

**Amendment 4****Sabine Lösing**

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

**Report****A7-0037/2011****Bastiaan Belder**

EU approach towards Iran

2010/2050(INI)

**Motion for a resolution (Rule 157(4) of the Rules of Procedure) replacing non-legislative motion for a resolution A7-0037/2011****European Parliament resolution on the EU's approach towards Iran***The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its resolution of 7 October 2010 on the World Day against the Death Penalty<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Covenant on the Rights of the Child, to all of which Iran is a party,
  - having regard to the EU Declaration on Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, adopted at the Thessaloniki European Council of 19 and 20 June 2003, and the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction of 10 December 2003,
  - having regard to the essential need to achieve a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue, as any attempt to militarily intervene would have a catastrophic impact and therefore cannot be considered a viable option,
- A. whereas the Islamic Republic of Iran (hereafter referred to as 'Iran') is facing an array of internal and external challenges: social and economic problems, a lack of democratic legitimacy, rising resistance among the population, in particular against the policies of the government in all fields of home affairs and civil rights, as well as a difficult regional security environment,
- B. whereas political developments in Iran following the disputed presidential elections of June 2009 have shown that there is great potential for popularly led, democratic change in the country which is spearheaded by its vibrant and active civil society,
- C. whereas Iran's security forces – the Revolutionary Guard, Basij militia and police – have responded with a severe crackdown, arbitrarily arresting thousands of peaceful protesters

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<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA-PROV(2010)0351.

and dissidents, including students and academics, women's rights activists, trade unionists, lawyers, journalists, bloggers, clerics and prominent human rights defenders, in a clear effort to intimidate critics and stifle dissent; whereas the judiciary has staged mass show trials of hundreds of prominent reformers and activists, resulting in the sentencing of some to lengthy prison terms and even to death,

- D. whereas the fundamental human rights of Iranians – the right to life, to freedom of expression and association and to be free from arbitrary arrest, detention and torture and from all forms of discrimination – continue to be violated with impunity,
- E. whereas Iran is a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), has, by ratifying the NPT, foresworn the acquisition of nuclear weapons and is legally bound to declare all its nuclear activity, including nuclear material, and place it under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards; whereas Article IV of the NPT notes the inalienable right of all parties to that treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I and II of that treaty,
- F. whereas Iran is subject to many sanctions by the United States and the international community; whereas those sanctions have ever more negative consequences for the Iranian population without leading to a useful outcome for resolving the dispute over Iran's nuclear programme,
- G. whereas Iran exists in a difficult regional environment, with three nuclear powers which are not parties to the NPT, the difficult post-war internal situation in Iraq, the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and several international players with their own economic and political interests,
- H. whereas Turkey and Brazil, both non-permanent members of the UN Security Council, successfully negotiated a nuclear fuel swap deal to break a deadlock over the country's disputed nuclear activities; whereas the United States and the EU failed to utilise this opportunity to make a fresh start to find a solution to the crisis; whereas, on the contrary, new UN and EU sanctions were introduced,
- I. whereas Iran ranks among the world's top three holders of proven reserves of both oil and natural gas,
- J. whereas Iran has hosted two generations of Afghan refugees in the country, who have benefited from basic health and education services; whereas in 2010 more than one million registered Afghans were residing in Iran; whereas Iran has received only limited international support in this area,

### **Internal situation**

1. Notes the Iranian people's aspirations for democratic change and deeply deplores the fact that the Iranian Government and Parliament are apparently unwilling to respond to the justified demands of Iranian citizens, in particular the younger generation, who have seen their hopes for economic and social development stifled for too long;

2. Expresses its solidarity with the millions of Iranians who have taken to the streets after the June 2009 presidential elections in the hope of political change in Iran;
3. Underlines the fact that democratic changes cannot be imposed from outside or even by military means but have to be achieved through a peaceful democratic process; expresses its admiration for the courage of the tens of thousands of Iranians who continue to risk their professional careers and lives by calling for greater freedom and more democratic rights in Iran;
4. Calls on Iran and those countries in the Middle East which are considering investing in nuclear power not to follow the controversial approach of favouring a dangerous and outdated technology; instead appeals to those countries to develop all options involving modern renewable energy technologies, efficiency and conservation methods; stresses in this regard that the best way to deal with the problem of nuclear power would be to abandon atomic energy once and for all;

### **Human rights**

5. Calls on the Iranian Government to respect fully the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression; strongly condemns the use of violence by the Iranian authorities against demonstrators who are seeking to exercise freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly;
6. Reiterates its opposition to the death penalty and calls on the Iranian authorities, in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolutions 62/149 and 63/138, to institute a moratorium on executions, pending the abolition of the death penalty;
7. Expresses its grave consternation that Iran continues to be one of the very few countries, together with Afghanistan, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Nigeria, which still practise stoning; calls on the Iranian Parliament to pass legislation outlawing this cruel and inhumane form of punishment;
8. Reiterates its calls to the Iranian judiciary to declare a moratorium on capital punishment and to unambiguously prohibit juvenile executions;
9. Calls on the Iranian authorities to immediately free all those detained for peacefully exercising their rights to free expression, association and assembly, and to investigate and prosecute government officials and members of the security forces responsible for the killing, abuse and torture of members of the families of dissidents, demonstrators and detainees;
10. Concludes that the situation of Iranian NGOs worsened considerably in the wake of the disturbances following the controversial presidential election of 12 June 2009; supports transparent and democratic measures which promote grassroots democratic and progressive movements without encroaching on the sovereignty of Iran;
11. Calls on Iran to sign, ratify and implement the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);

12. Stresses the importance of Iran's 'blogosphere' for a better European understanding of the dynamics at play within the Iranian political system, and welcomes the support for Iranian bloggers who report regularly on events in Iran;

### **The nuclear dossier**

13. Reminds the countries in the region of Article 105 of the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which underscores the importance of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East; calls on Israel, India and Pakistan to take an active part in the process of establishing such a zone, which should start with the conference planned for 2012;
14. Stresses, furthermore, the fact that, in accordance with a central tenet of the NPT, Iran has the right to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes and to receive technical assistance for the same objectives;
15. Calls on Tehran to ratify and implement the Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement;
16. Notes that, in order to be effective, the NPT obligations have to be adhered to by all parties to the treaty, notes that the nuclear weapon states, and especially those in Europe, too, have not fulfilled their obligation under Article VI of the NPT, which demands that they try to achieve complete nuclear disarmament as soon as possible;
17. Notes that the European Council's twin-track approach has failed and that a policy of conditional negotiations in an atmosphere of mutual mistrust cannot bring results; calls, therefore, for a logical policy in relations with Iran; takes the view that sanctions and isolation of the country should be replaced by constructive dialogue and unconditional negotiations on all matters of mutual interest;
18. Welcomes the recently concluded agreement between Turkey, Brazil and Iran, and calls on the EU to use the mediation capacities of the two non-permanent members of the Security Council to facilitate a fresh start of the dialogue with Iran;

### **External relations**

19. Calls on Israel and the United States - in their relations with Iran as with any other country - to refrain from the threat or use of force against territorial integrity and political independence; takes the view that confidence building measures, such as granting a negative security assurance to Iran, would promote stabilisation of the region;
20. Condemns the anti-Semitic rhetoric of the Iranian President, especially his denial of the Holocaust and his underlying agenda of delegitimising the Israeli state; reaffirms its full support for the existence of Israel and a peaceful, two-state solution for the Israel-Palestine conflict;
21. Stresses that all the regional problems - in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kashmir - cannot be solved by military means and non-regional players; calls for the establishment of a permanent regional conference on security and cooperation as a forum for dialogue and

negotiation between the regional and international actors on all matters of mutual interest: regional security, confidence-building and disarmament, economic cooperation and human rights;

22. Calls on the EU and its Member States to take a reasonable, independent position and exercise its influence in transatlantic relations with the view to convincing the Obama Administration that only through dialogue and diplomacy can a realistic, long-term solution be found to all problems concerning relations with Iran;
23. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the EU Member States and to the Government and Parliament of Iran.

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