Resolution on Cambodia, in particular the case of Sam Rainsy

2010/2931(RSP) - 21/10/2010 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Cambodia, in particular the case of Sam Rainsy.

The resolution had been tabled by the S&D, ALDE, Greens/EFA, GUE/NGL, EPP and EFD groups.

A worrying authoritarian trend has been noticeable in Cambodia over the last few years which is reflected in a deterioration in the human rights situation, the stifling of fundamental freedoms, a brutal policy of land-grabbing, the suppression of all forms of criticism and protest, the persecution of the parliamentary opposition and civil society activists, the use of the courts for political ends and a drift toward a one-party system.

Furthermore, the opposition leader, Sam Rainsy, has been sentenced to a 12-year prison term and, should it be upheld, this verdict would bar him from standing in the 2013 parliamentary elections and would have consequences far beyond his case. Parliament calls, therefore, on the authorities to explore ways and means of resolving the issues at hand through political dialogue and to enable Sam Rainsy to resume his parliamentary activities as rapidly as possible.

Parliament reminds the Cambodian Government that it must fulfil its obligations and commitments regarding the democratic principles and fundamental human rights which are an essential element of the Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Cambodia. It therefore calls on the EU to take steps to ensure that fundamental freedoms, as enshrined in the Agreement, are respected and that attacks on civil liberties have consequences. It calls furthermore on the European Union to make continuation of its financial aid conditional upon an improvement in Cambodia's human rights record.

It calls on the Cambodian authorities to:

- ensure that the NGO law which is currently in preparation will not restrict the activities of Cambodian civil society organisations on grounds of discretionary interpretation and will not be applied in such a way as to disadvantage civil society as well as the opposition;
- engage in political and institutional reforms to build a democratic state governed by the rule of law and founded on respect for fundamental freedoms;
- demonstrate their will to combat effectively the endemic scourges of corruption, massive deforestation resulting in the displacement of people, and the sex tourism industry, to reject the current culture of impunity and to bring to justice all those involved in such activities;
- guarantee free and fair political expression without intimidation and harassment;
- draw up an action programme and timetable for implementing the recommendations made in the UN Special Rapporteur's report on the situation of human rights in Cambodia.