

EC/Indonesia Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation

2013/0120A(NLE) - 10/02/2014 - Committee interim report tabled for plenary

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the interim report by Ana GOMES (S&D, PT) the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Partnership and cooperation between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Indonesia, of the other part, **with the exception of matters related to readmission**.

Members recalled that Indonesia is the world's fourth most populous nation, the third largest democracy and the **largest Muslim majority country**.

Taking account these elements, Members called on the Council to take account of the following recommendations in the framework of this interim report and before final consent of the Agreement:

- the recommendation stressed that the PCA aims to further strengthen relations between the EU and Indonesia, in addition to the existing cooperation mechanisms, and to cooperate in addressing global challenges, based on the shared principles of equality, mutual respect, mutual benefit, democracy, active civil society participation, the rule of law, good governance and human rights, by developing political and economic cooperation in all matters;
- Members believed that the relationship between Indonesia and the EU ought to be recognised as strategic and that regular summits should be held to review bilateral and global developments;
- Members urged the EU and Indonesia to make full use of the PCA in order to achieve long-term geostrategic benefits in facing global security challenges, such as tackling climate change and the proliferation of WMD, piracy;
- the recommendation stressed the need to combat corruption.

Human rights: Members stressed the inconsistency of Law 8/1985 and the new Law on Mass Organisations 17/2013 (repealing the former Law on Associations 8/1985) on civil organisations (the "Ormas Bill"), which, despite the stated purpose of ensuring tolerance and preventing violence against society groups, if not revised to conform with international human rights standards, risks imposing unnecessary and sometimes onerous administrative, legal and financial restrictions on the activities of nongovernmental organisations.

Members called on both national and foreign enterprises operating in Indonesia need to develop their activities in accordance with the principles of corporate social responsibility.

Freedom of culture: Members noted with regret that the increasingly strong focus on Islamic teachings in the public education system, to the detriment of the stress on religious, ethnic and cultural plurality and diversity enshrined in the Indonesian motto 'Bhinneka Tunggal Ika' (Unity in Diversity), and expressed their concern as regards acts of violence towards religious minorities and the closure of churches in some parts of the country.

Death penalty: Members recalled that the abolition of the death penalty is a key objective of the Union's human rights policy and called on the Indonesian authorities to consider abolishing the death penalty, or at least declaring a moratorium on its application. They also called for the end of acts of violence against the civilian population in Papua and West Papua.

Members called for further efforts to:

- eradicate genital mutilation,
- eliminate the worst forms of child labour, and its legal framework to tackle child exploitation;
- diversify energy supplies by developing new and renewable forms of energy,
- apply the moratorium on the clearing of new forest decided by the Government in 2011,
- develop sustainable tourism models,
- starting negotiations on visa facilitation with a view to increasing people-to-people exchanges,
- modernise the public administration,
- reduce plantations of palm oil and rubber,
- improve efficiency in asset recovery and fighting terrorism, piracy, organised crime, money laundering and tax havens.