Resolution on the Euroepan Union's policy towards the Cuban Government

2005/2665(RSP) - 02/02/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted by 560 votes to 33, with 19 abstentions, a resolution on the EU's policy towards the Cuban Government.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled by the EPP-ED, UEN, PES and ALDE groups.

Parliament regrets the absence of any significant signs on the part of the Cuban authorities in reponse to the European Union's calls for full respect for fundamental freedoms, especially freedom of expression and political association, and **condemns the worsening repression** and the increase in the number of prisoners of conscience.

Parliament considers it inconceivable that people continue to be imprisoned in Cuba for their ideals and peaceful political activity, and calls for the **immediate release** of all political prisoners of conscience.

It goes on to urge the Council and the Commission to continue to take whatever action is necessary in order to require the release of political prisoners and to ensure that an immediate stop is put to the harassment of political opponents and human rights defenders.

MEPs note the refusal of the Cuban authorities to allow the **Damas de Blanco** (who won the Sakharov Prize in 2005) to travel to the seat of the European Parliament to receive their award. Parliament urges the Cuban authorities immediately to allow the Damas de Blanco to leave the island so that they can accept the invitation of the European Parliament, and instructs its President to take all possible steps to ensure that the prize winners can indeed receive the Sakharov Prize in person.

Lastly, it its invitation to the **Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas**, the winner of the European Parliament's 2002 Sakharov Prize, and demands that the Cuban authorities permit him to travel to Europe to appear before the Community institutions.