



Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2009/2527(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on Sri Lanka		
Subject		
6.10.04 Third-country political situation, local and regional conflicts		
6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general		
Geographical area		
Sri Lanka		

Key players	
European Parliament	

Key events			
05/02/2009	Results of vote in Parliament		
05/02/2009	Debate in Parliament		Summary
05/02/2009	Decision by Parliament	T6-0054/2009	Summary
05/02/2009	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2009/2527(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Urgent debate or resolution
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 144
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway					
Motion for a resolution		B6-0074/2009	03/02/2009	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0077/2009	03/02/2009	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0080/2009	03/02/2009	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0088/2009	03/02/2009	EP	
Joint motion for resolution		RC-B6-0074/2009	03/02/2009		
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0054/2009	05/02/2009	EP	Summary

Resolution on Sri Lanka

The House held a debate, pursuant to Rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure (debates on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law), on Sri Lanka.

The debate was followed by a vote on a motion for a resolution.

Resolution on Sri Lanka

Following the debate which took place during the sitting of the same day, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on Sri Lanka. The resolution had been tabled for consideration in plenary by the EPP-ED, ALDE, and UEN, and Greens/ALE, groups. It recalls that since the beginning of the Government's military offensive in October 2008, the LTTE (Tamil Tigers) has retreated into the northern area, forcing civilians deeper into territory they control and leaving hundreds dead and some 250 000 civilians caught in deadly crossfire between the Sri Lankan army and the separatist LTTE in the Mullaitivu region. The Tokyo Co-Chairs (Norway, Japan, the US and the EU) have called jointly on the LTTE to discuss with the Sri Lankan Government the modalities for ending hostilities, including the laying down of arms, renunciation of violence, acceptance of the Sri Lankan Government offer of an amnesty, and participation as a political party in a process to achieve a just and lasting political solution.

Parliament believes that the recent development may constitute a turning point in the crisis in Sri Lanka. It endorses the statement by the Tokyo Co-Chairs and hopes that peace and stability will soon prevail in the country. Members state that they believe that a military victory over the LTTE, as envisaged by the Sri Lankan Government, will not obviate the need to find a political solution in order to ensure a lasting peace. According to Amnesty International, both government forces and the LTTE have been violating the laws of war by displacing civilians and preventing them from escaping to safety. Members call on the government and the LTTE to abide by the rules of war, minimise harm to civilians during military operations and immediately allow the thousands of civilians trapped in the conflict zone safe passage and access to humanitarian aid.

They emphasise the need for international monitors to assess the humanitarian needs of a quarter of a million people trapped in the Wannu region and to ensure proper distribution of humanitarian assistance. Parliament reiterates its condemnation of the appalling abuse of children constituted by the recruitment of child soldiers, which is a war crime, and calls on all rebel groups to stop this practice, to release those whom they are holding and to make a declaration of principle that they will not recruit any children in the future.

It notes its concerns about press freedom and the killing of a senior editor, Lasantha Wickramatunga. Parliament welcomes the Sri Lankan Government's pledge to ensure full investigations into all alleged violations of media freedom in order also to address the culture of impunity over killings and attacks on journalists in Sri Lanka.

The government is urged to give urgent attention to the clearance of land-mines, and to take the very positive step of acceding to the Ottawa Treaty (The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction).

Parliament welcomes the commitment of the Sri Lankan Government to substantive provincial devolution, which will enable predominantly Tamil, as well as other, areas to exercise greater control over their administration within a united country. It calls on the government to bring about its rapid implementation, thus ensuring that all citizens of Sri Lanka have equal rights.