Resolution on Zimbabwe

2008/2566(RSP) - 24/04/2008 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

Following the debate which took place on the same day, the European Parliament adopted a resolution tabled on behalf of the EPP-ED, PES, ALDE, UEN, Greens/ALE, GUE/NGL groups on Zimbabwe. It recalls that elections to the House of Assembly of Zimbabwe, the Senate of Zimbabwe, the Presidency, and the organs of local government took place on 29 March 2008, and that the results of the presidential elections have yet to be declared, and the results of the elections to the Parliament of Zimbabwe have yet to be fully declared.

Parliament insists that the democratic wishes of the Zimbabwean people be respected. It urges all those who wish to participate in the future of Zimbabwe to cooperate with the forces of democratic change. The Zimbabwean Electoral Commission is called upon immediately to release all the original election results, as the delays are now causing anxiety and speculation that is detrimental to peace, political stability and Zimbabwe's democratic prospects. Members commend the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) NGOs' tremendous work in deploying thousands of observers across the country and publishing their poll projections. They strongly encourages the Zimbabwean Government to honour its own commitments to democratic principles, human rights and the rule of law as a signatory to the SADC Treaty and the Protocols thereto, the Constitutive Act of the AU, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Parliament commends SADC for convening its Emergency Summit on 12 April 2008 and welcomes the communiqué issued by summit leaders in which they call for the expeditious release of results from the presidential elections. It also welcomes the recent acknowledgement by South Africa's ruling African National Congress party that Zimbabwe has now entered a 'state of crisis' and trusts that this will lead to positive action. The African Union is called upon urgently to use its good offices to help bring about a rapid and positive solution to the Zimbabwe crisis.

Parliament strongly condemns the post-electoral political violence and human rights violations targeting supporters of opposition parties. It deplores the arrest of almost a dozen foreign journalists in recent weeks and calls for the immediate lifting of all restrictions on freedom of the press and assembly, and for unfettered access to Zimbabwe for foreign news agencies, and calls in addition for the immediate release of the 36 citizens arrested in the course of a peaceful protest against the delayed publication of results.

The resolution commends the South African dockworkers for refusing to unload arms from the Chinese cargo ship An Yue Jiang which were bound for Zimbabwe's security forces. It calls on all SADC countries to refuse unloading of the An Yue Jiang's cargo at any of their ports. The Chinese Government is requested to cease arms exports to Zimbabwe and to order the immediate return of the An Yue Jiang to Chinese waters.

With regard to action by the EU, Parliament calls on the Council to ensure that all Member States rigorously apply existing restrictive measures. The Council and Commission must accelerate preparation of the package of measures, including urgent economic assistance, that will be put in place as soon as the democratic transformation in Zimbabwe has taken place, and must coordinate such measures with the wider international community.