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## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

with request for inclusion in the agenda for the debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure

by Jaromír Kohlíček

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the arrest of demonstrators following the presidential elections in Russia

**European Parliament resolution on the arrest of demonstrators following the presidential elections in Russia**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous reports and resolutions on Russia,
  - having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the two recent elections and election campaigns in Russia, the December 2007 State Duma elections and the March 2008 Presidential elections, have failed to meet international and European standards, notably OSCE and Council of Europe commitments and standards for democratic elections,
- B. whereas the recent elections also have shown that Russia's own constitutional and legislative stipulations on democracy remain poorly applied and subject to arbitrary rulings by those in power, contributing to the weakening of the rule of law in Russia,
- C. whereas the 'staged' elections are part of a worrying trend to clamp down on civil society, increased political control of the judiciary and other restrictive measures aimed at the opposition and at civil society,
1. Regrets the failure to use the recent elections to strengthen democracy and the rule of law in Russia and points out that the grave shortcomings in the democratic process devalue the democratic legitimacy of both the State Duma and of the new President;
  2. Reminds Russia of its commitments and responsibilities as a member of the OSCE and of the Council of Europe;
  3. Condemns the clamp-down and brutal arrest in Moscow and St Petersburg on 3 March 2008 of prominent opposition leaders and activists, who were expressing their discontent with the lack of democracy in the country;
  4. Equally deplores the arrest of the leader of the Yabloko party, Maksim Reznik, in St Petersburg on 3 March 2008 for alleged assault on three police officers and the subsequent court ruling of a two months' detention sentence;
  5. Calls on the Russian authorities to release any opposition activist in detention and to refrain from politically instigated judicial proceedings aimed at the opposition;
  6. Calls on President-elect Dmitry Medvedev to duly implement his electoral pledges for greater democracy and rule of law; reminds the President-elect that the repressive measures taken against opposition parties and civil society risks posing a threat to Russia's democratic development and to the legitimacy of the Russian leadership;
  7. Underlines the fact that future EU-Russia cooperation must be built on the understanding that increasing economic interdependence requires equal progress as regards democracy, the rule of

law and respect for fundamental rights and freedoms; expresses its hope that President-elect Medvedev will pro-actively engage in seeking constructive solutions with European partners on global issues such as Kosovo, nuclear proliferation and climate change; voices its concern over recent Russian moves which could lead to a recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia;

8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Member States and the Parliament, Government and President of the Russian Federation.