Basic information

2008/2623(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on the coup in Mauritania **Subject** 6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general **Geographical area** Mauritania	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
04/09/2008	Decision by Parliament	T6-0411/2008	Summary
04/09/2008	Results of vote in Parliament		
04/09/2008	Debate in Parliament		Summary
04/09/2008	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2008/2623(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Urgent debate or resolution
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 150
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Motion for a resolution		B6-0386/2008	02/09/2008	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0392/2008	02/09/2008	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0397/2008	02/09/2008	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0398/2008	02/09/2008	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0408/2008	02/09/2008	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0409/2008	02/09/2008	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0411/2008	04/09/2008	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2008)6073	17/10/2008	

Resolution on the coup in Mauritania

2008/2623(RSP) - 04/09/2008 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Following the debate that took place on 4 September 2008, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the coup in Mauritania.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled as a joint resolution by the EPP-ED, PES, ALDE, UEN, Greens/ALE and GUE/NGL groups.

The resolution recalls that a coup took place in Mauritania on 6 August 2008, when President Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi was ousted by a group of high-ranking generals whom he had dismissed from office earlier that day. However, the legislative elections of November and December 2006, the senatorial elections of January 2007 and the election of President Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi in March 2007 were found to have been fair and transparent by the international observers, including the EU observers and, in particular, Parliament's observation missions, through which Parliament endorsed the legality of the elections.

The Parliament condemns the military coup perpetrated by the generals in Mauritania (the second coup in that country in three years) and regrets this setback, given the notable advances made in the development of democracy and the rule of law over the past few years in Mauritania. It calls for the current political tensions in Mauritania to be resolved within an institutional framework reflecting the transition to democracy, and for the constitutional order and civilian rule to be restored as soon as possible.

MEPs call for the immediate release of President Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi, Prime Minister Yahya Ould Ahmed el-Waghef, and other members of the government, who are still under house arrest in various locations. The resolution also calls for full respect for the constitutional legality of the powers of the Mauritanian President and parliament, implying that the mechanisms for cohabitation between President and parliament and for the balance between executive and legislature need to be adjusted on a basis of respect and within the framework of the constitution. In this regard, the constitutional means and forms required for putting an end to the crisis must be the outcome of an open and frank debate involving the main political forces.

The Parliament notes the announcement of new presidential elections by the junta, but deplores the failure of a commitment to neutrality and calls on the military in power to commit themselves forthwith to a timetable for the restoration of the democratic institutions in cooperation with the political forces.

MEPs support the AU's efforts to seek a rational solution to the crisis. They insist, however, that the people of Mauritania, who are already severely affected by the economic and food crises, must not be made hostages of the crisis and call on the Commission to implement the support projects for civil society under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. Lastly, the Parliament calls on the Commission to engage in a political dialogue, pursuant to Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement, with a view to restoring constitutional legality, and to inform Parliament of the outcome of that dialogue. Should it not succeed, the Parliament calls for the reactivation of Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement, which could lead to the freezing of aid, excluding food and humanitarian assistance.