Resolution on Venezuela

2010/2551(RSP) - 11/02/2010 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Following the debate which took place on 9 February 2010, the European Parliament adopted by 41 votes to 16 with 3 abstentions a resolution on Venezuela.

The resolution was tabled by the EPP, ALDE and ECR groups.

Parliament is concerned about media freedom and notes that in January 2010 President Chávez ordered RCTV International (RCTVI) and five other cable and satellite TV channels (TV Chile, Ritmo Son, Momentum, America TV and American Network) off the air after they failed to broadcast the official presidential speech on the occasion of the 52nd anniversary of the overthrow of Perez Jimenez. Two of them – America TV and RCTVI – are still banned. Parliament regrets the government's decision no longer to allow these channels to broadcast in Venezuela and calls for their reinstatement. It wants the Venezuelan authorities to review this decision and the obligation to broadcast fully all speeches made by the Head of State, and it reminds the Government of Venezuela of its obligation to respect freedom of expression and opinion and freedom of the press, as it is bound to do under its own Constitution and under the different international and regional conventions and charters to which Venezuela is a signatory.

Parliament states that it is deeply worried by the drift towards authoritarianism shown by the government of President Hugo Chávez, whose actions are directed towards weakening the democratic opposition and restricting the rights and freedoms of citizens;

The Venezuelan Government is asked to respect the rules of democracy and the principles of freedom of expression, assembly, association and election, with a view to the parliamentary elections on 26 September. Parliament believes that the 'National Telecommunications Commission' should show itself to be independent of the political and economic authorities and ensure equitable pluralism.

It calls on the Government of Venezuela:

- to ensure equal treatment under the law for all media, including the Internet, whether privately or publicly owned and irrespective of all political or ideological considerations;
- to be committed to the values of the rule of law and to promote, protect and respect the right to freedom of expression, including on the Internet, and freedom of assembly;
- to respect media pluralism.