

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Session document

14 May 2003

B5-0262/2003 }
B5-0263/2003 }
B5-0264/2003 }
B5-0265/2003 }
B5-0266/2003 }
B5-0267/2003 }

RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 37(4) of the Rules of Procedure by

- Christos Zacharakis, Arie M. Oostlander and Richard A. Balfe, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Jannis Sakellariou, Hannes Swoboda and Ozan Ceyhun, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Bob van den Bos and Graham R. Watson, on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Joost Lagendijk, Daniel Marc Cohn-Bendit, Nelly Maes and Matti Wuori, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Luigi Vinci, Feleknas Uca, Yasmine Boudjenah, Luisa Morgantini and Efstratios Korakas, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Cristiana Muscardini and Luís Queiró, on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- GUE/NGL (B5-0262/2003),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0263/2003),
- ELDR (B5-0264/2003),
- PPE-DE (B5-0265/2003),
- UEN (B5-0266/2003),
- PSE (B5-0267/2003),

on the search made of the Ankara headquarters of the Human Rights Association of Turkey

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PE 331.501}
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European Parliament resolution on the search made of the Ankara headquarters of the Human Rights Association of Turkey

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on human rights in Turkey,
 - having regard to the EU Treaty and its provisions on human rights,
 - having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
 - having regard to the Accession Partnership with Turkey,
- A. whereas in signing several international agreements, including the Council of Europe's Convention on Human Rights, Turkey has committed itself to guaranteeing human rights and democracy,
- B. whereas the Council has recognised Turkey as a candidate for accession and Turkey has expressed its ambition to become a full member of the EU,
- C. whereas on 6 May 2003 policemen from the anti-terrorism and security departments of the Directorate General for Security raided Turkey's Human Rights Association headquarters in Ankara under the supervision of the prosecutor of the State Security Court,
- D. whereas the prosecutor has declared that an investigation was launched under the jurisdiction of the State Security Court on the grounds of 'aiding and assisting illegal organisations',
- E. whereas the Turkish Human Rights Association (IHD), the Human Rights Foundation (IHV) and the Human Rights Organisation (Mazlumder) are internationally recognised for the work they do in Turkey in the field of human rights,
- F. whereas leaders and grassroots activists of Turkish human rights organisations are frequently subjected to political intimidation and physical threats,
- G. whereas the Turkish government's programme provides for the abolition of the State Security Courts, which represent an obstacle to the development of the rule of law in Turkey,
1. Is shocked by the raids carried out by members of the Anti-Terror Forces, accompanied by the Prosecutor of the Ankara State Security Court, against the headquarters and the branch office of the Human Rights Association (IHD) in Ankara on 6 May 2003; calls on the Turkish authorities to clarify immediately the reasons for this action;
 2. Expresses its support for the activities and campaigns to raise public awareness conducted by the IHD and by other Turkish human rights organisations;

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3. Urges the Turkish government to take concrete measures to prove its commitment to respect for human rights and to review its legislation with a view to guaranteeing the protection of democracy, transparency and human rights in Turkey;
4. Calls on the Turkish Government to implement the judicial reforms it has announced and to abolish the State Security Courts, which represent an obstacle to the development of the rule of law in Turkey; reminds the Turkish Government that reforms represent an element which will be duly taken into account by the Commission in the drafting of its December 2004 report to the Council on Turkey's fulfilment of the Copenhagen political criteria;
5. Notes that Turkey has amended most of its legislation regarding freedom of speech and association but regrets that these amendments still leave ample scope for repressive actions by the police and that little has changed on the ground;
6. Stresses that political will on the part of Turkey to make radical changes to the structure of the state, its relationship to society, respect for human rights and the style of government is essential for progress towards EU membership;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States, the Grand National Assembly and government of Turkey, the Human Rights Association in Turkey (IHD), the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) and the Turkish Human Rights Organisation (Mazlumder).