Resolution on progress in 2000 in establishing an area of freedom, security and justice

2000/2039(RSP) - 16/05/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

Progress in establishing an area of freedom, security and justice by the EU Member States leaves much to be desired according to the European Parliament. There is still no strategic approach to asylum and immigration, let alone a common policy in this area. A strategy on the fight against organised crime exists only on paper and cooperation with Parliament is inadequate. In this resolution, the Parliament criticises: the delay by the Council in adopting a directive on family reunification; the risk that the Commission's third attempt at laying down provisions on the temporary protection of refugees may fail because of opposition from certain Member States; the delay in setting up Eurojust and the unwillingness to transfer parliamentary scrutiny of Europol to the European Parliament. Parliament therefore calls on the Commission and the Council to submit comprehensive strategies and precise timetables for the development of central policies - such as a policy on asylum and immigration - and to leave aside the multitude of uncoordinated individual initiatives by Member States. The Parliament is calling on the Commission and the Council to rationalise working methods and to speed up the adoption of decisions; to agree at last on provisions for burden-sharing among Member States with regard to refugees and asylum-seekers; to recognise Parliament's role as co-legislator as envisaged in the Treaty of Nice; to make provisions for extending the co-decision procedure to all legislative fields in the areas of justice and home affairs; to strengthen initiatives on cross-border police cooperation; to establish a framework for cooperation between Europol, Eurojust and OLAF. Lastly, the Parliament calls on the Commission and the Council to convene an extraordinary conference of EU ministers for Justice and Home Affairs during the Belgian Presidency in order to discuss the overall strategy in the field of freedom, security and justice. Parliament more specifically calls for an international conference on finding a solution for the thousands of Kurds who flee unbearable circumstances and thus often fall prey to human trafficking.