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*Plenary sitting*

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7.7.2015

B8-0698/2015

## 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 Cambodia, draft laws on NGOs and trade unions  
(2015/2756(RSP))

**Cecilia Wikström, Filiz Hyusmenova, Louis Michel, Ivo Vajgl, Ramon Tremosa i Balcells, Pavel Telička, Marielle de Sarnez, Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz, Javier Nart, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Petras Auštrevičius, Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Juan Carlos Girauta Vidal, Frédérique Ries, Marietje Schaake, Robert Rochefort, Ivan Jakovčić, Jozo Radoš, Gérard Deprez, Nedzhmi Ali, Johannes Cornelis van Baalen, Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, Petr Ježek, Antanas Guoga, Urmas Paet, José Inácio Faria, Martina Dlabajová, Nathalie Griesbeck, Hannu Takkula, Catherine Bearder, Philippe De Backer**  
on behalf of the ALDE Group

**European Parliament resolution on Cambodia, draft laws on NGOs and trade unions (2015/2756(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions,
- having regard to its previous resolutions on Cambodia, in particular those of 23th October 2012 and 15th of January 2014,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948,
- having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) of 1966, to which Cambodia is a party,
- having regard to the statement by United Nations human rights expert Maina Kiai - first Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association - on the Cambodian draft Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations (LANGO) the 22th May 2015,
- having regard to the Cooperation Agreement between the EU and the Lao People's Democratic Republic of 1 December 1997,
- having regard to the 2008 EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders,
- having regard to the Cambodian Constitutional Council of 2007 recognition that International Human Rights Treaties form part of domestic Law,
- having regard to Rules 135 of its Rules of Procedure.

- A. whereas after 24 years of conflict and since the Paris Peace Accords in 1991, Cambodia has made insufficient progress in strengthening democracy, human rights and the rule of law;
- B. whereas the right of freedom of expression is established on article 41 of Cambodian Constitution and the right of political participation is established on article 35 of the Cambodian Constitution;
- C. whereas an active civil society is one of the main pillars for the development of any country;
- D. whereas the right to freedom of peaceful assembly is enshrined in Cambodia's constitution, in Article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in Article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- E. whereas the Cambodian civil society situation has worsened since the general elections held in July 2013 with the Cambodian Government increasingly criticising and constraining all civil society organizations engaged with human rights, advocacy and transparency issues;
- F. whereas the Cambodian Government has failed to disclose and share the content of the draft Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations (LANGO) since December 2011 until June 2015;
- G. whereas the Cambodian Government has excluded the civil society from the process of drafting a law regulating civil society in Cambodia;
- H. whereas the draft Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations (LANGO) released in June 2015 establishes as mandatory the registration for all domestic and international associations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and criminalizes all actives by unregistered membership organizations;
- I. whereas the Cambodian Government through the Ministry of the Interior has full discretion over registration approval for domestic groups and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs over international groups, and the terms of the law could permit politically motivated dismissal of a registration application;
- J. whereas all Cambodian and international NGOs and international associations registered will be under a ambiguously defined obligation to maintain political neutrality enabling the Cambodian Government to deregister any organization for legitimate reporting or criticism on these grounds;
- K. whereas accountability and transparency are key elements on any legislative process in a democratic society;

- L. whereas the EU is Cambodia's single largest donor with a new allocation for the period 2014-2020 of EUR 410 million in grants helping, as example, to strengthen implement governance and administration reforms.
1. Urges the Cambodian Government to suspend without reservations the process leading towards promulgation of a Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations (LANGO);
  2. Urges the Cambodian Government to ensure the consultation of a wide spectrum of civil society stakeholders to ensure that any new draft Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations (LANGO) corresponds to Cambodia's constitutional and international human rights obligations;
  3. Calls on the international community to utilize all appropriate direct channels with the aim to encourage the Cambodian Government to suspend the publishing of the Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations (LANGO) and redraft it;
  4. Calls on the Cambodian government to stop any further preparations of any other draft laws aiming at shrinking the space of civil society, such as anti-trade union laws and cybercrime laws directed against the media;
  5. Calls on the Vice-President / High Representative to address this issue at the highest possible political level in her contacts with the Cambodian Government;
  6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Government and Parliament of Cambodia, the UN Human Rights Council and the governments and parliaments of other states in the region.