
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr VAN MIERT

for entry in the register

pursuant to Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure

on the trial and conviction of Rudolf BATTEK

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the trial and conviction of Rudolf BATTEK, member of the Committee for the Defence of Unjustly Prosecuted Persons (VONS),
 - whereas Mr R. BATTEK was tried in camera and no impartial observers or representatives of international public opinion were present,
 - disquieted by the new wave of trials in Czechoslovakia of individuals striving to obtain respect for fundamental liberties and by the sentences of unprecedented severity meted out to those found guilty of 'crimes of opinion',
 - believing that appealing to international human rights organizations and, more specifically, to the Socialist International, which, despite the deteriorating international climate, continues to strive for better understanding between East and West, cannot be regarded as subversive behaviour,
 - whereas Czechoslovakia is a co-signatory of the Final Act of Helsinki, which guarantees freedom of expression, freedom of conscience and religion and respect for human rights and the other fundamental liberties,
 - aware, as a democratic assembly, of its duty to defend fundamental liberties and recalling its many previous resolutions in the matter of respect for human rights,
 - referring more particularly to its resolution of 11 May 1979 on the trial of Mr J. SABATA,
1. Emphatically condemns such arrests and trials, which clearly violate those provisions of the Final Act of Helsinki that guarantee freedom of opinion;
 2. Calls on the Czechoslovak authorities to review the case of Rudolf BATTEK in the light of their international obligations;
 3. Insists that any further trials be held in public and in accordance with procedures which provide the accused with all due guarantees and be open to observers from impartial human rights organizations;

4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Foreign Ministers of the Member States meeting in Political Cooperation, the Czechoslovak authorities and the Socialist International.