

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983 - 1984

4 July 1983

DOCUMENT 1-540/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK

for entry in the Register
pursuant to Rule 49 of the
Rules of Procedure

on the sentencing of Irina Ratushinskaya

PE 85.808

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to Article 15 of the UN Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights,
 - B. having regard to the fact that the Final Act of the Helsinki Accords requires the signatory States to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought and conscience,
 - C. having regard to its resolution on 'Human Rights in the world' of 17 May 1983,
 - D. having regard to its resolution on 'Human rights in the Soviet Union' of 17 May 1983,
 - E. considering that on 1 March 1983, Irina Ratushinskaya, a 28-year-old writer in the USSR was convicted of engaging in 'anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda' and sentenced to seven years in exile and five years in internal exile,
 - F. considering that her 'crime' was to have written poetry and stories for the underground literary magazine Samizdat, and to have distributed her verse in typescript to other writers,
1. Reaffirms its commitment to the principle of cultural freedom and freedom of press;
 2. Condemns the action taken by the Soviet authorities against Ratushinskaya;
 3. Urges the Soviet authorities to reopen her case and to secure her immediate release;
 4. Calls upon the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States meeting in political cooperation to take all the necessary steps to ensure that the Soviet Union complies with these requests;
 5. Instructs his President to forward this resolution to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States meeting in political cooperation, the Council of Ministers, the Commission and the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States as well as to the Soviet authorities.