Respect for human rights in the European Union in 1997

1996/2252(INI) - 17/12/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting its report on the respect for human rights in the European Union, drafted by Ms. Anne-Marie SCHAFFNER (UPE, F), the European Parliament urges the Union to ensure that its own human rights commitments and those of its Member States are translated into strong political action, and to this end asks that : - from the coming into force of the Amsterdam Treaty, the Commission give one of its Members responsibility for issues concerning human rights, and likewise for the area of freedom, security and justice; - the Parliament Committee which is responsible for civil liberties and internal affairs periodically review the human rights situation in the Member States and the progress made in the area of freedom, security and justice; - the remit of the racism monitoring centre in Vienna be expanded to include human rights in the EU, since the centre has a special role to play in providing the EU institutions with regular information concerning racism, xenophobia and human rights in the Member States. It calls on those Member States that have not yet signed/ratified the Second Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to do so. The report deals with a range of issues: - Access to care : for example, the Parliament called for a ban on any active intervention intended to curtail the life of newborn babies, the disabled, the elderly and patients in a prolonged coma; - Right to safety - the rule of law and the fight against terrorism; - Judicial procedures; - Civil and political rights; - Respect for private life; - Freedom of expression and other freedoms; - Religious freedom; - Economic and social rights; - Cultural rights; - Fighting discrimination - women's rights - rights of the child - protecting the family; - Conditions of detention - rehabilitation; - Fighting racism and xenophobia; - Immigration and asylum.