Resolution on the situation in Sri Lanka

2006/2574(RSP) - 18/05/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the situation in Sri Lanka.

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

Following stalemate in the negotiations between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Parliament urgently calls on the LTTE to **resume peace negotiations with the Government of Sri Lanka without delay**, to be prepared to decommission its weapons and to set the stage for a final political settlement of the conflict. It severely condemns the renewed campaign of attacks by the LTTE, the high level of human rights violations committed by both sides and the constant breaches of the ceasefire agreement.

Parliament expresses its condemnation of the appalling abuse of children through the recruitment of **child soldiers**, which is a war crime, and calls on all rebel groups and notably the LTTE to stop this practice. Parliament strongly condemns the particular repression against Tamil language press and Tamil organisations. It stresses the need for an effective independent investigation into all alleged human rights violations by security forces or armed groups.

Other actions called for by the Parliament include:

- ceasing the use of anti-personnel landmines;
- implementing the agreement to share international aid, in particular following the Tsunami (Parliament deplores the fact that the demands of heavy defence costs have for many years diverted resources away from urgently needed investments in economic and social infrastructure in Sri Lanka).

Parliament calls on the Member States to do everything in their capacity in order to stop all illegal attempts by the LTTE to uphold a system of forced taxation of sections of the Tamil community living in the European Union.

Lastly, Parliament reiterates its support for all the people of Sri Lanka and their President, Mahinda Rajapakse, as they address together the challenges that lie ahead.