EU Multiannual Financing Framework (MFF) 2028-2034

A key opportunity to invest in human rights

August 2026

UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
Representation Office
to the European Union

Negotiation of procedural rules for and draft protocol to the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime

Submission to the European Commission's call for evidence

July 2026

UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
Representation Office
to the European Union

**THE RULE OF LAW
and why it matters
EXPLAINED**

UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
Representation Office
to the European Union

Protecting journalists

OHCHR Contribution to the European Commission's consultation on reinforcing measures for the safety of journalists and combating abusive litigation (SLAPPs)

May 2026

UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
Representation Office
to the European Union

THE EU RETURN REGULATION: REFORM AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS

CLOSED POLICY ROUNDTABLE
3 MARCH 2026, BRUSSELS

KEY TAKEAWAYS

With contributions from

Christina Meinecke
Regional Representative, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Michele LeVoy
Director, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)

Gehad Madi
UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants

Eve Geddie
Director, Amnesty International European Institutions Office

1. The proposed Return Regulation risks violating the absolute prohibition of non-refoulement. Consistent with international human rights and refugee law, the Regulation should provide for an obligation to conduct a prior individual assessment of human rights and refugee protection risks that may constitute grounds of non-return. Return orders should always specify the country of return and procedural safeguards should be strengthened by ensuring reasonable appeal deadlines and the automatic suspensive effect of appeals.

2. Proposals to expand the grounds and duration of detention under the Regulation would further entrench what is already a routine practice contrary to international human rights law, which has proven ineffective as a tool to address irregularity and is punitive in nature. The Regulation should clearly foresee that alternative, human rights-based non-custodial measures should be prioritized, with a view to ensuring fair and human rights-compliant return procedures. Alternatives should only be applied when all the grounds to use detention are met, as a genuine alternative to uphold the presumption of liberty, and not as an additional tool to expand control or after detention time limits have been exceeded. Importantly, the Regulation should exclude children from detention – either in families or unaccompanied – in line with international human rights standards and in particular the authoritative *Guidelines* of the Committee from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified EU-wide, pursuant to which immigration detention can never be in the best interests of the child and should be prohibited. The Regulation should fully align with international human rights law, which requires that immigration detention be applied as a measure of last resort, subject to individualized assessments as to its necessity and proportionality, strictly time-limited, and subject to prompt, independent judicial review.

3. Proposed 'investigative' and 'detection' measures risk exacerbating discriminatory racial profiling and policing, further undermine access to rights, essential services and the justice system for racialised and migrant communities, and foster social fragmentation. Immigration enforcement should always be separated from the provision of social services and access to the justice system and comply with human rights obligations and the principle of non-discrimination. The Regulation should provide for 'firewalls' to ensure that migration enforcement measures do not deter individuals – regardless of immigration status – from seeking shelter and healthcare, accessing education, or reporting crimes or abuse and to ensure social cohesion, building on the positive impacts of current governmental practices.

OHCHR Contribution to European Commission's Call for Evidence on the revision of the Water Framework Directive

April 2026

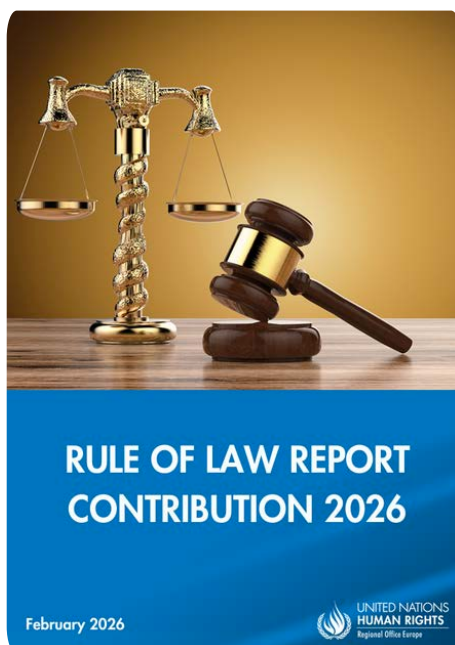
UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
Representation Office
to the European Union

OHCHR and UNESCO Contribution to the European Commission's call for evidence for updating the European Arctic Policy

March 2026

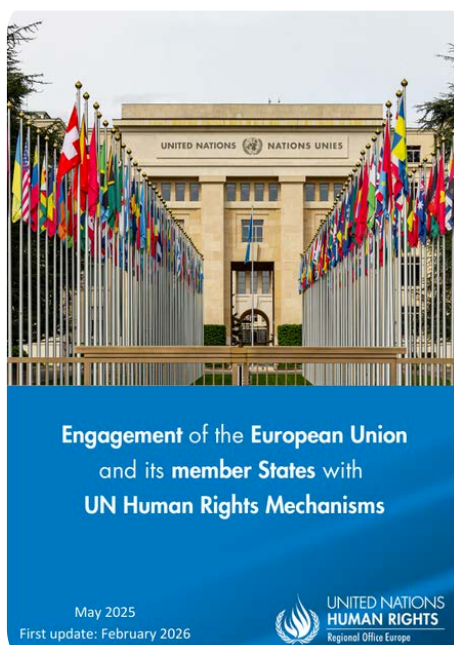
unesco

UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
Representation Office
to the European Union



RULE OF LAW REPORT CONTRIBUTION 2026

February 2026



Engagement of the European Union and its member States with UN Human Rights Mechanisms

May 2025
First update: February 2026



Safeguarding human rights in simplification: EU's Omnibus VI Package on Chemicals

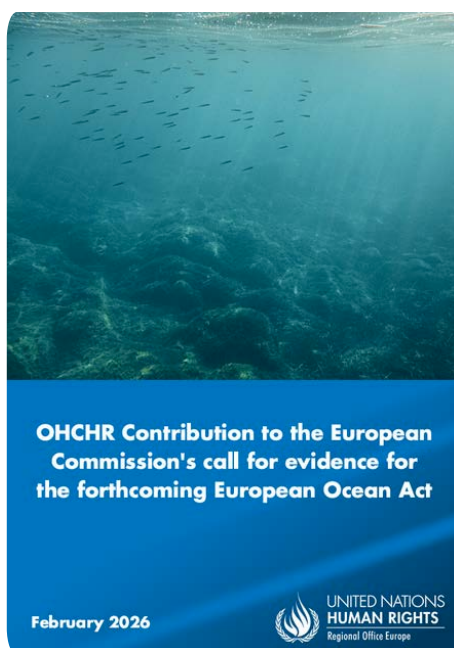
February 2026



Enhancing the Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities up to 2030

Input to the European Commission's public consultation

February 2026



OHCHR Contribution to the European Commission's call for evidence for the forthcoming European Ocean Act

February 2026



Key Messages from the Regional Working Meeting
on a new legally binding instrument on the rights of older persons
27 January 2026

In attendance of

Christina Meinecke
Regional Representative,
UN Human Rights Europe

Maciej Kucharczyk
Secretary General,
Age Platform

Claudia Mahler
UN Independent
Expert on the rights
of older persons

An Opportunity for Regional Leadership and Collaboration

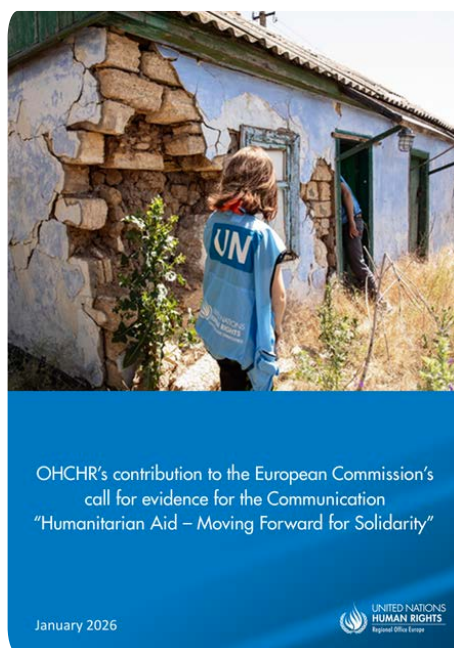
- Human Rights Don't Come with an Expiry Date.** Yet, older persons face unique human rights challenges. Age-based discrimination is pervasive - affecting 1 in 2 people - and older age is often equated with decline. Many older persons experience inadequate social protection or barriers to health care, violations of their right to work, lack of autonomy in decision-making, digital exclusion and vulnerability to violence, neglect, and abuse.
- Milestone move towards closing protection gaps.** Analysis by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights illustrates that the existing human rights framework is inadequate when it comes to older persons. Most international instruments, for example, lack an explicit prohibition of age-based discrimination, and older persons remain largely invisible in findings and recommendations by the international human rights mechanisms. The age-disaggregated binding instrument on the rights of older persons that States have decided to draft, will address these gaps, create standards to combat ageism and accountability mechanisms to make sure that older persons' human rights are upheld.
- Tool for empowerment and recognition of older persons.** The recognition of older persons as holders of rights shifts the narrative from vulnerability, burden and dependence to one of agency, autonomy and active inclusion. A dedicated human rights instrument catalyzes legal and policy reform and empowers older persons to claim their rights. It gives older persons across the world - in all their diversity - a common cause to rally around, and represents an investment in the common future of all generations, including younger people.
- Nothing About Us Without Us.** Inclusion and participation are central tenets of human rights that should guide the drafting process of the new legally binding instrument. Older persons' full and substantive participation from the outset is critical. Their lived experience provides a reality check for what the instrument should address. States should also consider including older persons in their delegations, building on good practice from drafting the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Opportunity for EU leadership.** The new legally binding instrument is a significant opportunity for the EU and its Member States to reaffirm their commitment to multilateralism and to demonstrate collective leadership on ageing and human rights. Building on good practice from previous treaty-making processes, they should engage early and decisively in drafting a strong, globally relevant instrument on older persons' rights - one that aligns with EU values and realities and reinforces existing laws. The EU has a critical role to play in coordinating a common EU position, in ensuring legal clarity and coherence and in promoting meaningful participation of civil society organizations, national human rights institutions and older persons themselves in the drafting process.

Want to know more?
Intergovernmental Working Group on older persons



Contribution to the European Commission's call for evidence for the forthcoming Communication on Better Regulation

February 2026



OHCHR's contribution to the European Commission's call for evidence for the Communication "Humanitarian Aid - Moving Forward for Solidarity"

January 2026



EU Multiannual Financing Framework (MFF) 2028-2034
A key opportunity to invest in human rights

The European Union (EU) is currently elaborating its next 7-year EU budget. Investing in human rights is an investment in the EU's core values. It contributes to strengthening democratic resilience, rule of law, security, social cohesion, and the EU's global leadership. Dedicated funding to reduce exclusion and inequality, and to support fundamental rights protection, human rights institutions and civil society reinforces the very foundations on which the Union is built.

The Representation Office to the EU of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is making the below recommendations to seize this opportunity to further progress on the realization of human rights in the EU and its Member States.

Ten key messages to EU legislators

- Uphold human rights in line with international and regional obligations**
The future MFF should uphold the human rights obligations that States and regional organizations have committed to in EU legislation and the UN core human rights treaties which all EU 27 Member States have ratified.
- Put human rights at the centre of EU economic and budgetary decision-making**
The future MFF should invest in human rights and place people and the planet at the centre of economic, fiscal, business and social investment decisions.
- Use UN human rights recommendations to guide EU spending priorities**
The EU should systematically use recommendations from UN human rights mechanisms as an evidence base for setting priorities under the MFF and related policies, including the National and Regional Partnership Plans, the European Semester, Global Europe, Global Gateway and humanitarian programming.
- Mobilize the maximum available resources for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**
The future MFF should help generate and channel sufficient resources for human rights. Member States should step up efforts to mobilize public resources, including through increased use of EU funds for human rights, progressive taxation, fair tax systems, and stronger international tax cooperation aligned with human rights principles.



Learn more at
europe.ohchr.org



ohchr-brussels@un.org



Protecting and advancing
human rights for all