

**Declaration tabled by the Slovakian delegation
on the trial of the Bulgarian and Palestinian medics in Libya**

The Conference of the Speakers of EU parliaments expresses its grave concern about the case of the five Bulgarian medical nurses and the Palestinian Trainee doctor sentenced to death in Libya on 6th May 2004 on charges of deliberately infecting 400 children with HIV virus in Benghazi.

The Conference of the Speakers of EU parliaments recognizes the scope of the human tragedy in Benghazi and expresses its deepest sympathy both with the innocent HIV-infected children and their families, and with the imprisoned medical staff and their relatives.

The Conference of the Speakers of EU parliaments notes evidence for the innocence of the defendants, namely that the spread of the virus arose as a result of an earlier in-hospital infection, and not as a result of any action, deliberate or otherwise, by the said persons.

Therefore the Conference of the Speakers of EU parliaments calls upon the Libyan authorities to conduct the proceeding based on the rule of law and according to the standards established in democracies. Fair proceeding should be carried through as soon as possible, and upon proof of innocence, medical staff should be permitted to return home to their beloved ones.

Budapest, 7th May 2005