The situation in Iraq ten years after the Gulf War

2000/2329(INI) - 16/05/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

By adopting by 354 votes to 29, with 31 abstentions, the report by Baroness Emma Nicholson of Winterbourne (ELDR, UK) on the situation in Iraq eleven years after the Gulf War, the European Parliament has overwhelmingly endorsed the position adopted by the lead committee, on whose own initiative the report was drafted (see previous summary). The House, however, has adopted a number of amendments designed to reaffirm the position of its rapporteur, who states that there has been no improvement in the human-rights situation and therefore calls on the Council and the Commission to set up in the shortest time possible an active strategy comprising closer monitoring and public denunciation of human-rights violations, explicit denial of access to the EU for Iraqi leaders, coupled with the detection and freezing of their illegal financial assets, keeping up the pressure on the Baghdad regime to put an end to repression and supporting the democratic experience of the Kurdish administration in Northern Iraq and projects for the development of civil society. Parliament particularly stresses the need to bring those responsible of human rights abuses in Iraq before an ad hoc International Tribunal for Iraq, which would have to be set up because the International Criminal Court is only empowered to prosecute for crimes committed after the entry into force of its Statute, i.e. after 1 July 2002. While noting with satisfaction the commitment made by Iraq at the Beirut summit at the end of March 2002 to respect the internationally recognised borders of Kuwait, the House emphatically urges the Baghdad authorities to fulfil their international obligations, to cease unlawful practices, to respect ethnic and religious minorities and to cooperate with the United Nations in security matters and allow verification inspections by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM). Finally, there is also a suggestion that Iraq should eventually be brought into the Convention on Chemical Weapons.