

Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2012/2783(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on South Africa: massacre of striking miners		
Subject 6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general		
Geographical area South Africa		

Key players	
European Parliament	

Key events			
13/09/2012	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/09/2012	Debate in Parliament		
13/09/2012	Decision by Parliament	T7-0354/2012	Summary
13/09/2012	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2012/2783(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		B7-0443/2012	11/09/2012	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0445/2012	11/09/2012	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0446/2012	11/09/2012	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0447/2012	11/09/2012	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0448/2012	11/09/2012	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0450/2012	11/09/2012	EP	
Joint motion for resolution		RC-B7-0443/2012	11/09/2012		

Resolution on South Africa: massacre of striking miners

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on South Africa: massacre of striking miners.

The resolution was tabled by the S&D, GUE/NGL, Greens/EFA, ECR, EPP and ALDE groups.

It strongly condemns the brutal killing of striking miners on 16 August 2012, when 34 people were shot dead and at least 78 were injured on 16 August 2012 in clashes between police and striking miners at the Marikana Lonmin platinum mine in North West Province. It also condemns the preceding violence which claimed the lives of 10 people. Members welcome President Zuma's decision to establish a Commission of Inquiry and call on the Commission to act thoroughly independently and impartially, and to investigate the root cause of the excessive use of force by the police, and express deep concern about the authorities' use of the apartheid-era common purpose law, under which 270 mineworkers were arrested at the strikes and charged for the deaths of their own companions.

Parliament notes the tensions between the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU) and that the lack of a reform of labour dispute mechanisms has led to considerable economic costs for South Africa and has been a deterrent to foreign investment. It also notes that the striking miners were in a pay dispute with the mine's owner, Lonmin, a London-listed platinum mining company the world's third largest. Members regret Lonmin's failure to treat the labour dispute with the sensitivity it deserved, and the latter's failure to assume any responsibility, but welcome the company's announcement not to dismiss strikers should they not go back to work, contrary to the company's previous demand.

They are further concerned that the confrontation at the Gold One Modder East mine is a sign that the labour unrest may spread to the gold sector, leading to a possible spread of violence.

Under these circumstances, Parliament asks the Commission to establish a control mechanism aimed at preventing the import into the EU of mining products extracted without social, labour, safety and environmental guarantees. It encourages the Commission to establish a quality label for mining products extracted in accordance with minimum social, labour, safety and environmental standards.

It insists that the issue of appropriate salaries for the workers in South African mines and inequity in the pay scale be addressed.

Parliament considers that the incident is to be seen in the wider perspective of the huge socioeconomic imbalances the country has been facing and it urges the South African Government to address the root causes of the violence that occurred, including the worrying gap between rich and poor, the rise of youth unemployment and the working and living conditions of workers, and thereby end the extreme economic inequality. It states its readiness to continue its support for South Africa, and emphasises the need for a sustained and more focused partnership to help the country address the socio-economic challenges it faces.