



Adopted resolution

on the maintenance of the EU arms export embargo on China

- A) taking into account and reiterating the conclusion of the resolution of the European Parliament of 18 December 2003 urging the EU to maintain the embargo on arms exports, imposed on China in 1989 after the crackdown on pro-democracy protesters on the Tiananmen Square in Beijing;
- B) taking into account and regretting that since the adoption of that resolution the security-situation in China has worsened while the human rights situation has improved, but that there are still many challenges on the table;
- C) taking into account that the picture for human rights in China is still bleak as hundreds of thousands of people continue to be detained across the country in violation of their fundamental human rights; that death sentences and executions continue to be imposed after unfair trials; that torture and ill-treatment remain widespread and systematic; and that freedom of expression and information continue to be severely curtailed;
- D) Moreover taking into account that the security-situation in the region - already one of the heaviest armed regions in the world - is increasingly instable and that the relations between China and Taiwan are deteriorating day by day all over this year; taking into account the need to prevent further arms races in the region;
- E) Recognizing that China has become the world's largest arms importer and is strongly seeking to modernise its military equipment and that for that reason European companies (as well as their US counterparts) are very eager to enter this lucrative military market, in particular those facing continuing structural market and financial problems since the end of the cold war;
- F) Therefore fully being aware of but regretting the renewed efforts in 2004 of European leaders - in particular by French president Chirac when visiting China in October (strongly supported by German Chancellor Schröder and Italy's president Berlusconi) - to publicly and demonstratively lobby for the early lifting of the embargo with the pretext that it can be replaced by implementation of the existing EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports,
- G) Convinced that this case clearly demonstrates the need to improve the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports, which - while setting out human rights and security criteria to be taken into account when granting arms export licences and currently under review - still misses the character of a legally binding instrument and that its weak wording is open to wide interpretation by Member States; underlining that the European Parliament has continuously demanded decisive steps to be taken in this direction,
- 1) Expresses its disappointment and indignation that after the adoption of the European Parliament's resolution, in the second half of January 2004 EU foreign ministers - totally ignoring Parliament's position - decided to "reexamine the embargo" in the perspective to eventually lift it before the end of the Irish Presidency,
- 2) Insist once more that lifting the arms embargo because of commercial economical and military-industrial reasons would undermine the EU's basic foreign policy values to globally promote the respect of universal human rights as well as to work hard for peace and disarmament,
- 3) Expresses its satisfaction that despite all lobbying the EU General Affairs Council at its meeting in Luxembourg on Monday 11 October did not decide to lift the embargo; and urges the EU Council not to lift the arms embargo neither the occasion of the EU-China Summit on 8 December nor on the EU summit of 17 December,
- 4) Requests its Secretary-General to distribute this text to all Green parties in Europe and elsewhere