



Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2008/2618(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on the death penalty, particularly the case of Troy Davis		
Subject 6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general		
Geographical area United States		

Key players	
European Parliament	

Key events			
10/07/2008	Results of vote in Parliament		
10/07/2008	Debate in Parliament		Summary
10/07/2008	Decision by Parliament	T6-0368/2008	Summary
10/07/2008	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2008/2618(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Urgent debate or resolution
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 135
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway					
Motion for a resolution		B6-0350/2008	08/07/2008	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0357/2008	08/07/2008	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0358/2008	08/07/2008	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0363/2008	08/07/2008	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0369/2008	08/07/2008	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0370/2008	08/07/2008	EP	
Joint motion for resolution		RC-B6-0350/2008	08/07/2008		

Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0368/2008	10/07/2008	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2008)4891	27/08/2008	EC	

Resolution on the death penalty, particularly the case of Troy Davis

Following the debate which took place during the sitting of 10 July 2008, the European Parliament adopted, by 52 votes to 0 with 1 abstention, a resolution on the death penalty, particularly the case of Troy Davis. The resolution had been tabled for consideration in plenary by the EPP-ED, PES, ALDE, UEN, Greens/EFA and GUE/NGL groups. Troy Davis is sentenced to death by the Georgia State Court in 1991 for the murder of a policeman and scheduled to be executed at the end of July 2008. Parliament recalls that, according to Troy Davis' lawyers, there is abundant proof of his innocence, material evidence against him has never been produced and seven witnesses for the prosecution have retracted their testimony. On 4 August 2007 the Supreme Court of Georgia agreed to reconsider new elements casting doubt on Troy Davis' guilt. The resolution recalls that in the United States the power of clemency in cases where a capital sentence has been imposed exists as a failsafe against irreversible errors that the courts are unable or unwilling to remedy.

Parliament calls upon those countries where the death penalty is imposed to take the necessary steps towards its abolition. It asks that Troy Davis' death sentence be commuted and, in view of the abundant evidence which might lead to such commutation, for the relevant courts to grant him a retrial. Members appeal urgently to the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles to commute Troy Davis' death sentence. They call on the Presidency of the Council and the Delegation of the Commission to the United States to raise the issue as a matter of urgency with the US authorities.

Resolution on the death penalty, particularly the case of Troy Davis

The House held a debate, pursuant to Rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure (debates on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law), on the death penalty, particularly the case of Troy Davis.

The debate was followed by a vote on a motion for a resolution.