Resolution on Guantanamo

2004/2598(RSP) - 28/10/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Guantanamo.

The text adopted in plenary had been tabled by the PES, EPP-ED, ALDE, Greens/ALE, and GUE groups.

Parliament notes that approximately 580 people remain detained in Guantánamo Bay alone, and that, according to eye-witnesses, many detainees at Guantánamo Bay have been regularly subjected to harsh and coercive treatment. It reaffirms that, in the face of the threat of terrorism, one of the prime duties of democracies is to protect their citizens with resolve, to fight terrorism firmly and tenaciously and to detect and dismantle any terrorist networks. Members strongly reaffirm that this fight cannot be waged in breach of international law and at the expense of established basic, shared values such as respect for human rights, the rule of law and the relevant Geneva Conventions.

They note with satisfaction that some detainees have been granted increasing entitlement to private conversations with independent lawyers. They insist, however, that every detainee should be treated in accordance with international humanitarian law and tried without delay in a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal, in application and demonstration of the very values we stand for.

Parliament calls on the US administration to allow an impartial and independent investigation into allegations of torture and mistreatment for all persons deprived of their liberty in US custody. It reiterates the recommendations it made to the Council on 10 March 2004 as regards the legal consideration of detainees held in Guantánamo Bay and the possible impact on the EU-US partnership.