Resolution on Haiti

2019/2928(RSP) - 28/11/2019 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Haiti.

The text adopted in plenary had been tabled as a joint resolution by the EPP, S&D, Renew, Greens/EFA and GUE/NGL groups.

Parliament strongly condemned the repression of peaceful protests by the Haitian authorities, as well as the use of lethal force, arbitrary detainment, intimidation, harassment and sexual violence. The government's announcement in July 2018 that it would eliminate subsidies, which would raise fuel prices by up to 50 per cent, led to widespread protests and the worst civil unrest the country has seen in years.

The demonstrations organised by opposition leaders demanded the resignation of President Jovenel Moïse because of rampant inflation, allegations of systematic government corruption and economic and food insecurity. Demonstrations which began over a year ago in protest against corruption scandals involving Haitian authorities have claimed about a hundred victims. Security forces repressed the protests using live ammunition and tear gas. Between 15 September and 1 November 2019, at least 42 people died, including 19 killed by law enforcement, and 86 were injured in demonstrations, according to the latest figures from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Parliament called on all parties to engage in a frank, open and inclusive inter-Haitian dialogue in order to better respond to the basic needs and aspirations of the population and to find lasting solutions to the political crisis. It called on the European External Action Service (EEAS) to commit itself to the full democratic stabilisation of the country and to help put an end to corruption and other forms of crime. It also called on the international community to help the Haitian people to establish an independent judicial system capable of bringing the perpetrators to justice and punishing them, regardless of their social status.

The resolution called on the Haitian government to grant unrestricted access to humanitarian organisations so that they can carry out their operations, assist people in need and distribute food and other vital aid. The EU should strengthen the capacity of Haitian organisations to take the lead in deciding on the kind of assistance delivered to the country, as well as its beneficiaries.

Parliament stressed the need to implement measures to ensure the registration and protection of children and to combat violence against women and the elderly. It also condemned the anti-LGBT laws passed in 2017.

Members endorsed the call for an independent OAS expert mission to be sent to Haiti for a longer period with the task of clarifying the multiple human rights violations in the country, and the aim of carrying out impartial, thorough, transparent and independent investigations.