Resolution on the Special Court for Sierra Leone: the case of Charles Taylor

2005/2516(RSP) - 24/02/2005 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted by 94 votes to 0 with 2 abstentions a resolution on the Special Court for Sierra Leone: the case of Charles Taylor.

The resolution had been tabled on behalf of the Greens/ALE, EPP-ED, PES, UEN, GUE/NGL and ALDE groups.

Noting that on 7 March 2003, Charles Taylor, who was indicted by the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone on 17 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes, continues to reside in Nigeria, Parliament calls on the Government of Nigeria to act in the continued interests of the Liberian peace process and in support of the rule of law by surrendering Charles Ghankay Taylor forthwith to the jurisdiction of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. It states that the people of Sierra Leone are entitled to see justice done in the case of Charles Taylor by a fair trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Members call on the United Nations Security Council to consider this issue as a matter of urgency. Nigeria has ratified the Geneva Convention, which states that those that have committed war crimes may not be granted refugee status.

The resolution calls on the EU to keep supporting the 2003 peace agreement between Liberia's three warring factions and the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for October 2005.