

12.3.2012

B7-0135/2012 }  
B7-0140/2012 }  
B7-0141/2012 }  
B7-0142/2012 }  
B7-0143/2012 } RC1/Am. 4

**Amendment 4**

**Paul Murphy**

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

**Joint motion for a resolution**

**PPE, S&D, ALDE, Verts/ALE, ECR**  
Kazakhstan

**Joint motion for a resolution**

**Recital C**

*Joint motion for a resolution*

C. whereas on 17 February 2012 the President of Kazakhstan *signed several laws aiming at improving the legal basis for labour relations, workers' rights and social dialogue and strengthening the independence of the judiciary*;

*Amendment*

C. whereas *the laws signed* on 17 February 2012 *by the* President of Kazakhstan, *in particular the amendments to the Labour Code, mark a severe regression in the field of labour relations, workers' rights and social dialogue, in that the amended Articles 55 and 74 allow dismissal of workers involved in strike action, the amended Article 185 reduces the rights of pregnant women, the amended Article 266 reduces rights to collective negotiations, the amended Article 284 removes the requirement for employers to provide medical insurance, the amended Article 287 removes the restriction on the dismissal of trade union representatives during strike negotiations, the amended Article 289 makes it more difficult for trade unions to decide on strike action, the amended Article 303 allows courts to intervene in labour disputes to declare strikes illegal, and the amended Article 305 legalises 'lock-outs', thus demonstrating further that while the Kazakhstan Government presents its new laws as bringing the country into line with*

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*modern international best practice, it is consciously and intentionally breaching many of the conditions required by the ILO and other international conventions;*

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12.3.2012

B7-0135/2012 }  
B7-0140/2012 }  
B7-0141/2012 }  
B7-0142/2012 }  
B7-0143/2012 } RC1/Am. 5

**Amendment 5**

**Paul Murphy, Marie-Christine Vergiat**  
on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

**Joint motion for a resolution**

**PPE, S&D, ALDE, Verts/ALE, ECR**  
Kazakhstan

**Joint motion for a resolution**

**Recital G**

*Joint motion for a resolution*

G. whereas *approximately* 43 people have been arrested *since December 2012* and are facing charges entailing sentences of up to six years, among them prominent leaders and activists from the oil workers' strike, including Talat Saktaganov, Roza Tuletaeva *and* Natalya Azhigalieva; whereas a number of young *people accused of Islamist activities* were arrested in the city of Uralsk on 3 February 2012 on suspicion of organising mass disorder in Zhanaozen;

*Amendment*

G. whereas, *according to information from the Investigation Committee of the Department of Internal Affairs in Aktau, at least* 43 people have been arrested and are facing charges entailing sentences of up to six years, among them prominent leaders and activists from the oil workers' strike, including Talat Saktaganov, Roza Tuletaeva, Natalya Azhigalieva, *Akzhanat Aminov, Yestai Karashaev, Aiman Ongarbaeva, Zhanara Saktaganova, Maksat Dosmagambetov and others;* whereas a number of young *non-conformist Muslims* were arrested *by the Committee of National Security (KNB)* in the city of Uralsk on 3 February 2012 on suspicion of organising mass disorder in Zhanaozen;

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12.3.2012

B7-0135/2012 }  
B7-0140/2012 }  
B7-0141/2012 }  
B7-0142/2012 }  
B7-0143/2012 } RC1/Am. 6

#### **Amendment 6**

**Paul Murphy, Marie-Christine Vergiat**  
on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

#### **Joint motion for a resolution**

**PPE, S&D, ALDE, Verts/ALE, ECR**  
Kazakhstan

#### **Joint motion for a resolution**

#### **Recital P**

##### *Joint motion for a resolution*

P. whereas during the last two months, the opposition parties and organisations Alga, Azat and the Socialist Movement of Kazakhstan, as well as independent media including the Vzglyad, Golos Republik and Respublika newspapers and the satellite TV channel STAN TV, and independent trade unions including the Zhanartu union and other civil society organisations, have become targets of intensified repression, with the detention inter alia of the leader of the Alga party Vladimir Kozlov *and* the editor-in-chief of Vzgyad Igor Vinyavski; whereas on 28 January around 1000 people in Almaty took part in an unauthorised protest against the repression, calling on the authorities to put an end to political persecution;

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##### *Amendment*

P. whereas during the last two months, the opposition parties and organisations Alga, Azat and the Socialist Movement of Kazakhstan, as well as independent media including the Vzglyad, Golos Republik and Respublika newspapers and the satellite TV channel STAN TV, and independent trade unions including the Zhanartu union and other civil society organisations, have become targets of intensified repression, with the detention inter alia of the leader of the Alga party, Vladimir Kozlov, the editor-in-chief of Vzgyad, Igor Vinyavski, ***leaders of the OSDP/Azat party Bolat Abilov and Amirzhan Kosanov and the prominent prison rights' campaigner Vadim Kuramshin, as well as the launch of criminal investigations against the leader of the Socialist Movement Kazakhstan, Ainur Kurmanov, and the leader of the Zhanartu trade union, Esenbek Ukteshbayev;*** whereas on 28 January around 1 000 people in Almaty took part in an unauthorised protest against the repression, calling on the authorities to

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put an end to political persecution;

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12.3.2012

B7-0135/2012 }  
B7-0140/2012 }  
B7-0141/2012 }  
B7-0142/2012 }  
B7-0143/2012 } RC1/Am. 7

**Amendment 7**

**Paul Murphy, Marie-Christine Vergiat**  
on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

**Joint motion for a resolution**

**PPE, S&D, ALDE, Verts/ALE, ECR**  
Kazakhstan

**Joint motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 1**

*Joint motion for a resolution*

*1. Stresses the importance of the relations between the EU and Kazakhstan and the strengthening of political and economic cooperation, including in strategic areas such as democracy, human rights, the environment, energy, trade and transport and in addition to the fight against terrorism, organised crime and drug trafficking; underlines that last year was marked by increased cooperation, frequent high-level meetings and the start of the negotiations for a new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement;*

*Amendment*

*1. Stresses that, owing to the recent significant regression by the Government of Kazakhstan in the fields of human rights, including prisoners' rights, the rule of law, electoral democracy, democratic freedoms and media freedom, and given the large-scale arrests of opposition activists, negotiations on the new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement should not be reactivated until significant progress on these issues has been made by the Government of Kazakhstan;*

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12.3.2012

B7-0135/2012 }  
B7-0140/2012 }  
B7-0141/2012 }  
B7-0142/2012 }  
B7-0143/2012 } RC1/Am. 8

#### Amendment 8

Paul Murphy, Marie-Christine Vergiat  
on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

#### Joint motion for a resolution

PPE, S&D, ALDE, Verts/ALE, ECR  
Kazakhstan

#### Joint motion for a resolution

#### Paragraph 9

##### *Joint motion for a resolution*

9. Urges the Kazakh authorities to make every effort to improve the human rights situation in their country; underlines that progress in the negotiation of the new enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Kazakhstan must depend on the progress of political reform; encourages Kazakhstan **to maintain** its declared commitment to further reforms, in order to build **up** an open and democratic society **including an** independent civil society **and** opposition, **respectful of fundamental rights and the rule of law**;

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##### *Amendment*

9. Urges the Kazakh authorities to make every effort to improve the human rights situation in their country; underlines that **any** progress in the negotiation of the new enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Kazakhstan must depend on the progress of political reform; encourages Kazakhstan **to deliver on** its **self-declared** commitment to further reforms, in order to build an open and democratic society **that respects fundamental human and labour rights and in which** independent civil society **organisations**, opposition **parties and organisations and independent trade unions can operate without harassment**; **notes that since the latest legislative elections three parties, all loyal to President Nazarbayev, have been represented in the new parliament; regrets that a number of opposition parties are still not being allowed to register and have therefore called for a boycott of the January elections; urges the Kazakh authorities to implement further reforms**

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*that are needed to ensure genuinely pluralistic elections and to support the functioning of the independent media, independent trade unions and the activities of NGOs;*

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B7-0135/2012 }  
B7-0140/2012 }  
B7-0141/2012 }  
B7-0142/2012 }  
B7-0143/2012 } RC1/Am. 9

**Amendment 9**

**Paul Murphy, Marie-Christine Vergiat**  
on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

**Joint motion for a resolution**

**PPE, S&D, ALDE, Verts/ALE, ECR**  
Kazakhstan

**Joint motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 10**

*Joint motion for a resolution*

10. ***Welcomes the legal changes in the last months aimed at broadening the range of parties which can submit parliamentary candidates;*** notes that since the latest legislative elections three parties have been represented in the new parliament; regrets that a number of opposition parties are not being allowed to register, ***and encourages*** the Kazakh authorities to undertake the further reforms that are needed to ensure genuinely pluralistic elections and to support the functioning of the independent media and the activities of NGOs;

*Amendment*

10. Notes that since the latest legislative elections three parties, ***all loyal to President Nazarbayev***, have been represented in the new parliament; regrets that a number of opposition parties are ***still*** not being allowed to register ***and have therefore called for a boycott of the January elections;*** ***urges*** the Kazakh authorities to ***implement*** further reforms that are needed to ensure genuinely pluralistic elections and to support the functioning of the independent media, ***independent trade unions*** and the activities of NGOs;

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B7-0135/2012 }  
B7-0140/2012 }  
B7-0141/2012 }  
B7-0142/2012 }  
B7-0143/2012 } RC1/Am. 10

**Amendment 10**

**Paul Murphy, Marie-Christine Vergiat**  
on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

**Joint motion for a resolution**

**PPE, S&D, ALDE, Verts/ALE, ECR**  
Kazakhstan

**Joint motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 13**

*Joint motion for a resolution*

13. Expresses its indignation at the incarceration of opposition leaders *and* journalists *since January 2012*, and calls on the Kazakh authorities to end the clampdown on the opposition and the independent media in the country and release all persons incarcerated on political grounds, including the leader of the Alga party Vladimir Kozlov, the editor-in-chief of the Vzglyad newspaper Igor Vinyavskiy, *and the lawyer of the striking oil workers Natalia Sokolova*, as well as all persons mentioned in recent EU statements in the OSCE Permanent Council who are still in detention; *calls for Mr Kozlov to be given access to his immediate family, including his wife, and for an independent assessment of his medical condition;*

*Amendment*

13. Expresses its indignation at the incarceration of opposition leaders, journalists, *trade unionists and human rights campaigners* and calls on the Kazakh authorities to end the clampdown on the opposition and the independent media in the country and release all persons incarcerated on political grounds, including the leader of the Alga party Vladimir Kozlov, the editor-in-chief of the Vzglyad newspaper Igor Vinyavskiy *and prison rights campaigner Vadim Kuramshin*, as well as all persons mentioned in recent EU statements in the OSCE Permanent Council who are still in detention; *notes the decision of the Supreme Court to reduce the sentence of the lawyer of the striking oil workers, Natalia Sokolova, and her release from prison, but insists that all charges against her should be dropped;*

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