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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

pursuant to Rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure

by Edward McMillan Scott, Charles Tannock and Bernd Posselt

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on Egypt - the case of Dr Ayman Nour

European Parliament resolution on Egypt - the case of Dr Ayman Nour

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Euro-Mediterranean partnership,
- having regard to the Barcelona Declaration of November 1995,
- having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on reinvigorating EU actions on human rights and democratisation with Mediterranean partners - strategic guidelines,
- having regard to the first conference of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network in Cairo 26-27 January 2006,
- having regard to the work programme adopted at the Summit between the Heads of States and the Government in Barcelona in November 2005,
- having regard to the conclusions from 5th European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments, adopted on 26 November 2005 in Barcelona,
- having regard to the resolutions adopted by the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (APEM) 27 March 2006 and the declaration of its President,

A. Whereas the promotion of respect for democracy, human rights and civil liberties is a fundamental principle and objective for the European Union and constitutes a common ground for the development of the Euro-Mediterranean area;

B. Whereas the EU has defined a European Neighbourhood Policy aiming at strengthening the political dialogue and integrating partner countries into EU policies in order to promote peace, stability and democracy in neighbouring countries;

C. Whereas the first action plans with Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian National Authority adopted by the Council commit the Union and partner countries to a closer and all-encompassing dialogue and must follow a coherent and common regional approach; expects the adoption in June 2006 of the action plan concerning Egypt which is currently under negotiation;

D. Whereas the European Parliament attaches great importance to relations with Egypt and considers fair and transparent elections as the only way to make progress to a more democratic society;

E. Concerned by the waiving of the parliamentary immunity and the detention of Ayman

Nour, President of the Ghad Party in Egypt; recalls previous resolutions on the human rights issues including the case of Ayman Nour,

1. Underlines the importance of Egypt and EU-Egypt relations for the stability and development of the Euro-Mediterranean area and welcomes the process of political reform which the Egyptian authorities have undertaken to pursue;
2. Stresses that respect for human rights is a fundamental value of the EU-Egypt Association Agreement and reaffirms the importance of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership for promoting the rule of law and fundamental freedoms;
3. Stresses the positive and moderate role that Egypt plays in the Middle East Peace Process; calls on the Commission and the Council to strengthen this role;
4. Calls on the Egyptian Government to establish precise timetables and benchmarks in order to effectively monitor the progress of the implementation of the Action plan and thereby involve and consult organisations working within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network;
5. Is of the opinion that the lifting of the Emergency Laws is an absolute necessity for bringing about democracy;
6. Strongly supports measures to guarantee academic freedom, liberty of media and private religious belief, putting to an end the discrimination between citizens on grounds of sex, religion, race or any other grounds to be included in the Action Plan;
7. Expresses its concern about the growing role of radical islam in this area;
8. Calls for the release of Dr Nour and urges the Egyptian Government to reform the legal framework regulating elections in accordance with international standards providing for freedom and transparency, including facilitating the foundation of political groups and associations representing civil society;
9. Invites the Parliament of the Republic of Egypt to engage in a process of democratization, of enforcing the rule of law and human rights with a view to it playing a leading role in the region as a future model of parliamentary democracy;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission, the governments and the parliaments of the Member States and the Mediterranean countries signatories to the Barcelona declaration and the President of the Euro-Mediterranean Assembly.