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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

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

by Yasmine Boudjenah, Lucio Manisco, Uca Felekнас, Marianne Eriksson,
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on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the death penalty

European Parliament resolution on the death penalty

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the death penalty,
 - having regard to its resolutions on human rights in the world and fundamental rights in the European Union,
 - having regard to Protocol 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights,
 - having regard to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, despite international reaction, too many countries continue to enforce the death penalty, notably China, Saudi Arabia, the United States and Iran,
- B. considering the high number of judicial errors that culminate in application of the death penalty,
- C. whereas in relations between the EU and third countries there is a need to affirm the priority to be given to measures aimed at abolition of the death penalty,
- D. taking account of the Strasbourg appeal adopted at the first world congress on abolition of the death penalty in June 2001,
1. Reaffirms its call for the death penalty to be abolished throughout the world;
 2. Welcomes the fact that abolition of the death penalty has received strong support from international opinion as an integral part of human rights;
 3. Welcomes the increase in the number of abolitionist countries and calls on all states to introduce a moratorium on executions of those condemned to death and to take steps towards abolition of the death penalty in their legislation;
 4. Calls on the Commission, the Council and the Member States to assist adoption by the United Nations of a universal moratorium on the death penalty leading rapidly to abolition of the death penalty;
 5. Calls on the Commission to consider abolition of the death penalty as an essential aspect of relations between the EU and third countries;
 6. Calls on the Council of Europe to refuse observer status to countries that still apply the death penalty;
 7. Calls on the states that have abolished or no longer practise the death penalty not to carry out extraditions to countries that apply the death penalty, whatever the assurances given;

8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the present and future Member States.