

5.10.2020

B9-0309/24

Amendment 24

Roberta Metsola

on behalf of the PPE Group

Motion for a resolution

B9-0309/2020

Juan Fernando López Aguilar

on behalf of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

The rule of law and fundamental rights in Bulgaria

Motion for a resolution

Recital L c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Lc. whereas the President of Bulgaria, who is constitutionally bound by political neutrality, has taken a direct stance in opposing the government, has demanded its resignation and is using the ongoing protests as a platform for his position;

Or. en

5.10.2020

B9-0309/25

Amendment 25

Roberta Metsola

on behalf of the PPE Group

Motion for a resolution

B9-0309/2020

Juan Fernando López Aguilar

on behalf of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

The rule of law and fundamental rights in Bulgaria

Motion for a resolution

Recital M

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

M. whereas ***these revelations have led to large*** demonstrations and civil society protests ***which have run uninterrupted for more than three months, and have seen Bulgarians call for justice, respect for the rule of law, and an independent judiciary, and protest against the erosion of democracy and endemic corruption;*** whereas ***the protesters' demands included*** the resignation of the government and the Prosecutor General, as well as immediate parliamentary elections; whereas these protests have ***allegedly been met with disproportionate violence from the law enforcement authorities;***

M. whereas ***the recent*** demonstrations and civil society protests ***in Bulgaria are calling for an independent justice system and*** respect for the rule of law; whereas ***their*** demands ***include*** the resignation of the government and ***of*** the Prosecutor General, as well as immediate parliamentary elections; whereas these protests have ***taken place during a global pandemic that has redefined the rules on social distancing;***

Or. en

5.10.2020

B9-0309/26

Amendment 26

Roberta Metsola

on behalf of the PPE Group

Motion for a resolution

B9-0309/2020

Juan Fernando López Aguilar

on behalf of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

The rule of law and fundamental rights in Bulgaria

Motion for a resolution

Recital M a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Ma. whereas the right to protest is a fundamental right that cannot be subject to prohibition or control measures in a general and absolute way, and can only be restricted by legitimate, proportionate and necessary police measures, in exceptional circumstances; whereas no demonstration should be considered unprotected by this right; whereas priority must be given by law enforcement authorities to voluntary dispersal without the use of force; whereas freedom of assembly goes hand in hand with freedom of expression, stating that everyone has the right to freedom of expression, which includes the freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers;

Or. en

5.10.2020

B9-0309/27

Amendment 27

Roberta Metsola

on behalf of the PPE Group

Motion for a resolution

B9-0309/2020

Juan Fernando López Aguilar

on behalf of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

The rule of law and fundamental rights in Bulgaria

Motion for a resolution

Recital M b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Mb. whereas the exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary, as prescribed by Article 10 of the ECHR;

Or. en

5.10.2020

B9-0309/28

Amendment 28

Roberta Metsola

on behalf of the PPE Group

Motion for a resolution

B9-0309/2020

Juan Fernando López Aguilar

on behalf of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

The rule of law and fundamental rights in Bulgaria

Motion for a resolution

Recital M c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Mc. whereas in January, the Office of the Prosecutor General opened investigations into a prominent gambling, tourism and construction magnate in Bulgaria; whereas up until June 2020 18 criminal charges had been brought against him (which included organised crime, extortion and attempted bribery)^{1a}; whereas this individual has allegedly been channelling financial resources into the ongoing protests^{1b}; whereas, as underlined in the Country Chapter on Bulgaria of the 2020 Rule of Law report, published by the Commission on 30 September, a ‘number of high-level investigations were launched in the first half of 2020 and charges have been brought in a number of cases’^{1c};

^{1a} <https://www.prb.bg/bg/news/42975-specializiranata-prokuratura-obvini-vasil-bojk-131-1>

^{1b} <https://prb.bg/sp/bg/news/44607-spetsializirana-prokuratura-obrazuvadosadebno-proizvodstvo-za-prestaplenie-po-g>

^{1c} https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/bg_rol_country_chapter.pdf

Or. en

5.10.2020

B9-0309/29

Amendment 29

Roberta Metsola

on behalf of the PPE Group

Motion for a resolution

B9-0309/2020

Juan Fernando López Aguilar

on behalf of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

The rule of law and fundamental rights in Bulgaria

Motion for a resolution

Recital O

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

O. whereas the Prime Minister has announced that he will resign *after* the elections to the Grand National Assembly⁷;

O. whereas the Prime Minister has announced that he will resign *at the moment the National Assembly decides to hold* elections to the Grand National Assembly⁷;

⁷ <https://www.mediapool.bg/borisov-ostavka-no-pri-izbori-za-veliko-narodno-sabranie-i-nova-konstitutsiya-video-i-palen-tekst-news310997.html>

⁷ <https://government.bg/bg/prestentor/novini/obrashtenie-na-ministar-predsedatelya-boyko-borisov>

Or. en

5.10.2020

B9-0309/30

Amendment 30

Roberta Metsola

on behalf of the PPE Group

Motion for a resolution

Juan Fernando López Aguilar

on behalf of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

The rule of law and fundamental rights in Bulgaria

B9-0309/2020

Motion for a resolution

Recital P

Motion for a resolution

P. whereas serious concerns ***over*** the fight against corruption in Bulgaria ***persist***; ***whereas this threatens to*** undermine citizens' trust in public institutions;

P. whereas serious concerns ***regarding*** the fight against corruption in Bulgaria ***could*** undermine citizens' trust in public institutions; ***whereas it is necessary to maintain the progress made in the fight against corruption in Bulgaria and to guarantee that the process is irreversible***;

Or. en

5.10.2020

B9-0309/31

Amendment 31

Roberta Metsola

on behalf of the PPE Group

Motion for a resolution

Juan Fernando López Aguilar

on behalf of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

The rule of law and fundamental rights in Bulgaria

B9-0309/2020

Motion for a resolution

Recital Q

Motion for a resolution

Q. whereas according to a special Eurobarometer survey on EU citizens' attitudes towards corruption published in June 2020, 80 % of the Bulgarians interviewed considered corruption to be widespread in their country and **51 % considered that corruption had increased in the previous three years;**

Amendment

Q. whereas according to a special Eurobarometer survey on EU citizens' attitudes towards corruption published in June 2020, 80 % of the Bulgarians interviewed considered corruption to be widespread in their country, ***which ranks the country in 15th place among the EU Member States; whereas since 2013 the proportion of respondents who believe that corruption is widespread has been steadily declining;***

Or. en

5.10.2020

B9-0309/32

Amendment 32

Roberta Metsola

on behalf of the PPE Group

Motion for a resolution

B9-0309/2020

Juan Fernando López Aguilar

on behalf of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

The rule of law and fundamental rights in Bulgaria

Motion for a resolution

Recital R a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Ra. whereas the current government has proactively pursued deeper integration of Bulgaria in the EU, which has resulted in Bulgaria officially joining the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM II) and the Banking Union in 2020;

Or. en

5.10.2020

B9-0309/33

Amendment 33

Roberta Metsola

on behalf of the PPE Group

Motion for a resolution

B9-0309/2020

Juan Fernando López Aguilar

on behalf of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

The rule of law and fundamental rights in Bulgaria

Motion for a resolution

Recital S

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

S. whereas a vibrant civil society and pluralistic media play a vital role in promoting an open and pluralistic society and public participation in the democratic process, and in strengthening the accountability of governments; whereas media freedom in Bulgaria has been deteriorating, as evidenced by the country's ranking in the reports published by Reporters Without Borders; whereas in the 2020 World Press Freedom Index, published in late April 2020, Bulgaria ranks 111th in the world, and last among EU Member States for the third year running; whereas the Council of Europe Platform to Promote the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists contains three Level 1 alerts warning of severe and damaging violations against media freedom, on which a reply from the Bulgarian authorities is still pending;

S. whereas a vibrant civil society and pluralistic media play a vital role in promoting an open and pluralistic society and public participation in the democratic process, and in strengthening the accountability of governments; whereas media freedom in Bulgaria has been deteriorating, as evidenced by the country's ranking in the reports published by Reporters Without Borders; whereas in the 2020 World Press Freedom Index, published in late April 2020, Bulgaria ranks 111th in the world, and last among EU Member States for the third year running; whereas the Council of Europe Platform to Promote the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists contains three Level 1 alerts warning of severe and damaging violations against media freedom, on which a reply from the Bulgarian authorities is still pending; ***expresses its concern over the influence of third countries in the media landscape as part of a larger strategy to spread anti-EU propaganda and disinformation;***

Or. en