Resolution on the situation in Kyrgyzstan

2010/2770(RSP) - 08/07/2010 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the situation in Kyrgyzstan.

The resolution had been tabled by the Greens/ALE, EPP, S&D, ALDE and ECR groups. It expresses grave concern at the tragic, violent clashes which broke out in southern Kyrgyzstan and extends its condolences to the families of all the victims. Parliament recalls that violent clashes erupted in the southern Kyrgyzstan cities of Osh and Jalal-Abad in June 2010, with hundreds of armed men reportedly storming the city streets, shooting civilians and setting fire to shops, choosing their targets on the basis of ethnicity. According to the Kyrgyz authorities around 300 people died in the clashes, although fears have been expressed, including by the head of the interim government Rosa Otunbayeva, that the real figure could be much highe. More than 2000 people were injured or hospitalised and many are still missing,

Members **condemn the recent violence** and deplore the loss of human lives. They express the hope that a peaceful solution can be found to the conflict in Kyrgyzstan, on the basis of democratic principles, the rule of law and respect for human rights. They call on the interim government to conduct a credible, **impartial and independent investigation into the violence**, with the possible assistance of international actors, with a view to bringing the perpetrators to justice. The interim authorities is also asked to make every effort to secure a return to normality and to put in place all the necessary conditions so that refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) can voluntarily return to their homes in safety and dignity. Local authorities must take effective confidence-building measures and to open a genuine dialogue with all the ethnic communities living in southern Kyrgyzstan with the aim of developing a credible reconciliation process. The humanitarian response must be accompanied by **efforts to reduce the considerable risk of renewed violence**, which could threaten also peace and security in other parts of the Ferghana Valley, which runs through Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

In this connection, Parliament calls on the Commission to **step up humanitarian assistance**, in cooperation with international organisations, and to start short- and medium-term reconstruction programmes to rebuild destroyed homes and replace lost assets and to carry out rehabilitation projects in conjunction with the Kyrgyz authorities and other donors in order to create conditions conducive to the return of refugees and IDPs. It calls for a **substantial increase in EU humanitarian aid** to the people affected by the recent violence in southern Kyrgyzstan, as well as for comprehensive use of the Instrument for Stability.

Members believe that a **new level of EU engagement in southern Kyrgyzstan will be necessary in the longer term** as well. They reiterate their call to the Commission to prepare proposals for a reallocation of funds under the Development Cooperation Instrument designed to put the EU in a better position to give a sustained response to the new situation in Kyrgyzstan. A focus on human security is essential in the EU's Central Asia policy. Parliament wants the Vice-President/High Representative and Member States to contribute actively to the **prompt deployment of an OSCE police** mission with the aim of preventing any fresh outbreak of violence, stabilising the situation in the cities affected by the clashes, protecting the victims and the most vulnerable people and facilitating the return of refugees and IDPs.

The resolution goes on to express concern at the **difficulties besetting the democratisation process in Kyrgyzstan**, which seem to stem from the weak position of Kyrgyzstan's interim government and the strength of criminal networks in the country, including drug-smugglers in southern Kyrgyzstan. Establishing a pluralist political system which allows for representation of a range of interests and arbitration is fundamental to reducing tensions and preventing new eruptions of violence and the EU and its Member States must actively support democratisation and strive to reduce the differences in the

attitudes of international actors, so as to improve the prospects for the reform process in Kyrgyzstan. Parliament takes note of the fairly peaceful conduct of the **constitutional referendum** in Kyrgyzstan on 27 June 2010, and emphasises that the next parliamentary elections (provisionally scheduled for October 2010) should provide the constitutional basis for a government enjoying both strong legitimacy and widespread popular support. The authorities should take resolute measures to remedy the significant shortcomings identified by OSCE/ODIHR in time for the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

Lastly, Members stress the common interest of and the common responsibility borne by Kyrgyzstan, its neighbours, Russia, China, the EU, the US, the OSCE and the rest of the international community in preventing destabilisation, and calls on all the actors involved to identify synergies.