



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Plenary sitting

13.1.2015

B8-0046/2015

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 135 of the Rules of Procedure

on Russia, in particular the case of Alexey Navalny
(2015/2503(RSP))

Tamás Meszerics, Heidi Hautala, Peter Eriksson, Bart Staes, Barbara Lochbihler, Ulrike Lunacek, Igor Šoltés, Bodil Ceballos
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

European Parliament resolution on Russia, in particular the case of Alexey Navalny (2015/0000(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous reports and resolutions on Russia, in particular its resolution of 23 October 2012 on common visa restrictions for Russian officials involved in the Sergei Magnitsky case, of 13 June 2013 on the rule of law in Russia, of 13 March 2014 on Russia: sentencing of demonstrators involved in the Bolotnaya Square events, of 23 October 2014 on Closing down of Memorial (Sakharov Prize 2009) in Russia,
 - having regard to the statement by the Spokesperson of the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) of 30 November 2014 on the sentencing of Alexey Navalny and his brother Oleg Navalny,
 - having regard to the Constitution of Russia, in particular Article 118 thereof, which states that justice in the Russian Federation is to be administered by courts alone, and Article 120 thereof, which provides that judges are independent and are subordinate only to the Russian Constitution and federal law,
 - having regard to the EU-Russia human rights consultations of 28 November 2013,
 - having regard to Rules 135(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 30 December 2014 the Moscow's Zamoskvoretsky district court handed down verdicts in the case of the lawyer Alexey Navalny, a well-known blogger and campaigner against corruption and his brother Oleg giving a suspended sentence of three and a half years to the former and a sentence of three and a half years in a general regime penal colony to the latter for defrauding two firms,
- B. whereas after the verdict demonstrations in support of the convicted were held in Moscow, St Petersburg and other Russian cities; whereas Alexey Navalny was detained by the police at the protest and took him home where he has been under house arrest since February 2014 as part of a separate five-year suspended sentence for the alleged theft from a timber firm in 2009; whereas more than 200 people were detained by the police at the rally and several were pushed back into the metro stations,
- C. whereas on 5 January Alexey Navalny openly challenged the Russian authorities in a unilateral move personally declaring an end to his more than ten months of house arrest by snipping the electronic bracelet used by the police to monitor his whereabouts,

- D. whereas in Grozny the office of the Joint Mobile Group (JMG), a renowned human rights organisation that has played a crucial role in revealing and documenting the violations of human rights committed in Chechnya, was set ablaze and the workers in the office were captured and searched by masked armed men; whereas this attack was preceded by direct attacks against the Head of JMG and the Committee against Torture Igor Kalyapin,
- E. whereas the Russian Federation, as a full member of the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, has committed itself to the principles of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights; whereas continued serious violations of the rule of law and the adoption of restrictive laws during the past months are increasing questioning Russia's compliance with international and national obligations,
- F. whereas the human rights situation in Russia has been deteriorating in recent years and the Russian authorities have adopted a series of laws containing ambiguous provisions that are used to place further restrictions on opposition and civil-society actors, and hinder the freedoms of expression and assembly,
1. Takes the view that this new case concerning the Navalny brothers as several trials and judicial proceedings against opposition members and NGOs over the past years cast doubt on the independence and impartiality of the judicial institutions of the Russian Federation;
 2. Stresses that the charges against Alexey Navalny have not been substantiated and appear to be politically-motivated in retribution for his political activity in opposition to Vladimir Putin; calls, therefore, for the dropping of all charges against him;
 3. Notes that under Russian law this conviction make Alexey Navalny ineligible to seek public office for ten years after the sentence is completed thus eliminating from elections one of the most prominent opposition leaders;
 4. Calls on the Russian authorities to stop all pressure and intimidation both political and judicial on opposition leaders, civil society representatives and independent media allowing them to act freely in line with the basic principles of the Russian constitution;
 5. Urges the Russian authorities to put an end to any act of harassment and verbal and physical attacks against the Joint Mobile Group, the Committee against Torture, their members, including Igor Kalyapin, as well as all human rights defenders in Chechnya and more generally in the Russian Federation, and ensure in all circumstances that they are able to carry out their legitimate activities without hindrance;
 6. Recalls the importance of Russia's full compliance with its international legal obligations, as a member of the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and with the fundamental human rights and the rule of law enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);
 7. Urges the Russian judicial and law enforcement authorities to carry out their duties in an impartial and independent manner free of political interference;

8. Calls on the High Representative and the European External Action Service (EEAS) to ensure that the cases of all persons prosecuted for political reasons are raised in EU-Russia human rights consultations when resumed, and that Russia's representatives in these consultations are formally requested to respond in each case;
9. Calls on the Presidents of the Council and the Commission, as well as the VP/HR to continue to follow these cases closely, to monitor the trials, to raise these issues in different formats and meetings with Russia, and to report back to Parliament on the exchanges with the Russian authorities;
10. Urges the Council to develop a unified policy towards Russia that commits the 28 EU Member States and EU institutions to a strong common message on the role of human rights in the EU-Russia relationship and the need to end the crackdown on freedom of expression, assembly and association in Russia;
11. Urges the High Representative and the EEAS to ensure that the Union seeks every opportunity, within the boundaries of Russian domestic law, to continue to engage with and support Russian civil-society organisations, including those working to promote the values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law;
12. Urges the Commission and the EEAS, with regard to the ongoing programming phase of the EU financial instruments, to increase its financial assistance to Russian civil society through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights and the civil-society organisations and local authorities funds, and to include the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum in the Partnership Instrument in order to ensure sustainable and credible long-term support;
13. Welcomes the decision of the board of governors of the EED to allow the Endowment to extend its work also to Russia;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the President, Government and Parliament of the Russian Federation.