Resolution on the situation in Syria

2011/2812(RSP) - 15/09/2011 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

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

The resolution was tabled by the S&D, ECR, Greens/EFA, EPP, and ALDE groups.

It notes that according to U.N. estimates, over 2 600 people have lost their lives, many more have been injured and thousands detained, and **strongly condemns the escalating use of force against peaceful protesters and the brutal and systematic persecution of pro-democracy activists,** as well as the human rights violations perpetrated by the Syrian authorities, including mass arrests, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detention, disappearances and torture. It expresses its solidarity with the Syrian people fighting for their rights. Members support the Council's conclusions of 18 July 2011, which state that the Syrian regime is calling its legitimacy into question by choosing a path of repression instead of fulfilling its own promises on broad reforms, and they call on President Bashar al Assad and his regime to relinquish power immediately. Members call for an immediate end to violent crackdowns against peaceful demonstrators and an independent investigation into the killings, arrests, arbitrary detention and alleged forced disappearances and instances of torture by the Syrian security forces. In this context Parliament welcomes the resolution adopted by the UN Human Rights Council on 23 August 2011 calling for an **independent international commission of inquiry** to be dispatched to Syria in order to establish the facts and circumstances of these crimes and violations, identify those responsible and ensure that the perpetrators are held accountable.

At the same time, Members want an immediate and inclusive political process with the participation of all democratic political actors and civil society organisations which could be the basis of a peaceful and irreversible transition to democracy in Syria. They call on the VP/HR, the Council and the Commission to encourage and **support the emergence of organised Syrian democratic opposition forces both within and outside Syria**. They also call on members of the UN Security Council, and **in particular Russia and China, to proceed with a resolution condemning the use of lethal force by the Syrian regime** and calling for an end to this use of force, and to put in place sanctions for failure to do so. Members welcome the condemnation of the Syrian regime by Turkey and Saudi Arabia, and they regret Iran's continuing support for President Al Assad's regime.

Parliament welcomes the **adoption by the Council on 2 September 2011 of new restrictive measures against the Syrian regime**, including a ban on the import of crude oil to the EU and the addition of four Syrian persons and three entities to the list of those targeted by an asset freeze and travel ban. It calls, however, for further sanctions that target the regime but minimise the negative impacts on the living conditions of the population. Members want the EU to show a united front in its dealings with the Syrian authorities.

Lastly, the resolution welcomes the humanitarian assistance provided by neighbouring countries of Syria, in particular Turkey, to Syrian refugees. Noting that the **crisis in Syria constitutes a threat to the stability and security of the entire Middle East region**, Members encourage the EU and its Member States to continue working together with members of the UNSC, neighbouring countries of Syria, the Arab League, other international actors and NGOs in order to prevent the potential escalation of the current crisis in Syria, including the humanitarian crisis, to other areas in the region as well as further aggravation of the humanitarian crisis within the country.