

Resolution on Russia, notably the situation of environmental activists and Ukrainian political prisoners

2019/2734(RSP) - 18/07/2019 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 458 votes to 80, with 89 abstentions, a resolution on Russia, notably the situation of environmental activists and Ukrainian political prisoners.

The text adopted in plenary had been tabled as a joint resolution by the EPP, S&D, Renew, Greens/EFA and ECR groups.

Firstly, it stated that the EU does not recognise the enforcement of Russian legislation in Crimea and Sevastopol and expects all illegally detained Ukrainian citizens in the Crimean peninsula and in Russia to be released immediately.

The Russian authorities and political leadership continue their repressive and authoritarian regime against their own citizens, civil society, political opposition and media workers. Russia's slide into authoritarian rule has had a negative impact on EU-Russia relations and on stability in Europe and the world.

Many of the prisoners and detainees have faced harsh and inhumane conditions in prisons, causing physical and psychological risks to their health.

Against this background, Parliament called on the Russian authorities to:

- release without further delay and unconditionally all illegally and arbitrarily detained Ukrainian citizens, both in Russia and in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine;
- ensure full cooperation with UN Special Procedures, including by extending invitations to visit the country to the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Representative on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, so that they may report on the situation of environmental and human rights defenders;
- accept the European Union proposal to consider introducing permanent monitoring of the trials of victims of political persecution in the Russian Federation and occupied Crimea;
- recognise the crucial role of environmental defenders in protecting the environment and in ensuring respect for environmental rights and to publicly condemn all attacks, intimidation, harassment and criminalisation of environmental defenders;
- stop curtailing the peaceful and legitimate activities of environmental organisations by fabricating criminal cases against local environmental activists, arresting participants in peaceful local protests and imposing disproportionately heavy fines on them;
- take the appropriate legal steps and use all available legal tools to prevent and put a stop to the attacks against environmental activists;
- ensure effective investigation and accountability in the case of Andrey Rudomakha and other cases of attacks against environmental defenders;

- ensure full respect for the rights of all detained persons, to ensure that all prisoners receive proper medical attention and treatment, and to respect medical ethics, including no imposition of unwanted treatment or force-feeding in the case of hunger strikes that may amount to torture and other ill-treatment.