Resolution on the situation in the Korean Peninsula

2010/2736(RSP) - 17/06/2010 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the situation in the Korean Peninsula.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled in the form of a joint resolution by the S&D, ALDE, ECR and EPP groups.

The resolution notes tensions in the Korean Peninsula have dramatically increased since the sinking of the Cheonan on 26 March 2010, with the tragic loss of 46 lives. It states that an inquiry carried out by an international Joint Civilian-Military Investigation Group (JIG) showed clear, indisputable evidence that the Cheonan was sunk as the result of an external underwater explosion caused by a torpedo made in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

The High Representative/Vice-President, Catherine Ashton, has condemned the sinking of the Cheonan as a heinous and deeply irresponsible action.

Parliament acknowledges the conclusions of the Joint Investigation Group's final report, according to which the sinking of the vessel was caused by a North Korean torpedo, and firmly condemns the sinking as a provocative act against peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula. It conveys its sympathy to the ROK Government, the families of the deceased, and the Korean and commends the restraint shown by the Republic of Korea.

Parliament expresses disappointment that the governments of the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation have still not taken a clear position on the conclusions of the Joint Investigation Group's final report. It calls on China (a permanent member of the UN Security Council and the main trading partner of the DPRK) to exert an appropriate positive influence on the DPRK and to attempt to ensure that the conflict does not escalate further.

Parliament expresses its support for the ROK Government's referral of the matter to the UN Security Council.

The resolution calls on both parties to exercise restraint, to use every possible means to improve inter-Korean relations and to step up their efforts to promote lasting peace and security in the Korean Peninsula.

Lastly, Parliament calls on the Commission to maintain existing humanitarian aid programmes and keep communication channels with the DPRK open, as these aid programmes directly affect people's living conditions in the DPRK.