Basic information	
2021/2910(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on the state law relating to abortion in Texas, USA **Subject** 4.10.09 Women condition and rights 6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general **Geographical area** United States	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
07/10/2021	Decision by Parliament	T9-0419/2021	Summary
07/10/2021	Debate in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2021/2910(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		B9-0490/2021	05/10/2021	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0491/2021	05/10/2021	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0497/2021	05/10/2021	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0498/2021	05/10/2021	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0499/2021	06/10/2021	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0419/2021	07/10/2021	Summary

Resolution on the state law relating to abortion in Texas, USA

2021/2910(RSP) - 07/10/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 381 votes to 253, with 36 abstentions, a resolution on the state law relating to abortion in Texas, USA.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled by the S&D, Renew, Greens/EFA and the Left groups.

On 1 September 2021, Texas enacted Senate Bill 8 (SB8), prohibiting women from accessing abortion care following the commencement of foetal cardiac impulses, de facto as little as six weeks since the last menstrual cycle, necessitating two separate ultrasound scans before the procedure may be performed, and with no exception if the pregnancy results from for rape, incest or for foetal health conditions incompatible with sustained life after birth. SB8 amounts to a near-total abortion ban.

This law is one of 26 restrictions on abortion passed in Texas in the last decade and constitutes a further attempt to undermine women's rights and reproductive freedom.

Parliament condemned the adoption by the Texas Legislature of SB8 as a strong attack on women's freedom and women's sexual and reproductive rights which are fundamental human rights. It is deeply concerned about the extent to which this prohibition will contribute to the trauma experienced by rape and incest victims. It called for the swift repeal of SB8 to ensure safe, legal, free and good quality abortion services in the State and to make these services easily accessible to all women and girls.

Parliament expressed its firm solidarity with and support to the women of Texas and those involved in both the provision of and advocacy for abortion healthcare in such trying circumstances. It also expressed its full support to medical professionals and those engaged in legal challenges against Senate Bill 8, in the hope that their work will result in the restoration of Texan women's right to reproductive healthcare.

Stressing that highly restrictive laws prohibiting abortion result in women having to seek clandestine abortions, the US Government is called on to:

- fully decriminalise abortion;

- establish federal legal protection for universal access to abortion.

The report stressed that only education, information and universal access to contraception, the eradication of sexual violence and shared responsibility for contraception can reduce the number of unintended pregnancies. Universally accessible modern contraceptive methods and supplies and family planning counselling should be prioritised.

Lastly, Parliament strongly condemned the backsliding in women's sexual and reproductive health and rights taking place in the US and globally and called on the European External Action Service (EEAS), the Commission and all EU Member States to use all instruments at their disposal to strengthen their actions to counteract it. It welcomed the Biden Administration's lifting of the global anti-abortion gag rule and its intention to restore US funding to the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), the UN's sexual and reproductive health agency. The EU is called on to offer all possible support, including financial support as well as safe havens for all medical professionals who might be at risk of legal or other forms of harassment as a result of their legitimate work.