



EUROPEAN LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
LES LIBERAUX DEMOCRATES EUROPEENS
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT EUROPEEN

Strasbourg, 2 July 2001

35-504/01

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the debate on topical and urgent subjects of major importance pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by Cecilia Malmström and Francesco Rutelli on behalf of the ELDR Group

on Death Penalty in the World

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the abolition of the death penalty,
 - having regards to its Annual Report on Human Rights in the World in 2000 and the European Union human rights policy,
 - having regard to the "guidelines on EU policy to third countries on the death penalty" adopted by the Council of Ministers in June 1998, advocating universal and unconditional abolition of the death penalty,
 - having regard to the European Charter of Fundamental Rights, proclaimed in Nice on 7 December 2000, which reiterates that no one may be condemned to the death penalty or executed,
 - Having regard to the second optional protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty,
 - having regard to the Strasbourg appeal signed by Presidents of national and international parliaments issued at the first World congress against the death penalty which took place the 21, 22 and 23 June 2001,
- A. Convinced that the death penalty is an inadequate form of punishment, especially as there are ways of combating serious crime without failing to respect human rights, since there is no evidence that this penalty is a more effective deterrent than others,
- B. Convinced that the death penalty is often applied in a discriminatory manner,

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OR

1. Strongly believes that the death penalty is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment;
2. Strongly supports the large-scale movement in favour of abolishing the death penalty which has led already to its elimination in more than half the countries of the world;
3. Supports the guidelines to EU policy towards third countries on the death penalty;
4. Reiterates that the application of the death penalty to persons under 18 years and the mentally retarded contravenes the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as customary international law;
5. Calls upon all States that still maintain the death penalty progressively to restrict the number of offences for which the death penalty may be imposed and to establish without delay a moratorium on executions, with a view to completely abolishing the death penalty;
6. Reiterates firmly its request to the United States, China, Saudi Arabia, Congo, Iran and other States to end all executions;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the United Nations organisation and to the governments and parliaments of the countries referred to in the resolution.

PP. Cecilia Malmström
Francesco Rutelli

