

THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE EU IN ITS EXTERNAL ACTION

Analysing the case of Eritrea

The EU is one of the major promoters of human rights in its external action. But how does it promote them? Which mechanisms does the Union have? To address the use and effectiveness of these instruments, we will see their application in the case study of Eritrea.



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- Founding treaties: Arts. 21 and 205 TEU
- The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union



EUROPEAN STRATEGY

- EU Strategic Framework (2012)
- EU Action Plan (2015-2019)
- EU Action Plan (2020-2024)



EUROPEAN OBJECTIVES

- Respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law
- Flexibility to respond to new challenges
- Protecting the European values and interests

INSTRUMENTS



Political dialogues (political)



Human Rights clause (juridical)



NDICI – Global Europe (financial)



Restrictive measures: sanctions (economic)

Case study: Eritrea



Asmara dialogues under articles 8 & 96 of the Cotonou Agreement



NDICI funds
EU Emergency Trust Fund
for Africa



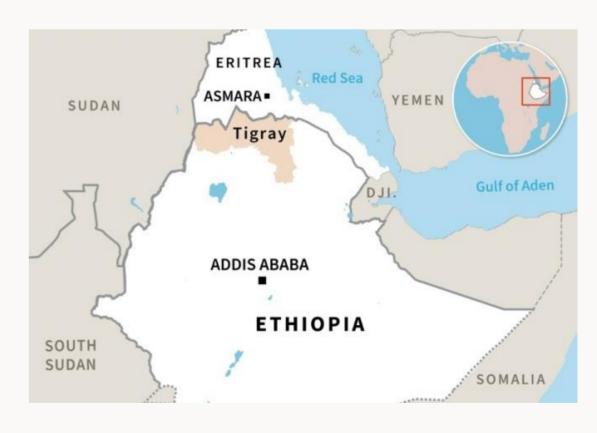
Cotonou Agreement:

- * Art. 9 (7). Essential elements clause
- * Art. 101. Non-fulfilment clause



Sanctions to the Eritrean National Security Office:

- * Asset freeze
- * Funds freeze
- * Travel bans



CONCLUSIONS

- The EU has a wide range of instruments and has proven to be capable to promote human rights, influencing third countries. Yet, it seems that their effective respect and protection escapes the EU control.
- In the study case of Eritrea, the measures adopted by the EU seem not to be so effective as the Eritrean forces are still in Ethiopia. Moreover, the non-fulfilment clause has not been activated.



Bibliography