Resolution on the parliamentary elections of 26th March 2006 in Ukraine

2006/2548(RSP) - 06/04/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the parliamentary elections in Ukraine.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled by the EPP-ED, PES, ALDE, GUE/NGL, Greens/ALE, UEN groups.

It welcomes the fact that the parliamentary and local elections of 26 March 2006 were held in a satisfactory manner. They were fully in accordance with international electoral standards, and Ukraine is firmly on the path towards becoming a mature democracy and assuming its rightful place in a European community of democratic nations.

Parliament looks forward to increased cooperation with the Verkhovna Rada and to a sustained transition process in Ukraine that will bring the country closer to the objective of ever more intensive cooperation with the European Union, and commits itself to assisting and supporting Ukraine in this process.

It urges all members of the newly elected Verkhovna Rada as well as the new Ukrainian Government to commit themselves to the irreversibility of the democratic process and to strengthen the political, social and economic reforms. It calls upon the new government formed after these elections to consolidate Ukraine's espousal of common European values by taking further steps to promote democracy, human rights, civil society and the rule of law, by resuming market reforms and by overcoming the political divisions in Ukraine. Members ask the new Ukrainian Government to continue to be a reliable partner for the EU, with specific regard to enhancing stability in the region, and in particular, in finding a solution to the Trans-Dniester problem. They appeal to all neighbouring countries to respect the democratic choice of the Ukrainian people and to refrain from any economic or other pressure to change the democratically decided political, social and economic development of the country.

Parliament urges the Commission and Council to respond concretely to the **growing hopes of the Ukrainian people**, who are increasingly looking to the EU, and to consider a further strengthening of measures included in the European Neighbourhood Policy's Action Plan, in particular with regard to strengthening respect for the rule of law and the strengthening of social and economic reforms. It also urges Member States to undertake similar initiatives to provide concrete support, contributing to a continuation of the reform process in Ukraine. It notes that the current Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EC and Ukraine expires in 2008, and calls on the Commission to begin to negotiate an Association Agreement.

Members state that they look forward to a **visa-facilitation agreement** between the EU and Ukraine with the final goal of a non-visa regime, but, in the interim, call on the Commission to fully respect the existing agreements on free multiple-entry visas with seven Member States, as well as other actions geared to realising Ukraine's European perspective. Lastly, they call for further action to move Ukraine towards full membership of the World Trade Organisation.