

Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2020/2814(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on the 'Foreign Agents' Law in Nicaragua		
Subject 6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general		
Geographical area Nicaragua		

Key players	
European Parliament	

Key events			
08/10/2020	Debate in Parliament		
08/10/2020	Decision by Parliament	T9-0259/2020	Summary
08/10/2020	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2020/2814(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		B9-0317/2020	08/10/2020	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0318/2020	08/10/2020	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0319/2020	08/10/2020	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0320/2020	08/10/2020	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0321/2020	08/10/2020	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0259/2020	08/10/2020	EP	Summary
Joint motion for resolution		RC-B9-0317/2020	08/10/2020		

Resolution on the 'Foreign Agents' Law in Nicaragua

The European Parliament adopted by 609 votes to 21, with 64 abstentions, a resolution on the Foreign Agents Law in Nicaragua.

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

On 22 September 2020, President Daniel Ortegas government, presented a proposal for a Law for Regulation of Foreign Agents, modelled on Russias 2012 law on foreign agents, which, if adopted, shall oblige every person, organisation or institution, including media outlets and non-governmental organisations that receive funds from abroad, to be registered with the Ministry of the Interior (Migob) and to submit to financial monitoring by the Financial Analysis Unit (JAF).

Any person or entity registered with the Ministry of the Interior as a foreign agent shall be subject to close surveillance and shall refrain from intervening in domestic political affairs or matters, thereby restricting their civil and political rights, and allowing them to be persecuted, harassed and criminally prosecuted.

The Law for Regulation of Foreign Agents, if approved, would be used as an instrument of repression against people and human rights organisations that receive resources from international cooperation in Nicaragua.

It may directly impact EU cooperation in the country and individuals linked to European interests.

Members condemned the attempts to adopt the unconstitutional Law for Regulation of Foreign Agents, the Special Law of Cyber Crime and the Law Against Hate Crimes, and called on the national assembly to reject these laws, as well as any other law that would limit the fundamental freedoms of the Nicaraguan people.

Parliament expressed its solidarity with the Nicaraguan people and condemned all the repressive actions of the Nicaraguan Government, in particular the deaths caused. It also expressed its dire concern over recent reports by Nicaraguan organisations that the authorities have ordered the national police to commit human rights violations and that they are being assisted in this repression by pro-government civilian groups and the ruling partys territorial organisations, some of which are armed and organised as paramilitary groups.

Parliament requested that the Council quickly enlarge the list of individuals and entities to be sanctioned, including the President and Vice-President, taking special care not to harm the Nicaraguan people. It reiterated its urgent request for a global EU human rights mechanism and called on the Council to adopt this mechanism through a decision relating to the Unions strategic interests and objectives under the Treaty on European Union.

It also called for a European Parliament delegation to be sent to Nicaragua as soon as possible in order to resume monitoring the situation in the country and urged the authorities to allow it unhindered entry and access to all interlocutors and facilities.