

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2004

Session document

23 October 2002

B5-0548/2002 }
B5-0551/2002 }
B5-0552/2002 }
B5-0554/2002 }
B5-0556/2002 }

RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Hanja Maij-Weggen and Michael Gahler on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Glyn Ford, Fiorella Ghilardotti, María Izquierdo Rojo, Margrietus J. van den Berg and Elena Valenciano Martínez-Orozco on behalf of the PSE Group
- Bob van den Bos, Cecilia Malmström and Baroness Sarah Ludford on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Marianne Eriksson, Pernille Frahm, André Brie, Luisa Morgantini and Sylviane H. Ainardi on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Bastiaan Belder on behalf of the EDD Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PSE (B5-0548/2002),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0551/2002),
- EDD (B5-0552/2002),
- PPE-DE (B5-0554/2002),
- ELDR (B5-0556/2002),

on the human rights dialogue with Iran

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European Parliament resolution on the human rights dialogue with Iran

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the communication from the Commission on the EU's relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran (COM(2001) 71),
- having regard to its resolution of 13 December 2001 (A5-418/2001),
 - * calling for a critical dialogue to raise the issue of the human rights situation,
 - * considering that the readiness expressed by Iran to discuss human rights issues is a positive development with a view to the normalisation of relations,
 - * proposing to send an ad hoc delegation to Tehran, and to invite the Iranian Parliament to send a delegation to Brussels in return, in order to prepare future parliamentary relations,
- having regard to its annual report on human rights in the world adopted in April 2002,
- having regard to the report of the visit of its ad hoc delegation to the Islamic Republic of Iran on 16-21 July 2002,
- having regard to the statement on the EU-Iran Comprehensive Dialogue which took place in Tehran on 10 September 2002,
- having regard to the planned start of EU-Iran negotiations on a cooperation and trade agreement in Brussels on 29 October 2002,
- having regard to the UN's Universal Declaration on Human Rights and to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,
- A. having regard to the EU's long tradition of systematically opposing the death penalty in countries such as China, Iran, the United States, etc,
- B. having regard to the resolution presented to the UN General Assembly by the EU and adopted in December 2001,
- C. having regard to the latest report by the UN Special Representative on the human rights situation in Iran, Mr Copithorne, submitted to the UN Human Rights Commission in April 2002,
- D. whereas Amnesty International reported in May 2002 that 'two women (were) known to have been stoned to death in Iran in the first half of 2001', and aware that at least four

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sentences to death by stoning have been issued since, to intimidate the population,

- E. whereas this year has seen - according to reports of human rights organisations - an unprecedented increase in death sentences, with over 250 executions, a steep rise from 139 last year and 75 in 2000,
- F. whereas the EU-Iran Human Rights Exploratory Experts Mission visited Tehran in October 2002 and noted the readiness expressed by Iran to discuss all human rights issues, including individual cases,
 - 1. Reaffirms its position in favour of closer cooperation between the EU and Iran, including a critical dialogue on human rights issues and cases, and looks forward to the return visit of a delegation from the Iranian Parliament in order to prepare future parliamentary relations with the Iranian Majlis;
 - 2. At the same time considers that the human rights situation in Iran remains unacceptable, notably the continuing recourse to cruel, inhuman and degrading punishments, issues that will undoubtedly be on the agenda of future interparliamentary contacts;
 - 3. Strongly condemns capital punishment in general and execution by stoning in particular, demands that the death penalty by stoning be removed from the statute books, and in the meantime insists upon an immediate moratorium on all stonings and calls on the Iranian Government to vacate all stoning sentences already pronounced, including those allegedly imposed against four women: Sima, Ferdows, Shahnaz and Ashraf;
 - 4. Reminds the Iranian authorities that death sentences by stoning form a sharp contrast to the hopes raised by President Khatami concerning an opening to democracy and an improvement in human rights, and calls upon the Council and the Member States, as in previous years, to take the initiative towards submitting a strong and substantive resolution on the human rights situation in Iran to the current session of the UN General Assembly;
 - 5. Notes that the readiness expressed by Iran to discuss human rights issues is a positive development with a view to the normalisation of EU-Iran relations, and expresses the hope that as a consequence of a successful human rights dialogue action will be taken that would alleviate the need for a UN General Assembly resolution in 2004;
 - 6. Asks the Commission and Council to continue to stress respect for human rights and the issue of the death penalty and stoning in the context of EU-Iran relations, notes that any future trade and cooperation agreement with Iran must contain a human rights clause based on the corresponding article in the Cotonou Agreement, and recalls that no agreement can enter into force without the approval of the EP;
 - 7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, and the Government and Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran.