Resolution on situation of Mauritania

2006/2599(RSP) - 06/07/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Mauritania.

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

The Parliament notes with satisfaction the transitional authorities' undertaking to establish democracy in Mauritania, encourages them to conduct this process in full compliance with the undertakings given and stresses that it will carefully monitor the progress of the process until its completion. It welcomes the successful conduct of the referendum of 25 June 2006 and stresses that the massive number of Mauritanians voting in favour of the new Constitution marks a decisive stage in the process of democratic transition.

MEPs welcome the adoption of a timetable for holding a referendum on the Constitution and general, municipal and presidential elections, as well as the setting up of a National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI). In this context, they call on the Military Council for Justice and Democracy (MCJD), the transitional government and CENI to decide to complete the census and the distribution of polling cards. The Commission is called upon to decide to send a European Union Election Observation Mission (EUEOM).

The Parliament recommends that everything be done to ensure that Mauritanians abroad are able to vote in future elections. It also considers that political parties should be funded on the basis of their representation in the municipal elections and suggests that part of the funding should take the form of material aid.

The resolution welcomes the abolition of media censorship, the freedom of expression enjoyed by representatives of political parties and civil society in Mauritania, the commitment made by the transitional government to combat corruption and the Mauritanian authorities’ determination to combat illegal immigration.

The Parliament calls on the MCJD and the transitional government to focus on the humanitarian deficit, refugees and the legacy of slavery, as well as the impunity of perpetrators of economic crime. With regard to the current and future Mauritanian authorities, they are called upon to: (i) tackle the question of inequality in the distribution of wealth and to bring a minimum of social justice to Mauritania; (ii) exploit the new oil resources to meet the needs of the population, especially in the fields of health and education.

Lastly, the Parliament calls on the Commission and the Mauritanian authorities to conclude the fisheries agreement negotiations on time and to devise an adequate policy to protect fish resources and preserve the marine and terrestrial biodiversity.