

Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2009/2678(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on the case of Yevgeny Zhovtis in Kazakhstan		
Subject 6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general		
Geographical area Kazakhstan		

Key players	
European Parliament	

Key events			
17/09/2009	Results of vote in Parliament		
17/09/2009	Debate in Parliament		
17/09/2009	Decision by Parliament	T7-0023/2009	Summary
17/09/2009	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2009/2678(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		B7-0062/2009	15/09/2009	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0064/2009	15/09/2009	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0066/2009	15/09/2009	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0069/2009	15/09/2009	EP	
Joint motion for resolution		RC-B7-0062/2009	15/09/2009		
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0023/2009	17/09/2009	EP	Summary

Resolution on the case of Yevgeny Zhovtis in Kazakhstan

Following the debate that took place on the same day, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the case of Yevgeny Zhovtis in Kazakhstan.

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

The Parliament recalls that, on 3 September 2009, Yevgeny Zhovtis, director of the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law and prominent human rights defender, was convicted of manslaughter for hitting and killing a pedestrian with his car on 26 July 2009 and was sentenced to four years in a penal community. However, at first Yevgeny Zhovtis was named as a witness and not as a suspect and only on 28 July 2009 was his status changed to that of a suspect.

While not questioning the independence of the judicial system, the Parliament expresses great concern about the conduct of the investigation. It therefore calls on the Kazakh authorities to carry out immediately and with full respect for transparency and the rule of law a second full and fair investigation into the circumstances surrounding the accident, and to review Yevgeny Zhovtis's conviction and sentence accordingly. The Parliament also urges the Kazakh authorities to provide official details about the case of Yevgeny Zhovtis and to ensure due process.

Recalling the strong reservations voiced by human rights organisations about the Kazakh Government's real commitment to progress in terms of human rights, the Parliament calls on the Commission to:

- increase EU assistance to and cooperation with Kazakhstan in this area;
- reinforce its projects and programmes in Kazakhstan under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

The Parliament also calls on the Council to take a firm stance in raising this case with the Kazakh authorities and, in particular, to address Yevgeny Zhovtis's case within the framework of the EU-Kazakhstan human rights dialogue, the second round of which is scheduled for 21 October 2009.