

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

13 March 2002

B5-0133/2002 }
B5-0142/2002 }
B5-0152/2002 }
B5-0162/2002 }
B5-0171/2002 }

RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Philippe Morillon and Arie M. Oostlander, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Pasqualina Napoletano, Marie-Arlette Carlotti, Olga Zrihen Zaari and Margrietus J. van den Berg, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Cecilia Malmström and Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne, on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Daniel Marc Cohn-Bendit and Hélène Flautre, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Yasmine Boudjenah and Marianne Eriksson, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- ELDR (B5-0133/2002),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0142/2002),
- PPE-DE (B5-0152/2002),
- PSE (B5-0162/2002),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0171/2002),

on Tunisia

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PE 314.916}
PE 314.926}
PE 314.936}
PE 316.490}
PE 316.499} RC1

European Parliament resolution on Tunisia

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the human rights situation in Tunisia and, in particular, those of 15 June 2000 and 14 December 2000,
 - having regard to the March 2000 conclusions on Tunisia of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights,
 - having regard to the Barcelona Declaration adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference of 27 and 28 November 1995, which sets out the principle whereby a structured dialogue is to be built up between the European Union and the Mediterranean partner countries,
 - having regard to the Association Agreement of 17 July 1995 between the European Community and the Republic of Tunisia, based on cooperation and political dialogue between the European Union and Tunisia in a spirit of partnership and, in particular, Article 2 thereof on the mutual obligation to respect human rights and democratic principles,
 - 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 final), in particular the proposal made by the Commission in its communication to the Council with a view to the Ministerial meeting in Valencia,
- A. whereas the promotion of human rights, democracy, public freedoms, the rule of law and good governance is an essential aspect of the EU-Tunisia Association Agreement, whose aim is to establish a body of shared values,
- B. having regard to Tunisia's undertakings, which were reiterated at the Association Council session on 29 January 2002,
- C. whereas Hamma Hammami, leader of the outlawed Communist Workers' Party, Abdeljabar Madouri and Samir Taamallah appeared before the Court of First Instance in Tunis on 2 February 2002 for a retrial after four years of living in hiding,
- D. concerned at the way in which this trial is being conducted, the lack of respect shown for the rights of the defence, the conditions of detention and the state of health of the co-defendants,
- E. recalling the binding commitment to respect human rights contained in Article 2 of the Association Agreement with the European Union,

1. Urges the Tunisian authorities to ensure that the current trial is conducted in full compliance with international legal standards and that the accused are afforded specific treatment to guarantee their safety, health and right of defence, which may entail their provisional release;
2. Calls on the Tunisian authorities to put an end to any restrictions on human rights and to remove all obstacles to freedom of movement, expression, information and association and the right to engage in political activities within a party;
3. Expresses its full support for the associations, organisations, lawyers and prominent persons in Tunisia who have called for due respect to be shown for the law;
4. Calls on the Commission to ensure that independent associations are allowed to take part in the Euro-Mediterranean programme (especially the MEDA-Democracy programme and all programmes aimed at supporting civil society);
5. Instructs its Delegation for relations with the Maghreb countries to raise the issue of human rights more firmly in Tunisia and to follow this trial closely;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Tunisian government and parliament.