

United Nations independent human rights experts submissions to the European Union in 2025

The Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council comprise independent human rights experts with mandates to report and advise on human rights from a thematic (e.g., the freedom of expression or the right to food) or country-specific perspective. The system of Special Procedures is a central element of the United Nations human rights architecture and covers all human rights: civil, cultural, economic, political, and social. As of November 2025, there are 46 thematic and 13 country mandates. With the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), special procedures:

- Undertake country visits,
- Act on individual cases of reported violations and concerns of a broader nature by sending communications to States and others,
- Contribute to the development of international human rights standards, and
- Engage in advocacy, raise public awareness, and provide advice for technical cooperation.

Special Procedures addressed a number of press releases, communications and statements to the European Union and its institutions during 2025:

Special Rapporteur on the right to food

- Communication on the European Union's (EU) Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Simplification Package, OL OTH 78/2025, 12 June 2025

Special Rapporteur on the right to a healthy environment

- Council of Europe must recognise the right to a healthy environment, UN experts urge, press release, 5 May 2025 (together with SR climate change; SR on water and sanitation; SR toxic wastes; IE on democratic and equitable international order; and IE on international solidarity)

Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

- Communication on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down minimum rules to prevent and counter the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and stay in the Union, OL OTH 119/2025, 22 September 2025 (together with SR trafficking and SR HRDs)



Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity

- Statement on the EU LGBTIQ+ Equality Strategy 2026–2030, 23 October 2025

Special Rapporteur on toxic wastes

- Communication on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending the “Omnibus package on chemicals”, OL OTH 120/2025, 25 September 2025

Special Rapporteur on torture

- UN expert welcomes revised EU regulations against trade in instruments of torture, calls for a global treaty, press release, 5 August 2025
- Torture items found for sale at Paris security trade fair, UN expert calls for constant monitoring, press release, 28 November 2025

Special Rapporteur on trafficking

- European Union: UN experts alarmed by risk of humanitarian assistance criminalisation, press release, 1 December 2025 (together with SR migrants, SR HRD and IE solidarity)

Working Group on business and human rights

- Statement on the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, 12 February 2025
- Statement on the European Commission’s “Omnibus simplification package”, 20 March 2025
- European Commission measures to simplify business environment must align with UN Guiding Principles on business and human rights, warn experts, press release, 20 March 2025
- Communication on prohibiting products made with forced labour on the Union market, OL OTH 144/2025, 24 November 2025 (together with SR slavery and SR trafficking)