

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Session document

12 June 2002

B5-0338/2002 }
B5-0341/2002 }
B5-0357/2002 }
B5-0376/2002 }

RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Rosa M. Díez González, Michael Cashman and Margrietus J. van den Berg, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Cecilia Malmström, on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Monica Frassoni and Matti Wuori, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Lucio Manisco, Yasmine Boudjenah, Laura González Álvarez and Luigi Vinci, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- Verts/ALE (B5-0338/2002),
- ELDR (B5-0341/2002),
- PSE (B5-0357/2002),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0376/2002),

on the abolition of capital punishment in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan

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PE 319.174}
PE 319.177}
PE 319.738}
PE 319.757} RC1

European Parliament resolution on the abolition of capital punishment in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the abolition of capital punishment and the introduction of a universal moratorium on executions,
- A. welcoming the continuing increase in the number of abolitionist countries over recent years,
- B. welcoming the holding in the Japanese parliament of a seminar on the abolition of the death penalty in the Council of Europe observer states, organised jointly by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly and the Japanese Diet Members' League for the Abolition of the Death Penalty,
- C. welcoming this new major political development which is one of the numerous initiatives for the abolition of capital punishment in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan,
- D. welcoming the legislative initiatives which are under way or in preparation in South Korea Japan and Taiwan seeking to abolish capital punishment or introduce a moratorium on executions,
- E. welcoming in particular the tabling of a bill abolishing the death sentence in South Korea, countersigned by 155 of the 273 members of the South Korean parliament; regretting however, that this bill has not yet been examined by the relevant committee of the South Korean parliament,
- F. considering that over 70 prisoners have reportedly been sentenced to death in South Korea, while noting that no executions have been carried out since President Kim Dae-jung took office in February 1998,
- G. welcoming the creation within the Japanese Diet of a Members' League for the Abolition of the Death Penalty,
- H. whereas between 1989 and 1993 Japan introduced a de facto moratorium on executions and that 55 people are currently on death row awaiting execution, five of them for over 20 years,
- I. welcoming the recent reform of the Taiwanese penal code and in particular abolition of a mandatory death penalty for various violent crimes and welcoming the statements by the Taiwanese Minister of Justice to the effect that this reform constitutes a crucial stage in the process of eliminating capital punishment within three years,
- J. stressing the very harsh conditions of imprisonment of those sentenced to death in those countries and, in particular, the fact that they are kept in almost total isolation,
- K. stressing the large number of legal errors which have come to light regarding death

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PE 319.177}

PE 319.738}

PE 319.757} RC1

sentences,

- L. noting also that the fall in crime levels and the lower number of executions should encourage abolitionist initiatives in these countries,
- 1. Welcomes the Council of Europe's commitment and determination to achieve the universal abolition of capital punishment;
- 2. Calls on the parliaments of Japan, South Korea and Taiwan to renew their efforts to achieve rapid abolition of capital punishment or the introduction of a moratorium on executions;
- 3. Is convinced that abolition of capital punishment in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan will strengthen the stance adopted by democratic countries in their struggle against dictatorial regimes and their endeavours to secure democracy and the rule of law throughout the world;
- 4. Calls on the Commission and Council to give priority to abolition of capital punishment in its relations with Japan, South Korea and Taiwan;
- 5. Calls on its Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy to hold a seminar on the abolition of capital punishment in the democratic countries of Asia;
- 6. Calls on Japan and South Korea to support the initiatives of the European Union and its Member States within the United Nations in seeking the introduction of a universal moratorium on executions;
- 7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the governments and parliaments of South Korea, Japan and Taiwan.