

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Session document*

6 February 2002

B5-0063/2002 }  
B5-0069/2002 }  
B5-0086/2002 }  
B5-0094/2002 }

RC1

## JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 50(5) of the Rules of Procedure by

- Bernd Posselt, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Margrietus J. van den Berg, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Jules Maaten and Lone Dybkjær, on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Cristiana Muscardini and Isabelle Caullery, on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- UEN (B5-0063/2002),
- PPE-DE (B5-0069/2002),
- PSE (B5-0086/2002),
- ELDR (B5-0094/2002),

on the elections in Cambodia

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PE 314.789}  
PE 314.795}  
PE 314.812}  
PE 314.820} RC1

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## European Parliament resolution on the elections in Cambodia

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Cambodia,
  - having regard to the provisional report drawn up by Carlos Costa Neves, Member of the European Parliament and Chief Observer of the EU observer mission,
- A. whereas the first democratic local elections took place on 3 February 2002 and were expected to be an important landmark in the country's commitment to democratic development at the grassroots level,
- B. whereas local democracy makes an important contribution to the construction of a more active civil society,
- C. alarmed by the violent deaths of a number of candidates and political activists during the pre-election campaign, involving in some instances local-level officials, either civil or military,
- D. concerned by the fact that the widespread intimidation and abuses have prevented many candidates from FUNCINPEC and the SRP (Sam Rainsy Party) from competing in this election and that the climate of fear among voters and opposition candidates has undermined the credibility of the elections; noting that the intimidation practices and abuses reported have rarely been addressed by the electoral authorities,
- E. whereas, moreover, serious shortcomings in the investigations of the political deaths as well as the supposed protection of suspects by the military have been reported,
- F. whereas these local elections represent an important step towards the consolidation of democracy,
- G. whereas the elections are part of the policy of decentralisation supported by the European Union and adopted by the Cambodian government,
- H. whereas both the 1993 and the 1998 general elections were plagued by violence and allegations of vote-rigging,
- I. whereas election day was peaceful despite allegations of ballot irregularities, which gives a strong base for future elections and is a positive factor for the strengthening of grass-roots democracy in Cambodia,
- J. regrets that the National Election Committee (NEC), which has generally organised the elections well at a technical level, has had a tendency to play an undesirably intrusive role in the conduct of the campaign, notably through decisions such as the initial attempt to prohibit party campaign materials and the cancellation of 15 election broadcasts, limiting the scope of campaign freedoms,

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- K. concerned at the lack of fair and balanced media coverage of the election campaign, the situation having worsened as against 1998, as the main TV and radio stations have focused extensively on the government's activities (respectively 75% and 80% of coverage), thus failing to provide voters with adequate information on the election in order to allow a free choice,
- L. having regard to the presence of 20 000 Cambodian and international observers,
- M. whereas for the first time the European Union sent an official delegation to observe the local elections,
- N. whereas despite last year's adoption of the Tribunal Bill, final agreement on the establishment and functioning of the Tribunal has not yet been reached with the UN, as a number of issues concerning the criminal procedure remain unresolved,
1. Strongly condemns the political killings as well as the numerous cases of political threats and intimidation which have taken place during the pre-election period;
  2. Considers that this climate of instability has affected the organisation of the elections and that certain aspects of the pre-election period fell short of international standards as a result;
  3. Urges the Government to take immediate action to stop the violence and to vigorously investigate and prosecute any persons, including government agents, found to be involved in election-related violence;
  4. Underscores the importance of the EU representatives' mission in the post-electoral framework, in particular as regards the monitoring of ballot counting, as well as through a relevant contribution to an independent investigation aimed at determining the exact causes of the deaths that occurred during the election process;
  5. Deplores the restrictions that were imposed on the activities of the political opposition throughout the election campaign, which failed to offer parties a free environment or equal opportunities, as well as the banning of access to the broadcast media for all political parties taking part in the elections;
  6. Recalls the commitment made by the Prime Minister in his 10 December speech marking International Human Rights Day to prevent all forms of violence and intimidation before, after and during the elections;
  7. Notes that the Cambodia People's Party (CPP) has to share power for the first time at village level;
  8. Instructs its interparliamentary delegation to the ASEAN countries and its Committee on Foreign Affairs to monitor the evolution of the situation and evaluate the final report drawn up by the EU observation mission;
  9. Strongly believes that democracy must be strengthened with the support of the European Union, which is one of the major donors, and the international community;

10. Deeply regrets that as yet no agreement has been reached with the UN on the establishment and functioning of the Tribunal, thus allowing the culture of impunity in the country to persist;
11. Urges the Government of Cambodia to finalise as soon as possible the Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations concerning the details of the Tribunal in order to enable the proceedings in the trial of the leaders of Democratic Kampuchea for crimes against humanity and genocide to begin in the near future;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Government of Cambodia, the UN Secretary General and the governments of the ASEAN member states.