Resolution on human rights in Vietnam

2007/2581(RSP) - 12/07/2007 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

Following the debate which took place during the sitting of 12 July 2007, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on human rights in Vietnam by 68 votes to 2 with 0 abstentions.

Parliament voices its deep concern at the new wave of persecution of dissidents in Vietnam. It therefore calls on for the immediate and unconditional release of all individuals imprisoned for the sole reason of having peacefully and legitimately exercised their right to freedom of opinion, freedom of expression, freedom of the press and freedom of religion (the resolution lists a number of individuals).

The Vietnamese Government is urged to :

- put an end to all forms of repression of people exercising their right to freedom of expression, freedom of thought and freedom of assembly, in line with international law on human rights;
- reform, as a matter of urgency, national security provisions, either by revoking them or by bringing them into line with international law;
- carry out political and institutional reforms in order to establish democracy and the genuine rule of law, beginning with the introduction of a multi-party system, a free press and free trade unions;
- respect religious freedom and to restore the legal status of all religious communities, including the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam;
- end the discrimination against the Montagnard community;
- implement the UN recommendations, in particular those of the Human Rights Committee in its conclusions of 2002, by repealing all legislation in breach of human rights and by genuinely guaranteeing the fundamental rights of the Vietnamese people, in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The Parliament stresses that human rights dialogue between the European Union and Vietnam must lead to tangible improvements in Vietnam and the Council and the Commission are asked to reassess the policy of cooperation with Vietnam, bearing in mind Article 1 of the Cooperation Agreement of 1995, which states that cooperation is based on respect for democratic principles and fundamental rights.

Lastly, the resolution stresses that human rights dialogue between the European Union and Vietnam must lead to tangible improvements in Vietnam. It asks the Council and the Commission to reassess the policy of cooperation with Vietnam, bearing in mind Article 1 of the Cooperation Agreement of 1995, which states that cooperation is based on respect for democratic principles and fundamental rights.