Resolution on Timor-Leste

2008/2533(RSP) - 21/02/2008 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

Following the debate held in plenary, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on Timor-Leste and condemned vehemently the attempted assassination of President Ramos-Horta and the simultaneous attack against Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão. It hopes that the Government, together with the President and Parliament of Timor-Leste, will be able to overcome these grave threats to the stability of Timor-Leste and cooperate to ensure respect for law and order and the normal functioning of democratic institutions, in accordance with the constitution. It urges all parties in Timor-Leste to refrain from violence, engage in dialogue and participate in the democratic process within the legal and constitutional framework, thus contributing to restoring social and political stability.

Members call for a thorough inquiry within the constitutional and legal framework of Timor-Leste, with the necessary international cooperation and support, aimed at clarifying every detail of the apparent attempted coup d'état and the failure of the security system in the country to bring to justice the perpetrators of such attacks. They urge the main political forces in Timor-Leste, both in power and in opposition, to engage in a cross-party effort to reach a national understanding as a matter of urgency on core issues of the functioning of the state, such as the role of the armed forces, the police and the reinforcement of the judiciary system. The Council and the Commission are asked to urge the Timor-Leste authorities and UNMIT to disband and disarm any paramilitary groups, armed gangs and armed civilians. The international institutions are asked to provide broader support to meet the need for Timor-Leste to reform of its fragile and politicised security sector. Parliament calls on the state institutions of Timor-Leste and UNMIT to uphold the rule of law, combat impunity of crimes and ensure compliance with international human rights standards by all in Timor-Leste, especially the police and armed forces.

It reaffirms its recognition of Timor-Leste's need for political, technical and financial support in building the infrastructure and administrative structures which are essential to resume the implementation of its development plan, and in invigorating the economy of Timor-Leste and the promotion of employment. The EU and the international community, and in particular neighbouring and ASEAN countries, are asked to step up the support required to consolidate democracy and a democratic culture in Timor-Leste, as well as to strengthen the education and health networks and infrastructure in housing, sanitation and water supply. The Commission is asked to speed up the installation of a fully functioning delegation in Dili.

Lastly, Parliament recommends sending an ad hoc parliamentary delegation to Timor-Leste to reassess the political situation, express solidarity to democratic forces and institutions and renew Parliament's offer of assistance to the democratic functioning of the Parliament of Timor-Leste.