Resolution on Iran

2007/2683(RSP) - 31/01/2008 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

Following the debate in plenary on 30 January 2008, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on Iran by 561 votes for, 52 against, and 44 abstentions. It looked principally at the nuclear issue and at a range of human rights concerns. Parliament reaffirmed that the proliferation risks of the Iranian nuclear programme remain a source of serious concern to the EU and the international community, as expressed very clearly in UNSC Resolutions, and it regretted that Iran has still not complied with its international obligations to suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities.

It repeated its calls on Iran to restore the transparency of its **nuclear programme** by providing full and credible answers to the IAEA, to resolve all outstanding issues on this programme, including topics which could have a military dimension, to fully implement the provisions of the Comprehensive Safeguard Agreement including its subsidiary arrangements, and to ratify and implement the Additional Protocol.

Parliament reiterated its position that a solution to the present nuclear escalation is possible and no military action should be taken into consideration, and it called on the United States Administration and all other actors involved to renounce all rhetoric on military options and regime change policies against Iran. Parliament urged Iran to enter into a new round of negotiations on the future direction of its nuclear programme and to suspend all enrichment-related activities. It called on the United States, following its diplomatic success in the negotiations with North Korea, to participate directly in negotiations with Iran along with the EU, since the United States is in a position to offer additional security guarantees, notably in a multilateral framework under the auspices of the IAEA in Vienna.

Members called for credible multilateral nuclear disarmament steps through strengthening the NPT, and for the EU to take the lead in bringing the nuclear disarmament negotiations out of their current deadlock. They stressed the importance of cooperation with the United States, Russia, China and non-aligned countries in order to consider complementary concepts with a view to achieving a comprehensive agreement with Iran on its nuclear facilities and their use which takes account of Iran's security concerns. Such an agreement should help to achieve a sustainable regional security system comprising India, Pakistan and other nuclear powers. Iran should assume its responsibilities as a regional player. The international community must act urgently on the creation of a new multilateral framework for the utilisation of nuclear energy, guaranteeing supplies of nuclear fuel while minimising the risk of proliferation, as proposed by the IAEA.

Parliament expressed its deep concern over the deterioration of the **human rights situation** in Iran. It strongly condemned the death sentences and executions in Iran, in particular those imposed on juvenile offenders, and was deeply concerned about the dramatic increase in the repression of civil society movements in Iran over the past year, calling on the Iranian authorities to put an end to the harsh repression against women's rights defenders, activists of the 'one million signatures' campaign, student movements, minority rights defenders, intellectuals, teachers, journalists, web loggers and trade unionists - notably Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi. Parliament protested vehemently against the execution in Iran on 31 January 2008 of the Ahwazi activist Zamel Bawi. It urged the Iranian government to desist from executing other named human-rights activists.

The Iranian authorities were asked to eliminate all forms of torture including extremely inhumane executions, and to respect internationally recognised legal safeguards with regard to persons belonging to religious, ethnic, linguistic or other minorities, including, inter alia, Arabs, Azeris, Baluchs, Kurds, Baha'is, Christians, Jews, Sufis and Sunni Muslims. The de facto ban on practising the Baha'i faith must be lifted. The Council and Commission were asked to submit to Parliament a comprehensive report on

human rights in Iran, including proposals for projects that could be financed in the framework of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

Parliament underlined that the possible conclusion of a Cooperation and Trade Agreement between Iran and the EU depends on a substantial improvement in Iran's human rights situation as well as on Iran's full cooperation with the IAEA and objective guarantees regarding the peaceful nature of its nuclear programme. It called on the Commission to submit a communication on the situation and the perspectives of EU-Iran relations and urged both sides to restart the human rights dialogue, in parallel with the negotiations for an Agreement, which could be concluded if Iran makes progress in the field of human rights and on the nuclear issue.

Lastly, Parliament called on the Commission to establish a delegation in Iran in order to promote dialogue with the authorities and with civil society and to intensify contacts concerning, notably, aid to refugees and the fight against drug trafficking.