

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Session document

23.1.2008

B6-0048/2008

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statements by the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Commission

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

by Pasqualina Napoletano, Christa Prets, Libor Rouček and Vicente Miguel Garcés Ramón

on behalf of the PSE Group

on Iran

B6-0048/2008

European Parliament resolution on Iran

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Iran, notably those concerning the nuclear issue and human rights, and in particular the resolutions adopted on 13 October 2005, 17 November 2005, 15 February 2006 and 25 October 2007,
- having regard to the conclusions of the European Council, in particular those of 14 December 2007,
- having regard to UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions 1696 (31 July 2006), 1737 (27 December 2006) and 1747 (24 March 2007) on the Iranian nuclear programme,
- having regard to the Work Plan agreed between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) aimed at clearing up issues relating to Iran's nuclear programme (Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement in the Islamic Republic of Iran COV/2007/48 (30 August 2007), and attachment INFCIRC/711),
- having regard to the IAEA Board of Governors' reports, and in particular that (GOV/207/58) of 15 November 2007 on the implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement and relevant provisions of UNSC Resolutions 1737 and 1747 in the Islamic Republic of Iran,
- having regard to the US National Intelligence Estimate report on Iran's Nuclear Intentions and Capabilities published on 3 December 2007 and the statement (press release 2007/22) by the IAEA Director-General on this issue,
- having regard to UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 61/176 of 19 December 2006 and, in particular, to UNGA Resolution 62/168 on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, adopted on 18 December 2007,
- having regard to the UNGA resolution on a moratorium on the death penalty adopted on 18 December 2007,
- having regard to the 2nd EP-Iran interparliamentary meeting held in Tehran from 7 to 9 December 2007,
- having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

On the nuclear issue:

- A. whereas Article IV of the NPT states 'that nothing in this Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all Parties to the Treaty to develop research, production

and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I and II of this Treaty',

- B. whereas Iran has not so far suspended all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities and has not implemented the NPT Additional Protocols, as it has been required to do by UNSC Resolutions 1696/2006, 1737/2006 and 1747/2007 in order to restore confidence in the entirely peaceful nature of its programme,
- C. whereas the latest discussions held in London on 30 November 2007 between EU High Representative, Javier Solana, and the Iranian nuclear negotiator, Saeed Jalili, did not produce a positive outcome, particularly on the fulfilment by Iran of the requirements imposed by the UN Security Council to suspend nuclear enrichment,
- D. whereas IAEA Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei, in the latest report (GOV/207/58) of 15 November 2007, noted that progress has been made on the implementation of IAEA safeguards in Iran and that Iran has provided more information on past aspects of its nuclear programme; whereas, nevertheless, he underscored that more cooperation was needed to explain current activity, including traces of highly-enriched uranium that inspectors have found at nuclear sites, and whereas he urged Iran to implement the additional protocol at the earliest possible date,
- E. whereas the US National Intelligence Estimate (US NIE), in its report published on 3 December 2007, has established that Iran, having stopped its nuclear weapons programme in 2003, had not restarted it as of mid-2007, notwithstanding the concerns regarding the enrichment of uranium and its potential future use for nuclear weapons,
- F. whereas the adoption of UNSC Resolutions 1737 and 1747 requires further political and diplomatic initiatives by the international community in order to achieve concrete progress,
- G. whereas the G8 leaders, at their annual summit held from 6 to 8 June 2007, stressed the importance of developing and implementing a mechanism of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle as a possible alternative to pursuing national enrichment and reprocessing activities,

On human rights:

- H. whereas all relevant international institutions, international human rights organisations, Iranian civil society and human rights defenders agree that the situation in Iran regarding human rights has worsened in recent years, despite several undertakings by the Iranian authorities to promote universal values,
- I. whereas the number of executions in Iran, including those of minors and homosexuals, often by public hanging, has dramatically increased in recent years and in particular in 2007,
- J. whereas in recent months journalists, women's rights activists, trade unionists, intellectuals, students and teachers have been arrested, detained and often tortured,

- K. whereas repression of and discrimination against ethnic and religious groups which exercise their right freely to express their opinions and religious beliefs are growing, in particular against Kurds (about 500 persons have been imprisoned, most of them students), against Arabs and against members of the Baha'i and Sufi faiths,
- L. whereas dozens of students have been detained over the last few months following protests against the replacement of scores of professors and other actions intended to further limit freedom of expression on university campuses, including the banning of a number of student publications and suspensions and expulsions of students from their places of higher education,
- M. whereas Iran is still not a party to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

On EU-Iran relations:

- N. whereas the Comprehensive Dialogue between the EU and Iran was suspended by Iran in December 2003 and no meeting in the framework of the EU-Iran Human Rights Dialogue has taken place since June 2004,
- O. whereas the EU's relations with Iran in recent years have been based on a threefold approach characterised by negotiations on a Trade and Cooperation Agreement, political dialogue and a human rights dialogue, and whereas these three aspects cannot be separated,
- P. whereas the European Commission does not have any contractual relations with Iran and there is no European Commission Delegation in Iran,

On the nuclear issue:

1. Expresses its support for the EU efforts to find a negotiated long-term solution to the nuclear issue with Iran and underlines the important role to be played by the IAEA; expresses its concern that the latest discussions between the EU's High Representative for the CFSP, Javier Solana, and the Iranian nuclear negotiator, Saeed Jalili, did not result in tangible progress;
2. Notes the progress made on the implementation of the IAEA-Iran Work Plan and urges Iran to continue to cooperate with the IAEA and provide full, clear and credible answers on its past and current nuclear activities and ratify and implement the Additional Protocols; emphasises, further, that carrying out these actions and the transparency measures as requested by the IAEA would constitute a positive step towards building confidence concerning Iran's nuclear programme;
3. Expresses its support for any political and diplomatic initiatives that, as stated in UNSC Resolutions 1696, 1737 and 1747, are intended to lead to a negotiated settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue; endorses the European Council conclusions of 14 December 2007 on the debates currently being conducted in the UNSC in order to achieve the objectives

of those resolutions;

4. Reiterates its position that a solution to the current escalation in the nuclear issue is possible and that no military action should be considered; calls on the US Administration and all other actors involved to renounce any rhetoric on military options and regime change policies against Iran;
5. Recognises that Iran has the right to develop a nuclear programme in conformity with Article IV of the NPT and considers that the initiatives and proposals put forward by the EU and other international partners for cooperation with Iran in the field of nuclear energy for peaceful uses could contribute to finding a solution to the present crisis;
6. Notes the recent US NIE findings on the Iranian military and civilian nuclear programme; considers that these findings confirm the EU policy of a twin-track approach designed to convince Iran diplomatically to comply fully with the IAEA requests to abandon the potential military use of the civilian programme in a credible and controllable way;
7. Urges Iran, therefore, to enter without delay into a new round of negotiations on the future direction of its nuclear programme and to suspend all enrichment-related activities; calls on the USA, following its diplomatic success in the negotiations with North Korea, to participate directly in negotiations with Iran along with the EU, since it is in a position to offer additional security guarantees;
8. Calls for credible steps towards multilateral nuclear disarmament through a strengthening of the NPT and calls on the EU to take the lead in ending the current deadlock in the nuclear disarmament negotiations;
9. Stresses the importance of cooperation with the USA, Russia, China and non-aligned countries in order to consider complementary concepts with a view to achieving a comprehensive agreement with Iran on its nuclear facilities and their use which takes Iran's security concerns into account;
10. Considers that such a comprehensive agreement should help to establish a sustainable regional security system comprising India, Pakistan and other nuclear powers, and believes that Iran should assume its responsibilities as a regional player and contribute to a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction;
11. Calls on the international community to think seriously about and act urgently on the creation of a new multilateral framework for the utilisation of nuclear energy, guaranteeing supplies of nuclear fuel whilst minimising the risk of proliferation, as proposed by the IAEA;

On human rights:

12. Expresses its grave concern at the deterioration in the human rights situation in Iran in recent years, the dramatic increase in the repression of all groups which exercise their right to freely express their opinions and the ever tighter restrictions on freedom of the press and freedom of expression in Iran, and recalls its resolution of 25 October 2007 on

the issue;

13. Condemns the death penalty as such and in particular death sentences passed against and executions of juvenile offenders and minors; calls on Iran to apply the recently adopted UNGA resolution on a moratorium on executions with the ultimate goal of abolishing the death penalty; recalls Iran's international commitments, specifically the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, both clearly prohibiting the execution of minors or people who were convicted of crimes committed while they were minors; calls on the Iranian authorities urgently to amend the penal code in order to transform the moratorium on stoning into a definitive ban;
14. Welcomes the UNGA resolution adopted on 18 December 2007 on a moratorium on the death penalty calling for a global moratorium to be introduced as a step towards the abolition of the death penalty;
15. Condemns the treatment of religious and ethnic minorities, such as the Kurdish and Arab ethnic minorities and members of the Baha'i and Sufi faiths, who are discriminated against and harassed and persecuted owing to their religious beliefs and ethnic backgrounds; calls, therefore, on the international community to draw attention to the worsening of the situation of ethnic and religious minorities in Iran;
16. Reminds the Iranian Government of its obligations, as a signatory to the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to safeguard fundamental human rights, notably freedom of opinion, and calls for the release of all imprisoned journalists, students, defenders of women's rights and prisoners, intellectuals and trade unionists;
17. Calls on the Council Presidency, the Commission and the Member States' diplomatic representatives in Iran urgently to undertake concerted action with regard to the above-mentioned concerns;
18. Calls on the Commission, in close cooperation with the European Parliament, to make effective use of the new Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights in order to promote democracy and respect for human rights in Iran by supporting the various components of civil society, such as women's rights, economic and social rights, uncensored media and cultural dialogue with European counterparts;

On EU-Iran relations:

19. Underlines that the possible future conclusion of a Cooperation and Trade Agreement between Iran and the EU depends on a substantial improvement in Iran's human rights situation and on Iran's full cooperation with the IAEA and the provision of objective guarantees regarding the peaceful nature of its nuclear programme;
20. Calls on the Commission to submit a communication on the situation in and the prospects for EU-Iran relations and to consider the possibility of restarting the human rights dialogue, in parallel with negotiations on a Cooperation and Trade Agreement which could be concluded if Iran makes essential progress in the field of human rights and on

the nuclear issue;

21. Asks the Commission to establish a delegation in Iran in order to step up talks concerning refugee aid and the fight against drug trafficking and promote dialogue with the authorities and civil society;
22. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the High Representative for the CFSP, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the United Nations Secretary-General, the UNSC, the UN Commission on Human Rights, the Head of the State Supreme Court of Iran and the Government and Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran.