



Plenary sitting

B8-1018/2015

6.10.2015

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 situation in Thailand
(2015/2875(RSP))

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on behalf of the PPE Group

B8-1018/2015

**European Parliament resolution on situation in Thailand
(2015/2875(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Thailand,
 - having regard to the Local EU Statement of 24 September 2015 issued by the European Union Delegation issues in agreement with the EU Heads of Mission in Thailand,
 - having regard to the Statement of 2 April 2015 by the Spokesperson of the European External Action Service on developments in Thailand,
 - having regard to the Council conclusions on Thailand of 23 June 2014,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966,
 - having regard to Rule 135 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 22 May 2014 a military coup was staged in Thailand;
- B. whereas there are reports about citizens being tried by military courts;
- C. whereas there are reports from NGOs and media about interference in their rights;
- D. whereas there are violent clashes between different groups in Thailand;
- E. whereas on 17 August 2015 a bomb attack in Bangkok killed and wounded Thai citizens and visiting tourists;
- F. whereas on 6 September 2015 the National Reform Council (NRC) rejected the proposal for a new Thai constitution;
1. Welcomes the EU's strong commitment to the Thai people with whom the EU has strong and longstanding political, economic and cultural ties; stresses that the EU, as a friend and partner of Thailand, has repeatedly called for the democratic process to be restored;
 2. Strongly condemns the bomb attack in Bangkok; expresses its sincere condolences to the families of the victims;
 3. Notes with concern that the rejected draft constitution introduced a National Strategic Reform and Reconciliation Committee, which would not have guaranteed a proper division of powers; notes however that the draft constitution did foresee a proportional electoral system;
 4. Notes with concern that elections have to be postponed; calls upon the Thai government to

publish a clear timeline for actions towards a new constitution;

5. Underlines that democracy can only be achieved by holding democratic, fair and transparent elections as well as by building legitimate governmental, judicial and parliamentary institutions;
6. Calls on the Thai government to appoint a new NRC in order to draft a new constitution as soon as possible; calls on the Thai government to appoint members of the NRC according to transparent and democratic principles and to include also opposition parties and movements to the NRC;
7. Calls for a constitution based on democratic principles such as equality, liberty, fair representation, transparency, accountability, human rights and rule of law; condemns the fact that civilians are tried by military courts;
8. Calls on the Thai authorities to follow up on recommendations made by the EU and other international organizations, which concern democracy and human rights;
9. Underlines the importance of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly as well as the universal right to stand up for one's political beliefs; stresses that during the process of drafting a constitution politicians, representatives of the media, international organizations and citizens must have the right to express their views freely;
10. Welcomes the acquittal on 1 September 2015 by the Phuket Provincial Court of the journalists Ms Chutima "Oi" Sidasathian and Mr Alan Morison;
11. Calls for a democratically elected government and a clear division of powers between all political actors; calls for an end to violence between different groups in society;
12. Welcomes Thailand's new role as country coordinator (2015-2018) for the ASEAN-EU relations; points to the mutual benefits ASEAN and EU gain from their cooperation;
13. Reiterates the importance of international dialogue and cooperation to enhance economic growth and democratic values; welcomes in this respect the appointment of Mr Apichart Chinwanno, former Thai Ambassador to the EU, as Permanent Secretary of the Thai Foreign Ministry;
14. Calls on the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to address the situation in the country with the Thai authorities without delay;
15. 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 Thailand, and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.