

Basic information	
2007/2562(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on the fifth session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) (Geneva, 11-19 June 2007)	
Subject 6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general	

Key players				
Council of the European Union	Council configuration		Meetings	Date
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN		2804	2007-06-05
European Commission	Commission DG		Commissioner	
	External Relations		FERRERO-WALDNER Benita	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
05/06/2007	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
06/06/2007	Debate in Parliament		
07/06/2007	Decision by Parliament	T6-0235/2007	Summary
07/06/2007	Results of vote in Parliament		
07/06/2007	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2007/2562(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway			
European Parliament			

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Motion for a resolution		B6-0234/2007	06/06/2007	
Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects		T6-0235/2007	07/06/2007	Summary

Resolution on the fifth session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) (Geneva, 11-19 June 2007)

2007/2562(RSP) - 07/06/2007 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a joint resolution sponsored by the PES, ALDE, UEN, Green/ALE and GUE/NGL groups on the fifth session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), taking place from 11 to 18 June. It welcomed the ambitious programme the UNHRC set itself, and the organisation of special sessions to respond to urgent crises, but was concerned at the failure of the UNHRC to take action to address many of the world's most urgent human rights situations.

Parliament regretted in particular the weakness of the UNHRC resolution on Darfur, as well as the decision taken under the confidential procedure to discontinue consideration of complaints of human rights abuses by Iran and Uzbekistan. However, it welcomed the fact that Belarus had not been elected to the UNHRC, in view of the condemnation of Belarus four months earlier by the UN General Assembly for human rights abuses and its lack of cooperation with Special Procedures.

Members regarded the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism as a potential means of improving the universality of the monitoring of human rights commitments and practices throughout the world by subjecting all UN Member States to equal treatment and scrutiny. They stressed that this objective could be achieved only if the review involves independent expertise at all stages of the review process and an effective, result-oriented follow-up mechanism. Parliament expressed its deep concern at the current trend with regard to this issue, and called on all UN Member States to ensure that the review was based on objective and reliable information, as well as on common standards for review such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other obligations and commitments, including election pledges.

It called upon the EU to reaffirm and consolidate its firm position regarding the concerns raised regarding the UPR and the review of Special Procedures, which were crucial for the effective future functioning of the UNHRC. The EU must reject any compromise that would put at risk the capacity of the UNHRC fully to play its role of protecting and promoting human rights throughout the world.