Resolution on the situation in Zimbabwe

2006/2623(RSP) - 07/09/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted by 77 votes to 1, with 5 abstentions, a resolution on Zimbabwe.

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

The Parliament condemns the Mugabe dictatorship and expresses its profound disappointment at the refusal of regional actors such as the AU, the SADC and South Africa to take a more robust stance against the regime's abuses and the failure to insist that the Zimbabwean Government should mend its ways and restore democracy and the rule of law.

MEPs refuse to recognise the legitimacy of the recently created Senate in Zimbabwe. They call on Robert Mugabe to comply with his own promise to stand down, sooner rather than later, which would be the largest single step possible towards reviving Zimbabwean society, politics and economy, and for the commencement of positive transitional negotiations between Zanu-PF, MDC parties and other opposition movements. The resolution demands that the Mugabe regime fulfil its pledge to provide housing sufficient for all those forced out of their homes during the atrocious Operation Murambatsvina campaign. Moreover, it regrets that Zimbabwe's progress in the fight against HIV-AIDS is being undermined by the government's abusive practices.

The Parliament calls for the withdrawal of the Interception of Communications Bill, the Suppression of Terrorism Bill and the Non-Governmental Organisations Bill. It also expresses great consternation at the Mugabe regime's covert attempts to take control of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS) and is fearful that this move will herald the use of ZRCS food support as a political weapon, thus depriving many vulnerable Zimbabweans of vital assistance.

MEPs also strongly insist that the Mugabe regime must derive absolutely no financial benefit or propaganda value from the 2010 World Cup. They call on South Africa, the host nation, and on FIFA, to exclude Zimbabwe from participating in pre-World Cup matches and holding international friendly games.

Whilst recognising that the EU's targeted sanctions have failed to have the desired impact, the Parliament calls on the Council to: (i) ensure that all Member States rigorously apply existing restrictive measures, including the arms embargo and the travel ban; (ii) expand the scope of the sanctions and further to enlarge the list of individuals so that it encompasses many more Zimbabwean government ministers, deputies and governors, Zanu-PF members, as well as businessmen and other prominent individuals associated with Zanu-PF.

The UN Security Council is called upon to report on the human rights and political situation in Zimbabwe as a matter of urgency.