

Thursday 9 September 2010

6. Reiterates its call for the repeal of the state of emergency in Syria, established more than 40 years ago;
7. Sees the prospect of signing the Association Agreement as offering a significant opportunity for addressing ongoing human rights violations and strengthening the reform process in Syria; calls on the Council and the Commission to make full use of this crucial leverage by adopting a bilateral Human Rights and Democracy Action Plan which clearly set out the specific human rights improvements it expects from the Syrian authorities;
8. Stresses that, in accordance with Article 218 of the TFEU, Parliament should be fully informed at all stages of the negotiations on international agreements; calls therefore on the Commission to report back to Parliament on the state of discussions with the Syrian authorities relating to the signing of the Association Agreement;
9. Welcomes the continuing dialogue between the European Union and Syria and hopes that the ongoing efforts will lead to improvements not only in the economic and social situation in Syria, which is already the case, but also politically and in the field of human rights;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and the Government and Parliament of the Syrian Arab Republic.

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### **The lack of a transparent process for the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) and potentially objectionable content**

P7\_TA(2010)0317

#### **Declaration of the European Parliament of 9 September 2010 on the lack of a transparent process for the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) and potentially objectionable content**

(2011/C 308 E/17)

*The European Parliament,*

— having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,

- A. whereas negotiations concerning the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) are ongoing,
- B. whereas Parliament's co-decision role in commercial matters and its access to negotiation documents are guaranteed by the Lisbon Treaty,
  1. Takes the view that the proposed agreement should not indirectly impose harmonisation of EU copyright, patent or trademark law, and that the principle of subsidiarity should be respected;
  2. Declares that the Commission should immediately make all documents related to the ongoing negotiations publicly available;
  3. Takes the view that the proposed agreement should not force limitations upon judicial due process or weaken fundamental rights such as freedom of expression and the right to privacy;
  4. Stresses that economic and innovation risks must be evaluated prior to introducing criminal sanctions where civil measures are already in place;

Thursday 9 September 2010

5. Takes the view that internet service providers should not bear liability for the data they transmit or host through their services to an extent that would necessitate prior surveillance or filtering of such data;
6. Points out that any measure aimed at strengthening powers of cross-border inspection and seizure of goods should not harm global access to legal, affordable and safe medicines;
7. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories<sup>(1)</sup>, to the Commission, the Council and the parliaments of the Member States.

(1) The list of signatories is published in Annex 1 to the Minutes of 9 September 2010 (P7\_PV(2010)09-09(ANN1)).

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## European Year of Combating Violence against Women

P7\_TA(2010)0318

### Declaration of the European Parliament of 9 September 2010 on establishing a European Year of Combating Violence against Women

(2011/C 308 E/18)

*The European Parliament,*

— having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,

- A. whereas the expression ‘violence against women’ denotes any act of gender-based violence causing or liable to cause women harm or physical, sexual or psychological suffering, including the simple fact of threatening such acts or the arbitrary limitation or deprivation of freedom, whether in the public sphere or in their personal lives,
- B. whereas violence against women is a major obstacle to gender equality and is one of the most widespread human rights violations, knowing no geographical, financial, cultural or social barriers,
- C. whereas this is a critical problem in the European Union, where 20 to 25 % of women suffer physical violence in their adult life and over 10 % are the victims of sexual violence,
- D. whereas Parliament has called on several occasions for a European Year of Combating Violence against Women to be established, in particular in its resolution on equality between women and men in 2009,
  1. Emphasises the importance of combating violence against women in order to help achieve gender equality;
  2. Calls on the Commission to establish, within the next five years, a European Year of Combating Violence against Women;
  3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories<sup>(1)</sup>, to the Commission.

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(1) The list of signatories is published in Annex 2 to the Minutes of 9 September 2010 (P7\_PV(2010)09-09(ANN2)).