

EC/Indonesia Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation

2013/0120A(NLE) - 26/02/2014 - Interim resolution adopted by Parliament

The European Parliament adopted an **interim report** on 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.

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

Taking account of these elements, it called on the Council to take account of the following recommendations in the framework of the 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;
- Parliament 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;
- Parliament 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;
- Parliament stressed the need to combat corruption.

Economic expansion: Parliament highlighted that Indonesia's 15-year process of democratic, political, social and economic transformation, after 33 years of authoritarian military rule and that Indonesia is urbanising rapidly. It has a fast-rising middle class (of over 70 million), ample natural resources, the **largest economy in Southeast Asia** (GDP growing by more than 6% in the last two years), with half of the world's trade passing its northern maritime border, and an increasing diplomatic presence in regional and global fora, such as the UN, the WTO, the IOC and the G20, as well as the ASEAN, of which Indonesia is both a founder and its largest member, and recognises the important role played by Indonesia in the broader region. In this respect, Parliament recognised the important role of Indonesia in the region as a whole.

Human rights: Parliament 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 non-governmental organisations.

It 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: Parliament 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 'Bhineka 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: Parliament 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.

Parliament also 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.