Resolution on violations of religious freedom in Tibet

2025/2692(RSP) - 08/05/2025 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 478 votes to 30, with 41 abstentions, a resolution on violations of religious freedom in Tibet.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled by the EPP, S&D, ECR, Renew and Green/EFA groups.

Given that the human rights situation in Tibet continues to deteriorate, respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law should be at the centre of the EU's relations with China.

Tulku Hungkar Dorje, a respected Tibetan Buddhist religious leader and humanitarian figure, died on 28 March 2025 under suspicious circumstances following his arrest by Vietnamese and Chinese authorities. His body was reportedly cremated without the consent of his family, raising serious concerns.

Parliament strongly condemned the repressive assimilation policies throughout China and their violations of universal human rights, especially in Tibet, which seek to eliminate distinct Tibetan religious and cultural traditions and heritage. They called for a clear separation between State and religion in China.

Moreover, Members firmly opposed any attempt by the Chinese Government to interfere in the selection of Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leaders, including the Dalai Lama.

While expressing deep concern and sorrow over the suspicious death of Tulku Hungkar Dorje, Parliament extended its sincere condolences to his family, monastery and followers. It called for an immediate, independent, impartial and transparent investigation into his death, with international oversight and access to evidence and witnesses, and the immediate return of his remains. It strongly condemned the continued persecution of Tibetan religious and cultural leaders and the practice of transnational repression by Chinese authorities, including the cultural and linguistic assimilation of children in state-run residential schools, reflecting a broader policy of forced assimilation.

Lastly, the resolution demanded that the EU impose sanctions on officials and entities responsible for human rights violations in Tibet and urged China to uphold its obligations under international law and cease all discrimination against religious and ethnic minorities, allow peaceful religious practice, and release all religious and political prisoners.