Resolution on the situation in Uzbekistan

2005/2570(RSP) - 09/06/2005 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Uzbekistan.

The text adopted in plenary had been tabled as a joint resolution by the EPP-ED, PES, ALDE, Greens /EFA, GUE/NGL and UEN groups.

Recalling that several hundred people were killed on 13 May 2005 in the eastern Uzbek city of Andijan when government troops opened fire on a protest march against the imprisonment of 23 local businessmen, the Parliament strongly condemns the excessive, brutal and indiscriminate use of force by the Uzbek security forces and urges the Uzbek authorities to bring those responsible for the massacre in Andijan to trial.

The Parliament urges the Uzbek authorities to respond immediately to the international calls for an **independent international inquiry** into the events and stresses that the Uzbek government, by continuing to refuse an international inquiry, is failing to meet even its most basic obligations under the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement's human rights and democracy clause.

In response, the Parliament calls on the Council and the Commission to channel EU aid and cooperation programmes to Uzbekistan through independent NGOs, to reinforce TACIS-democracy programmes and to suspend direct aid to government bodies, until change is made.

The Uzbek authorities are called upon to stop the persecution and harassment of opposition politicians, human rights defenders, independent journalists and other Uzbek citizens and to release those who were arrested during and after the events in Andijan.

The Parliament stresses the importance of addressing the root causes of the instability in the region and urges the Uzbek authorities to carry out domestic reforms, which are essential for economic development and the achievement of democracy and stability in the country. The Commission should support such reforms effectively and in close coordination with other relevant international actors.

Lastly, the Parliament calls on the Government of Uzbekistan to take tangible steps towards the abolition of the death penalty and to ensure the freedom of the press and freedom of speech.