

P5_TA(2002)0185

Moldova

European Parliament resolution on the political situation in Moldova and the disappearance of Vlad Cubreacov

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 14 March 2002 on the human rights situation in the Republic of Moldova¹,
 - having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States and the Republic of Moldova², signed on 28 November 1994, and which entered into force on 1 July 1998, and in particular Title I, Article 2 thereof, which concerns respect for democracy, the principles of international law and human rights, as defined in particular by the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe,
 - having regard to the European Convention on Human Rights,
 - having regard to the aid provided by the European Union to Moldova in the framework of TACIS,
- A. noting with the deepest concern the disappearance of Vlad Cubreacov, Member of the Moldovan Parliament and of the Moldovan delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; expressing in particular its concern about the possible political context of his disappearance,
- B. concerned by the lack of information and explanation by the Moldovan authorities concerning the circumstances of the alarming disappearance of Mr Cubreacov,
- C. noting that Mr Cubreacov is one of the leading figures of the parliamentary opposition movement in Moldova and has contributed actively to the organisation of street protests against government policies,
- D. concerned by other alarming disappearances of opposition leaders, for instance Mr. Ivan Burgudji, head of the legal department of the People's Assembly of the autonomous region of Gagauzia, who disappeared on 7 March 2002 after being beaten and apprehended in his office by unidentified civilians carrying automatic weapons,
- E. noting with deep concern the attempts to curb the opposition by means of the decision to lift the parliamentary immunity of Iurie Rosca and Stefan Secareanu and the proposed lifting of the immunity of three other Christian Democrat Members of Parliament, Valentin Chilat, Viorel Prisacaru and Eugen Garla,

¹ P5_TA(2002)0132.

² OJ L 181, 24.6.1998, p. 3.

- F. noting that about 80 000 people took to the streets on 31 March 2002 to demonstrate against the government, and expressing its concern that the absence of a sincere dialogue between government and opposition will result in the further polarisation of Moldovan society,
- G. emphasising once again the great importance of maintaining stability in the region and respect for basic human rights and the rule of law, as well as the need to continue the process of economic and social reform,
1. Expresses its great concern over the disappearance of the opposition politician Vlad Cubreacov, vice-chairman of the Christian Democratic People's Party, Member of the Moldovan Parliament and of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, as well as other as yet unsolved disappearances of political opposition leaders, and in particular over the fears that his disappearance may be related to political problems in the country;
 2. Calls on the Moldovan authorities to carry out a full, thorough and independent investigation into the disappearance of Mr Cubreacov and other opposition politicians and to provide information regularly and openly on the state of affairs as regards the ongoing investigations;
 3. Calls on the Council and the Commission to make every effort to find Mr Cubreacov safe and sound and to monitor closely, with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe, the human rights situation in Moldova;
 4. Calls once again on the government of Moldova to abide by basic democratic rules and procedures and to guarantee respect for fundamental human rights and the rule of law and calls on the governing party not to abuse its political majority in order to dissolve the democratic opposition;
 5. Urges the Moldovan Parliament to review immediately its decision to lift the parliamentary immunity of Iurie Rosca and Stefan Secareanu and not to proceed with the lifting of the immunity of three other Christian Democrat Members of Parliament, Valentin Chilat, Viorel Prisacaru and Eugen Garla,
 6. Expresses its great concern that the right of demonstration as used by a large number of Moldovan citizens to show their disagreement with the government's policies is accompanied by threats of punishment by the Prosecutor-General; points out that the right of demonstration is a basic democratic right and a legitimate instrument of protest against the policies of a government; stresses, in this context, that the approximately 80 000 people who took to the streets on 31 March 2002 demonstrated their political will in a peaceful way;
 7. Urges the Moldovan government and the opposition not to take any steps that may further endanger the social and political stability of the country and to start a dialogue on ways and means to overcome the existing conflict and to continue the process of economic and social reform as a way of demonstrating the sincerity of its international commitments and ambitions;

8. Emphasises the great importance of maintaining stability in the region and urges the government of Moldova to make visible efforts to resolve the political crisis and to return to a course of political stability;
9. Urges the governments of Romania and the Russian Federation not to interfere in the Republic of Moldova's delicate domestic political situation and to give their fullest support, together with the European Union and other European bodies, to the stable and peaceful development of all the countries in the region;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission the government and parliament of Moldova, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the governments of Romania and the Russian Federation.