

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Session document

9.5.2005

B6-0299/2005

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Bernadette Bourzai

on behalf of the PSE Group

on the situation in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia

European Parliament resolution on the situation in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the partnership and cooperation agreements with Kyrgyzstan and other Central Asian countries, especially Article 2 of these agreements,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on Kyrgyzstan and other Central Asian countries,
 - having regard to the results of the meeting of the EU-Kyrgyzstan Cooperation Council held in Brussels in July 2004,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. having regard to the context of the democratic development experienced by the former Soviet republics, Kyrgyzstan's particular situation in relation to its proximity to Russia and the relatively peaceful nature of the demonstrations in March 2005, which were primarily caused by an extremely unfavourable economic and social situation,
- B. whereas the opposition's objections to the government in power since 1991 – nepotism and corruption in the President's entourage and fraud in the parliamentary elections in February and March 2005 – are justified,
- C. whereas President Askar Akayev's flight to Moscow and his official resignation on 4 April, which was accepted by the Kyrgyz parliament on 11 April 2005, clearly show that he no longer had the necessary support to govern the country,
- D. having regard to Kyrgyzstan's vital role in the political stability of the entire Central Asian region, and its strategic importance,
- E. having regard to the forthcoming presidential elections, due to be held on 3 July 2005 according to the latest reports, and future parliamentary elections,
- F. whereas the European Union and the United States have often accepted a lack of democratic progress in the region on the pretext that stability can also be ensured by authoritarian governments,
- G. whereas the Central Asian republics undoubtedly play a role in the fight against international terrorism and religious fundamentalism and they occupy a preponderant place in the field of energy,
- H. whereas most of the Central Asian countries suffer human rights violations, because of the lack of an appropriate judicial system and because of the restrictions imposed on the opposition parties, independent civil society civic bodies and freedom of the media,
1. Intends to firmly support the current democratic transition in Kyrgyzstan, the effective exercise of freedoms – especially fundamental rights, freedom of expression, freedom to oppose the regime and press freedom – and genuine, transparent elections;

2. Calls on the European Union to make a firm commitment to the establishment of this democratic process by supporting the various OSCE and TACIS programme measures: the holding and observation of elections, police reform, assistance with legal and administrative institutional reforms and assistance for economic and social development;
3. Applauds the efforts by civil society in Kyrgyzstan to obtain real change after years of oppression; believes that such hopes also exist in the civil societies of other countries in the region;
4. Considers that a real democratic process in Kyrgyzstan would set an excellent example for the other Central Asian countries;
5. Calls on the Kyrgyz Interim Government to steer a democratic course by embarking on a policy of dialogue and national reconciliation;
6. Calls on the Kyrgyz Interim Government to establish a 'fully' democratic system by granting complete freedom of action to all political parties and independent NGOs and by guaranteeing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
7. Points out that, as the European Parliament, to ensure elections are free and fair it has to be ready to provide help in close cooperation with the OSCE if the Kyrgyz authorities request it, and that it considers that free elections without fraud, on the basis of OSCE criteria, are the best guarantee of the future government's legitimacy and stability;
8. Considers that the Central Asian governments would give a clear signal of a genuine wish for democratic change in the region if they were to free all political prisoners and permit freedom of activity and independence of the media;
9. Calls in particular on the Government of Kazakhstan to withdraw the petition concerning the banning of an opposition party and to protect citizens' rights, especially freedom of association, so as to restore equality with a view to the presidential elections in 2006;
10. Calls on the Council to improve its policy in Central Asia and to continue its political support for a genuine democratic process, particularly by further financial aid;
11. Invites the Commission to strengthen the TACIS Democracy Programmes for the Central Asian republics, in order to develop and consolidate civil support for independent media;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission, to the Presidents of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Russia and the United States and to the presiding officers of their parliaments, and to the Secretary-General of the OSCE.