Resolution on human rights in Moldova, and in Transnistria in particular

2006/2545(RSP) - 16/03/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted by 77 votes to 1 with 0 abstentions a resolution on human rights in Moldova, and in Transnistria in particular.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled by the PES, UEN, ALDE, EPP-ED, GUE/NGL, and Green/ALE groups. Parliament notes that there are concerns, notably with regard to Transnistria, about the serious level of criminal activity, the pervasiveness of corruption throughout society, the existence of a deeply rooted unofficial economy and the lack of respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights. Transnistria declared independence from Moldova in 1992, after an armed conflict involving Russian military support, thereby destabilising the entire country.

Members strongly condemn the repression, harassment and intimidation by the Transnistrian regime of representatives of the independent media, and of citizens criticising the self-proclaimed Transnistrian authorities and members of NGOs and of the opposition. They condemn the prohibition of funding of NGOs by foreign donors, and deplore the unwillingness of the regime to engage in efforts to reach a peaceful and comprehensive solution to the Transnistria conflict. They welcome, therefore, the extension of the EU visa ban on members of the Transnistrian regime.

Parliament refers to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruling of 8 July 2004 in the case of Ilacu and others against Moldova and the Russian Federation, and notes that the self-proclaimed Transnistrian authorities continue to refuse to comply with the ECHR ruling requiring them to put an end to the unlawful and arbitrary detention of Mr Andrei Ivantoc and Mr Tudor Petrov-Popa. Parliament deeply deplores the fact that the self-proclaimed Transnistrian authorities, more than one and a half years after delivery of the ECHR judgment, continue to keep two of the applicants in that case imprisoned. It calls on the Moldovan authorities to continue their efforts towards putting an end to the unlawful and arbitrary detention of Mr Andrei Ivantoc and Mr Tudor Petrov-Popa and securing their immediate release.

With reference to the Action Plan for Moldova adopted by the seventh EU-Moldova Cooperation Council meeting on 22 February 2005, Parliament expresses its **strong support for the efforts of the Moldovan authorities to implement the Action Plan** successfully as part of the EU's Neighbourhood Policy. It calls on the Commission and Council to support the Moldovan authorities in their democratisation process and to use all diplomatic means to weaken the authoritarian and illegal regime in Transnistrian. The Moldovan Government is urged to continue the process of reforms so as to strengthen the rule of law and redress corruption in the institutions in compliance with the commitments stemming from the Action Plan, and to step up efforts in the fight against any trafficking in human beings.

Members welcome the deployment of the EU Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), which may contribute to wider efforts to find a sustainable solution to the Transnistrian conflict. They stress that better border controls are an essential element in bringing the conflict to an end, including by limiting the arms trade. They call on the Commission, the Council and the EU Special Representative for Moldova to make every effort to prevent any escalation of the present border crisis.

Lastly, Parliament calls on Russia immediately to **discontinue its support for the Transnistrian regime**, to reaffirm its commitment to Moldova's territorial integrity and unconditionally to withdraw its troops, including their heavy weaponry and munitions. The Council is asked to include this item on the agenda of the next EU-Russia summit.