Resolution on human rights in Syria

2006/2580(RSP) - 15/06/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on human rights in Syria.

The resolution was tabled by EPP-ED, PES, Greens/EFA, GUE/NGL, ALDE and UEN groups.

Firstly, the Parliament notes that, after signing a petition for improved Syrian-Lebanese relations, several civil society activists were arrested and tortured. It therefore calls on the Syrian authorities to release immediately all activists concerned.

At the same time, the Parliament calls on Syria to release immediately all prisoners of conscience. It also asks that the detainees be well treated and not subject to torture or other ill-treatment and that they be given prompt, regular and unrestricted access to their lawyers, doctors and families. Moreover, the Parliament calls on the Syrian authorities to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Recalling that respect for human rights constitutes a **vital component in any future EU-Syria Association Agreement**, the Parliament calls on Syria to respect its commitments in this context. It calls on the Commission and the Council to do their utmost to ensure that the Association Agreement with Syria leads to an improvement in human rights in Syria and calls on the Commission to assess annually the human rights situation in Syria and its compliance with the obligations under the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement.