

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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13 June 2000

B5-0508/2000 }  
B5-0509/2000 }  
B5-0510/2000 }  
B5-0525/2000 }  
B5-0527/2000 }  
RC1

## JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 42(5) of the Rules of Procedure by

- Jorge Salvador Hernández Mollar and José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Pierre Schori, Pasqualina Napoletano, Jannis Sakellariou, Marie-Arlette Carlotti, Hannes Swoboda, Maria Carrilho and Alexandros Baltas on behalf of the PSE Group
- Bob van den Bos and Daniel Ducarme on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Hélène Flautre, Daniel Cohn-Bendit and Nelly Maes on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Yasmine Boudjenah, Marianne Eriksson, Joaquim Miranda and Fodé Sylla on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PSE (B5-0508/2000),
- PPE-DE (B5-0509/2000),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0510/2000),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0525/2000)
- ELDR (B5-0527/2000)

on Tunisia

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PE 291.899}  
PE 291.900}  
PE 291.902  
PE 291.910  
PE 291.912} RC1

## European Parliament resolution on Tunisia

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Articles 19 and 20 of the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
  - having regard to the conclusions of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression for the United Nations Commission on Human Rights of March 2000 concerning Tunisia,
  - having regard to the Barcelona Declaration adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference of 27 and 28 November 1995, which lays down the principle on which a fully structured dialogue between the European Union and its Mediterranean partner countries must be based,
  - having regard to the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement between the European Communities and the Republic of Tunisia of 17 July 1995, based on cooperation and political dialogue between the European Union and Tunisia in a spirit of partnership, particularly Article 2 thereof, which states the obligation to respect human rights and democratic principles,
  - having regard to European Parliament resolutions B4-0606, 0621 and 0647/96 on human rights in Tunisia, adopted on 23 May 1996, and to the resolution of 30 March 2000 on the European Union's Mediterranean policy,
  - having regard to the Council Regulation on financial and technical measures to accompany (MEDA) the reform of economic and social structures in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (COM(1999) 494),
  - having regard to the principles on which the Tunisian declaration of 7 November 1987 is based and to the repeated declarations by the Tunisian authorities, and particularly the Head of State, of their intention to liberalise political life in Tunisia and to establish political plurality in parliamentary and cultural life and in the area of information,
- A. concerned at the human rights situation in Tunisia, particularly with regard to freedom of expression, opinion and association, whether in relation to journalists, lawyers, trade unionists or members of human rights organisations or the democratic political opposition,
- B. whereas one of the fundamental objectives of the Barcelona Declaration concerns the strengthening of democracy and respect for human rights and the rule of law; whereas the Republic of Tunisia is a signatory to this Declaration,

- C. whereas the promotion of human rights, democracy, civil liberties, the rule of law and sound management of public affairs constitutes an essential element of the EU-Tunisia Association Agreement with a view to creating a body of shared values,
- D. whereas the Republic of Tunisia is a signatory to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and having regard to the reports of international organisations on human rights,
- E. whereas Article 8 of the Tunisian Constitution states that freedom of opinion, expression, the press, publication, assembly and association shall be guaranteed and exercised under the conditions laid down by the law,
- F. whereas the most effective way of responding to the concern expressed by the Tunisian authorities that Tunisia's image should not be tarnished is to adopt greater political openness and ensure that the political undertakings entered into at all levels are honoured,
- G. aware that economic reform in Tunisia has recently been stepped up, in particular as regards the liberalisation and privatisation of certain sectors of the economy, and considering that this should be accompanied by substantial political reform,
1. Calls on the Tunisian Government and its President to ensure that the international undertakings entered into by the Tunisian state are observed, particularly as regards the principles set out in the Barcelona Declaration, by ending all violations of human rights;
  2. Calls on the Tunisian authorities to consolidate the success of the economic reforms under way by means of action to support reforms begun in the social and political spheres, and urges them to strive in the same way to ensure fundamental freedoms and the rule of law;
  3. Calls on the Tunisian authorities to take all measures in their power to establish a true multi-party system in Tunisia, and for the introduction of constitutional guarantees of a multi-party state;
  4. Urges the Tunisian Government to take the necessary action to strengthen the role of civil society in Tunisia and calls on the Commission and the Tunisian authorities to collaborate in the implementation of training programmes; calls on the Commission in particular to assist civil society by supporting contacts and joint programmes with the EU's partners;
  5. Calls on the Tunisian authorities to guarantee the exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms, including freedom of movement, and to fully respect the Conventions on detention, ill-treatment and torture;
  6. Considers that the lay tradition thanks to which Tunisia has a body of rules governing the status of women which is one of the most advanced in the region should be taken even further through support and freedom of action for women's organisations;
  7. Calls on the Association Council to carry out as soon as possible a joint evaluation of respect for human rights in Tunisia in order to involve both parties in addressing the issue, and asks the Commission to present to the European Parliament a report on the evolution of the human

rights situation in Tunisia;

8. Calls on the Commission and Council, in this connection, to present and adopt as soon as possible a joint strategy for the Mediterranean, concerning in particular its coherence in the sphere of human rights;
9. Calls on the Council and Commission to work to improve the management of projects under the MEDA II programme and to ensure that procedures are simplified and speeded up, and to guarantee the diversity and pluralism of projects supported; in this context, calls on the Commission to make the promotion of democracy and civil society in Tunisia a priority for funding under the MEDA programme;
10. Calls on the budgetary authority to guarantee, in the budgetary procedure for 2001, financing adequate to the commitments entered into by the European Community in connection with the Euro-Mediterranean association;
11. Instructs its Delegation for relations with the Maghreb countries to tackle the question of human rights in Tunisia together with the Association Agreement's economic and social impact at its next meeting, with the participation of representatives of civil society;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, Parliament's Delegation for relations with the Maghreb countries and the European Union's Mediterranean partners.