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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

by Ilka Schröder

on the justification, legalisation or rehabilitation of torture in Germany

Motion for a European Parliament resolution on the justification, legalisation or rehabilitation of torture in Germany

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Part I of the UN Convention against Torture,
 - having regard to the European Convention on Human Rights and Article 6 of the EU Treaty,
 - having regard to Amnesty International's annual reports on Germany
 - having regard to the 1996 study 'Police and Foreigners', commissioned by the Standing Conference of Interior Ministers of German Länder
- A. deeply concerned over public justifications of the threat of torture by leading figures in the German police, legal system and politics, in particular the Deputy Commissioner of Frankfurt police Wolfgang Daschner, the Chairman of the German Federation of Judges Geert Mackenroth, the Chairman of the German Federation of Criminal Investigators Holger Bernsee, the Prime Minister of Hesse Roland Koch and Brandenburg's Interior Minister Jörg Schönbohm,
- B. appalled that individual representatives of the German state have even gone so far as to suggest the use of torture in exceptional circumstances as a possible means of obtaining information,
- C. alarmed that a public debate on the legalisation or rehabilitation of torture in certain circumstances is currently taking place in Germany,
- D. having regard to numerous cases of the use of violence at German police stations,
1. Condemns any attempt to justify, legalise or rehabilitate torture, regardless of the circumstances, and calls for strict adherence to the existing Conventions;
 2. Calls on the Council and the Commission to take all available measures to prevent the legalisation or rehabilitation of torture or of the threat of torture, even in exceptional circumstances;
 3. Calls on the Council and Member States to appeal to the international committee set up to monitor the UN Convention against Torture to investigate the situation in Germany.