



63th Session of the Human Rights Council
Benelux Intervention
Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
15 September 2026

Mr. President,

I deliver this statement on behalf of the BENELUX countries, Belgium, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and my own country, Luxembourg. We align ourselves with the statement of the European Union.

We reaffirm our strong support to the mandate of the Working Group and welcome the sustained upward trend of releases of persons who were the subject of its opinions. We reiterate our call on all States to cooperate fully with it, respond comprehensively and timely to its communications, implement its opinions, respond positively to its requests for country visits and ensure it is provided with adequate and sustainable resources.

We strongly condemn all cases of transnational repression. We are especially worried about the increasing use of the legal modality of transnational repression, including the improper use of extradition requests and Interpol Red Notices, as well as trials in absentia of human rights defenders, journalists and others, solely on the basis of their legitimate exercise of their human rights. We are also deeply worried about how new and emerging technologies such as AI amplify and expand the modalities of transnational repression. We will continue to work towards preventing and investigating cases of transnational repression on our territories.

Madam Chair-Rapporteur,

What concrete steps can States take to ensure that international judicial cooperation does not turn into a form of transnational repression and results in arbitrary detention?