

Amendment 35**Hermann Tertsch**

on behalf of the ECR Group

Report**A9-0424/2023****Nacho Sánchez Amor**Human rights and democracy in the world and the European Union's policy on the matter –
annual report 2023

(2023/2118(INI))

Motion for a resolution**Recital F***Motion for a resolution*

F. whereas the rules-based international order is being increasingly challenged by different actors *who*, working alone or through concerted action, are attempting to undermine multilateral organisations and subvert, circumvent or thwart the implementation of international humanitarian law and human rights law; whereas information manipulation and interference have become part of the arsenal that autocratic actors use to exert pressure on democratic values and norms, eroding checks on the abuse of power, increasing the incidence and severity of human rights violations and constricting spaces for civil society, independent media and democratic opposition movements;

Amendment

F. whereas the rules-based international order is being increasingly challenged by different actors, ***including governments, such as, notably, the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Cuba and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;*** *whereas these actors*, working alone or through concerted action, are attempting to undermine multilateral organisations and subvert, circumvent or thwart the implementation of international humanitarian law and human rights law; whereas information manipulation and interference have become part of the arsenal that autocratic actors use to exert pressure on democratic values and norms, eroding checks on the abuse of power, increasing the incidence and severity of human rights violations and constricting spaces for civil society, independent media and democratic opposition movements;

Or. en

Amendment 36

Hermann Tertsch, Jorge Buxadé Villalba, Karol Karski
on behalf of the ECR Group

Report

A9-0424/2023

Nacho Sánchez Amor

Human rights and democracy in the world and the European Union's policy on the matter –
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Motion for a resolution**Recital G***Motion for a resolution*

G. whereas the number of autocracies has increased, with 70 % of the world's population now living under authoritarian rule according to the University of Gothenburg¹³; whereas democratic backsliding has become a defining global trend in politics and includes established democracies, which still face problems of political polarisation, institutional dysfunction and threats to civil liberties; whereas this rise in authoritarianism, illiberalism and reactionary trends worldwide, including in the European Union, threatens the global rules-based order, the protection and promotion of human rights and democracy in the world, as well as the values and principles on which the European Union is founded;

Amendment

G. whereas the number of autocracies has increased, with 70 % of the world's population now living under authoritarian rule according to the University of Gothenburg¹³; whereas democratic backsliding has become a defining global trend in politics and includes established democracies, which still face problems of political polarisation, institutional dysfunction and threats to civil liberties; whereas this rise in authoritarianism, illiberalism and reactionary trends worldwide, including in the European Union, threatens the global rules-based order, the protection and promotion of human rights and democracy in the world, as well as the values and principles on which the European Union is founded;
whereas Russia poses an extremely serious threat to the stability of democracies in the EU, spreading misinformation and fake news in electoral campaigns and financing riots and acts of terrorism to support independence movements, such as the attempted coup d'état in 2017 in the Spanish region of Catalonia;

¹³ University of Gothenburg, 'The world is becoming increasingly authoritarian – but there is hope', 2 March 2023

¹³ University of Gothenburg, 'The world is becoming increasingly authoritarian – but there is hope', 2 March 2023

<https://www.gu.se/en/news/the-world-is-becoming-increasingly-authoritarian-but-there-is-hope>.

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Or. en

21.2.2024

A9-0424/37

Amendment 37

Hermann Tertsch, Karol Karski
on behalf of the ECR Group

Report

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Motion for a resolution

Recital G

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

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G. whereas the number of autocracies has increased, with 70 % of the world's population now living under authoritarian rule according to the University of Gothenburg¹³; whereas democratic backsliding has become a defining global trend in politics and includes established democracies, which still face problems of political polarisation, institutional dysfunction and threats to civil liberties; whereas this rise in authoritarianism ***has been most dramatic in the Pacific region, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, South America, and the Caribbean***; whereas it threatens the global rules-based order, the protection and promotion of human rights and democracy in the world, as well as the values and principles on which the European Union is founded;

¹³ University of Gothenburg, 'The world is becoming increasingly authoritarian – but there is hope', 2 March 2023
<https://www.gu.se/en/news/the-world-is-becoming-increasingly-authoritarian-but-there-is-hope>.

¹³ University of Gothenburg, 'The world is becoming increasingly authoritarian – but there is hope', 2 March 2023
<https://www.gu.se/en/news/the-world-is-becoming-increasingly-authoritarian-but-there-is-hope>.

Or. en

Amendment 38

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Motion for a resolution**Paragraph 31***Motion for a resolution*

31. Condemns any action or attempt to instigate, authorise, systematise or consent or acquiesce to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions and extrajudicial killings under any circumstances, including law enforcement; calls on all countries to adopt and implement effective measures with a victim-oriented approach, to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, while ensuring accountability for perpetrators; and deplores the fact that their use continues to be widespread in many countries; notes with great concern the trend of increasing instances of torture worldwide and widespread impunity for its perpetrators; calls on all countries to systematically review their respective interrogation rules and protocols of conduct for law enforcement in line with international human rights standards;

Amendment

31. Condemns any action or attempt to instigate, authorise, systematise or consent or acquiesce to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions and extrajudicial killings under any circumstances, including law enforcement; ***strongly denounces, in this regard, the latest enforced disappearances in Venezuela, linked to this year's presidential election, such as that of Spanish citizen Rocío San Miguel and her relatives, as well as the recent deaths in prison of dissidents Alexei Navalny in Russia and Ihar Lednik in Belarus***; calls on all countries to adopt and implement effective measures with a victim-oriented approach, to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, while ensuring accountability for perpetrators; and deplores the fact that their use continues to be widespread in many countries; notes with great concern the trend of increasing instances of torture worldwide and widespread impunity for its perpetrators; calls on all countries to systematically review their respective interrogation rules and protocols of conduct for law enforcement in line with international human rights standards;

Amendment 39**Hermann Tertsch, Karol Karski**

on behalf of the ECR Group

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Motion for a resolution**Paragraph 34***Motion for a resolution**Amendment*

34. Notes that the right to actively and passively participate in free, transparent and fair elections is not respected in authoritarian, totalitarian and illiberal regimes but also more and more obstacles to the full enjoyment of such rights are present in a number of democratic countries; highlights that these regimes conduct fake elections with the aim of entrenching their power, as they lack real political contestation, legitimacy and pluralism; calls for the efforts to guarantee the public participation of minorities, as well as to increase representation of women and young people in electoral processes, to be strengthened; highlights the role of the European Union Election Observation Missions in the independent and impartial evaluation of the electoral processes they monitor; calls for follow-up to the adoption and implementation of the recommendations of these electoral observation missions in third countries, and for them to be included as a key element in the framework of relations between the EU and the third country in question; notes that there is an increasingly frequent scenario of countries refusing to invite the EU to observe their elections and calls on the EEAS to address the situation;

34. Notes that the right to actively and passively participate in free, transparent and fair elections is not respected in authoritarian, totalitarian and illiberal regimes but also more and more obstacles to the full enjoyment of such rights are present in a number of democratic countries; highlights that these regimes conduct fake elections with the aim of entrenching their power, as they lack real political contestation, legitimacy and pluralism; ***calls to mind the case of Venezuela, where the Maduro regime recently barred opposition candidate María Corina Machado from running in the upcoming presidential election***; calls for the efforts to guarantee the public participation of minorities, as well as to increase representation of women and young people in electoral processes, to be strengthened; highlights the role of the European Union Election Observation Missions in the independent and impartial evaluation of the electoral processes they monitor; calls for follow-up to the adoption and implementation of the recommendations of these electoral observation missions in third countries, and for them to be included as a key element in the framework of relations between the EU and the third country in question; notes that

there is an increasingly frequent scenario of countries refusing to invite the EU to observe their elections and calls on the EEAS to address the situation;

Or. en

Amendment 40

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on behalf of the ECR Group

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Motion for a resolution**Paragraph 76***Motion for a resolution*

76. Stresses that human rights clauses should apply in a coherent manner to all EU international agreements with third countries, including sectoral and investment agreements, and that these should be monitored closely and backed by a clear set of benchmarks and procedures to be followed in the event of human rights violations, and provide a basis for engaging with a third country on human rights in a practical and flexible manner; notes that until 2014 the EU formally activated the human rights clauses on two dozen occasions and since then it has only adopted 'appropriate measures' under these clauses on one occasion; reiterates that in the face of serious and persistent breaches of human rights clauses by its partner countries the EU should react swiftly and decisively, and as an ultimate course of action, by suspending the relevant agreements if other options prove ineffective;

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1a Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Cuba,

of the other part, OJ L 337, 13.12.2016, p. 3.

Or. en