

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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B6-0512/2005}  
B6-0522/2005}  
B6-0524/2005}  
B6-0525/2005}  
B6-0529/2005}  
B6-0532/2005}RC1

## **JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

pursuant to Rule 115(5) of the Rules of Procedure by

- Simon Busuttil, Simon Coveney, Bernd Posselt, Thomas Mann, Doris Pack and Zsolt László Becsey, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Pasqualina Napoletano, Alain Hutchinson and Véronique De Keyser, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Philippe Morillon, Thierry Cornillet, Frédérique Ries and Marios Matsakis, on behalf of the ALDE Group
- Hélène Flautre, Raül Romeva i Rueda and Daniel Marc Cohn-Bendit, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Francis Wurtz, Vittorio Agnoletto and Umberto Guidoni, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Ģirts Valdis Kristovskis, on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

PSE (B6-0512/2005)  
Verts/ALE (B6-0522/2005)  
GUE/NGL (B6-0524/2005)  
PPE-DE (B6-0525/2005)  
ALDE (B6-0529/2005)  
UEN (B6-0532/2005)

on Tunisia

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PE 361.941v01-00}  
PE 361.951v01-00}  
PE 361.953v01-00}  
PE 361.954v01-00}  
PE 364.055v01-00}  
PE 364.058v01-00} RC1

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## **European Parliament resolution on Tunisia**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement signed between the European Union and Tunisia, and in particular Article 2 thereof,
  - having regard to the UNDP's 2002, 2003 and 2004 reports on human development in the Arab world,
  - having regard to the Commission Communication of May 2003 entitled 'Reinvigorating EU actions on human rights and democratisation with Mediterranean partners',
  - having regard to the Commission Communication of April 2005 entitled 'Tenth Anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership: A work programme to meet the challenges of the next five years' (COM(2005) 139 final),
  - having regard to the EMPA resolution adopted in Cairo on 15 March 2005,
  - having regard to the statement made by the President of Parliament on 7 September 2005 on the decision to suspend the holding of the Congress of the Tunisian Human Rights League,
  - having regard to the statement by the Presidency of the European Union of 13 September 2005 on the obstacles placed in the way of the activities of the Tunisian Human Rights League (LTDH),
  - having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the primary aim of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership is to create an area of peace and stability founded on the principles of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy,
- B. whereas the European Union's neighbourhood policy is based on a mutually recognised commitment to shared values, such as democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights,
- C. pointing out, in that connection, that Tunisia and the European Union have jointly drawn up an action plan which lays down, among its priority measures, the strengthening of reforms to safeguard democracy and the rule of law and, in particular, the promotion of freedom of expression, freedom of opinion, freedom of association and the freedom to hold meetings,
- D. whereas the Parliament delegation responsible for relations with the Maghreb countries recently visited Tunis with the aim of strengthening parliamentary relations between Tunisia and the European Union,

- E. whereas Tunisia is certainly one of the region's most advanced countries in the area of economic, social and health policies and one which, moreover, recognised at a very early stage the principle of equality between men and women and the secular nature of the State,
- F. deeply concerned at the decision taken on 5 September 2005 to suspend the holding of the Congress of the LTDH, which was due to take place from 9 to 11 September 2005 in Tunis,
- G. having regard to the leading role which Tunisia, the first Mediterranean country to have signed an association agreement with the European Union, plays in the Euro-Mediterranean integration process,
- H. having regard to the recommendations made by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression,
  1. Welcomes the significant economic and social progress made in Tunisia, including in the areas of education and training, health and social security, and expresses its hope that this progress will be accompanied by similar advances in the areas of the strengthening of democracy, the rule of law, human rights, in particular freedom of expression and association, and judicial independence, which are part of the Barcelona Process *acquis*;
  2. Hopes that the political dialogue conducted between the EU and Tunisia in the context of the association agreement will continue to play a key role in promoting and improving human rights;
  3. Expresses its concern at the case of Maître Abbou and calls for his immediate release;
  4. Calls on the Tunisian authorities to provide all the requisite explanations concerning the case of the Zarsis Internet-users;
  5. Calls on the Tunisian authorities to allow the Tunisian Human Rights League (LTDH), the Union of Tunisian Journalists (SJT) and the Association of Tunisian Magistrates (AMT) to carry on their activities freely and to hold their congresses;
  6. Expresses its concern at the lack of progress towards the release of EU funding intended to provide financial support for the projects undertaken by the Tunisian Human Rights League (LTDH) and the IMED\AFTURD project on positive action for women's rights of citizenship and equal opportunities in the Maghreb, the project undertaken by Santé Sud and the modernisation plan for the justice system;
  7. Calls on the Tunisian Government to take immediate action to release the EU funding intended for the above-mentioned projects and rapidly to reach agreement on the modernisation plan for the justice system;
  8. Calls on the Council and Commission to work to improve the management of projects under the MEDA programme and EIDHR and urges the Commission to draw up the measures which will have to be taken if no progress is made towards the release of blocked funds;

9. Urges the Council and Commission to step up their political dialogue with Tunisia, which is based on mutual understanding and respect and has the aim of encouraging democracy, respect for human rights, the rule of law and good governance, by calling for the establishment of a fully operational EU-Tunisia Human Rights Subcommittee to discuss the overall human rights situation and, in particular, individual cases;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the Tunisian Government and Parliament.