

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 1-125/81

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE, Mr de GOEDE,  
Mrs CASTELLINA, Mr CAPANNA, Mr BLANEY AND  
Mr VERROKEN

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on the persecution of the Kurdish people,  
particularly in Turkey

### The European Parliament,

- whereas the 15 million people of the Kurdish nation are spread over five countries : Turkey (at least 6 million), Iran (4 million), Iraq (2.5 million), Syria (600,000) and the Soviet Union (300,000),
- whereas they are not recognized in any of these countries as being Kurdish,
- whereas the Treaty of Sèvres of 1920 provided for the creation of a Kurdish state but this was ultimately prevented by the Turks and the then colonial powers,
- whereas a global peaceful solution to the Middle East problem cannot be achieved unless appropriate account is taken of the Kurdish people's right to self-determination,
- whereas the Kurdish language and culture are not recognized anywhere and, moreover, each of these countries continuously exploits Kurdish assets,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) which states that 'everyone has the right to a nationality' (Article 15),
- having regard to Article 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) which specifies that: 'all peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development',
- having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), Article 2 of which provides that 'each State party to the present Covenant undertakes to respect and to ensure to all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, the rights recognized in the present Covenant, without distinction of any kind',
- having regard to Article 14 of European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1950), which states that 'the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground',
- having regard to the UNESCO Recommendation concerning education for international understanding, cooperation and peace (1974), which has as one of its objectives 'understanding and respect for all peoples, their cultures, civilizations, values and ways of life, including domestic cultures and cultures of other nations',

- having regard to the resolution of the UNESCO Congress on the teaching of human rights (1978) Article 3(c) of which provides for the promotion of awareness among individuals that there are means of making national and international human rights into concrete social and political reality,
  - having regard to the continuing persecution of the Kurdish people, particularly in Turkey, where, according to recent reports, 2,331 members of the Kurdish Workers' Party have been detained, for 97 of whom the death penalty has recently been requested,
  - whereas the infant mortality rate in Turkish Kurdistan is running at 20%, that hardly any of the villages have running water or electricity, that the average life expectancy is 40 years and that the average annual income is under \$100,
  - whereas two-thirds of the Turkish army is stationed in Turkish Kurdistan,
  - having regard to urgent motions for resolutions Nos. 1-5/81 and 1-104/81 tabled by Mr Pannella and others and Mr Glinne and others respectively,
1. Hereby decides to set up a subcommittee of the Political Affairs Committee which will analyse in depth the situation and problems of the Kurdish people and put forward proposals for a solution to these problems in the light of a global Middle East policy;
  2. Calls upon the Ministers of Foreign Affairs meeting in political cooperation to make urgent representations to the Turkish Government to put an end to the continuous persecution of the Kurdish people and to recognize the status of the Kurds in Turkey as an ethnic group.