Resolution on situation and human rights on Nepal

2006/2573(RSP) - 18/05/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Nepal.

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

Parliament welcomes recent developments in Nepal encouraging a return to political stability. MEPs believe that the restoration of the sovereignty of the parliament's democratic authorities is only a first step towards real peace and a lasting democracy, and that substantial progress needs to be made in a number of areas in order to consolidate the situation:

- democratic control of the Royal Nepalese Army and local militia to end the human rights abuses;
- addressing the root causes of the conflict and ensuring that there is greater economic prosperity and a better redistribution of wealth for all throughout the country;
- respect for minority rights;
- the necessary devolution of power to the regional and local levels;
- a more representative electoral system.

Satisfied with the current ceasefire, Parliament calls for parliamentary elections to be held at an early stage, and suggests an EU election observation mission.

Parliament is deeply concerned about alleged extrajudicial killings, widespread torture, impunity and other human rights violations committed by both sides. It stresses that all restrictions on media freedom should be lifted immediately, and that all political prisoners, including journalists and human rights activists, should be released.

Parliament also calls on the international community to establish a Contact Group, to be made up of Nepal's key partners and international organisations (the EU, the US, India and the UN), to provide coordinated international action with regard to Nepal. It proposes that the European Parliament **appoint a special rapporteur to monitor the situation**.

Parliament calls on the Council, the Commission and the Member States to support the peace process by:

- assisting all armed groups to demobilise and disarm;
- using development and humanitarian assistance to consolidate peace and economic development;
- sending human rights observers;
- encouraging international financial institutions to give priority to macro-economic stability and transparency, rather than forcing ambitious economic reform proposals on a fragile democracy.

The Council and Commission should offer further technical, logistical and financial assistance to Nepal, including practical planning for a ceasefire monitoring mission in cooperation with other donors, should this be requested by Nepal. The Council should consider appointing a Special Representative for Nepal.

Lastly, Parliament calls on the Nepalese government to protect Tibetan refugees in transit to India.