

20 July 1999

B5-0026/99

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council statement

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members:
Oostlander, Langen and van Velzen

on behalf of the PPE Group

on the death sentence on Mr Öcalan and the future of the Kurdish question in Turkey

G:\DOC_SEAN\B5-99\B5-0026.99\en

PE 279.926
Or. en

B5-0026/99**Resolution on the death sentence on Mr Öcalan and the future of the Kurdish question in Turkey**The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Turkey and the Kurdish question, in particular its resolutions of 25 February 1999 and of 6 May 1999,
 - having regard to the debate in the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly of 27 April 1999,
- A. whereas the Court in Ankara has condemned Mr Öcalan to the death penalty,
- B. having regard to the imprisonment of the chairman of the Human Rights Association, Mr Akin Birdal, and the publisher Mr Muzaffer İlhan Erdost, pursuant to Article 8 of the anti-terrorism law,
- C. whereas all States applying to join the EU must fulfil the Copenhagen criteria, which require achievement of 'stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights, respect for and promotion of minorities',
- D. whereas the Kurdish minority in Turkey is subject to legal and social discrimination,
- E. whereas the PKK have used violence and terrorism as instruments of political action,
1. Affirms its strong opposition to the death sentence on Mr Öcalan;
 2. Calls on the Turkish Authorities not to execute the penalty;
 3. Calls on the PKK to put a stop to violence and terrorism and to collaborate in the search for peace in Turkey;
 4. Expresses the hope that the Turkish Grand National Assembly will continue its efforts to change the current *de facto* moratorium on executions into formal abolition of the death penalty in Turkey;
 5. Reiterates its expectation that the Turkish authorities will provide guarantees for the humane treatment of Mr Öcalan;
 6. Doubts the fairness of the trial against Mr Öcalan because of the procedure used by the State Security Court;
 7. Welcomes the steps which have been taken to bring the functioning of Turkish institutions in line with common European practice, such as the recent revision of the Turkish Constitution regarding the composition of the Turkish State Security Courts;

8. Calls on the Council and Commission to provide it with a regular and detailed report on the trial of Mr Öcalan;
9. Asks the Turkish Government to address the causes of the conflict in Turkey by promoting both the urgent and necessary reforms of the political and legal system and economic and social development in the Kurdish areas of Turkey;
10. Notes, in this context, the statement by the President of the Constitutional Court calling for constitutional and legal reforms guaranteeing the fundamental right to free expression;
11. Calls on the Commission and Council to take all necessary measures to assist in the promotion of such a reform programme;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the United Nations, the Turkish Government, the Turkish Grand National Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.