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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0250/2019**

16.12.2019

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Council and the Commission

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation of the Uyghurs in China (China Cables)  
(2019/2945(RSP))

**Michael Gahler, Isabel Wiseler-Lima, Željana Zovko, David Lega**  
on behalf of the PPE Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation of the Uyghurs in China (China Cables)  
(2019/2945(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on China,
- having regard to the EU-China strategic partnership launched in 2003 and to the joint communication from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 22 June 2016 entitled ‘Elements for a new EU strategy on China’(JOIN(2016)0030),
- having regard to the EU guidelines on the promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief, adopted by the Foreign Affairs Council on 24 June 2013,
- having regard to the statement of 26 October 2018 by the Spokesperson of the European External Action Service (EEAS) on the situation in Xinjiang,
- having regard to the joint communication from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 12 March 2019 entitled ‘EU-China – A strategic outlook’(JOIN(2019)0005),
- having regard to the joint statement of the 21st EU-China summit of 9 April 2019,
- having regard to the EU-China dialogue on human rights, launched in 1995, and to the 37th round of this dialogue held in Brussels on 1 and 2 April 2019,
- having regard to Article 36 of the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China (PRC), which guarantees all citizens the right to freedom of religious belief, and to Article 4 thereof, which upholds the rights of minority nationalities,
- having regard to the concluding observations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination’s review of China,
- having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) of 16 December 1966,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948,
- having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas China Cables is an investigation into the surveillance and mass internment without charge or trial of Uyghur and other Muslim minorities in China’s Xinjiang province, based on leaked classified Chinese government documents;
- B. whereas the secret documents came to the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists via a chain of exiled Uyghurs; whereas the authenticity of the documents

was confirmed by several leading experts;

- C. whereas ‘tens of thousands to upwards of a million Uyghurs’ are being forced to undergo political ‘re-education’ in camps, for undetermined periods of time, and are being arbitrarily detained under the pretext of countering terrorism and religious extremism; whereas, according to some former detainees, treatment and conditions in the camps include crowded and unsanitary conditions, food deprivation, beatings and sexual abuse; whereas some re-education camps reportedly contain factories producing goods for export;
  - D. whereas the promotion of and respect for universal human rights, democracy and the rule of law should remain at the centre of the long-standing relationship between the EU and China, in accordance with the EU’s commitment to uphold these very same values in its external action and China’s expressed interest in adhering to them in its own development and international cooperation;
  - E. whereas the situation in Xinjiang, where 10 million Muslim Uyghurs and ethnic Kazakhs live, has rapidly deteriorated since stability and control of Xinjiang were made top priorities of the Chinese authorities, driven by both periodic terrorist attacks in, or allegedly connected to, Xinjiang by Uyghurs and the strategic location of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region for the Belt and Road Initiative;
  - F. whereas the Chinese Government has refused numerous requests from the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID), the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and other UN Special Procedures mandates to send independent investigators to Xinjiang;
  - G. whereas the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act was passed by the US Senate on 11 September 2019; whereas it would urge the Secretary of State to consider imposing visa and economic sanctions pursuant to the Global Magnitsky Act on PRC officials responsible for human rights abuses in Xinjiang;
  - H. whereas the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in 2019 was awarded to Uyghur economics professor Ilham Tohti, who was sentenced to life imprisonment on 23 September 2014 on the charge of alleged separatism, after being detained in January of the same year; whereas seven of his former students were also detained and sentenced to imprisonment of between three and eight years for alleged collaboration with Mr Tohti; whereas Ilham Tohti has always rejected separatism and violence, and has sought reconciliation based on respect for Uyghur culture;
- 1. Is deeply concerned about the credible reports of the treatment of Uyghurs and other minorities in Xinjiang, including mass detentions and surveillance;
  - 2. Calls on the Chinese Government to immediately end the practice of arbitrary detentions without charge, trial or conviction for a criminal offence of Uyghur and other Muslim minorities in Xinjiang, to close all camps and detention centres and to release the detained persons immediately and unconditionally;
  - 3. Calls on the Chinese Government to immediately release Sakharov Prize laureate Ilham Tohti and allow him to receive the prize at the European Parliament;

4. Calls on the Chinese authorities to allow free, meaningful and unhindered access to Xinjiang for journalists and international observers, including for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the mandate holders of the UN Human Rights Council Special Procedures;
5. Urges the Chinese Government to release the full details of persons disappeared in Xinjiang to their families;
6. Stresses that if products are produced in re-education camps they should be banned from EU markets;
7. Welcomes the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act; calls on the Council to consider adopting targeted sanctions against Chinese officials responsible for the crackdown in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region;
8. Underlines that at the 37th round of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue the system of political re-education camps established in Xinjiang was raised by the EU as a worrying development;
9. Urges China to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights signed in 1998 and to implement the recommendations of UN human rights bodies;
10. Calls for the EEAS to include the good practices of interreligious dialogue as a tool in its communication strategy towards third countries and to foster mediation in conflict situations for the protection of religious minorities and the freedom of religion and belief;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, and the Government and the Parliament of the Peoples' Republic of China.