

Specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities associated with Usama bin Laden, the Al-Qaida network and the Taliban

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The European Parliament, using its procedure without report, adopted a resolution on restrictive measures directed against Usama bin Laden, the Al-Qaida network, and the Taliban. The amendments made by Parliament reflect its concern that non-derogable human rights as set down in the International Covenant on Civic and Political rights be respected. Parliament emphasised the fact that the list of persons and bodies whose assets are frozen has been determined solely by the UN Sanctions Committee. There must be a proper procedure for the revision of the lists by the Sanctions Committee, particularly since the list includes EU citizens, despite the fact that no judicial proceedings have taken place and no evidence has been provided. Parliament went on to state that the Court of Justice has jurisdiction in actions brought by the persons listed, as well as the power to give preliminary rulings concerning the validity and interpretation of the Regulation. Accordingly, the Court of Justice may take interim measures to ensure respect for human rights, particularly the right of life. The Sanctions Committee must be supplied with any information, particularly requests by interested parties for adding or removing from the list EU citizens, and for the granting by the Sanctions Committee of exemptions on the grounds of humanitarian need. Lastly, the Parliament should be informed of the Commission's contacts with the UN Sanctions Committee, particularly of cases where a request to delete from the list of citizens or residents of the EU or to grant an exemption on humanitarian grounds is refused.