



Doc. 12587

13 April 2011

Criteria for the definition of a political prisoner

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Mr Agustín CONDE and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

The Parliamentary Assembly considers that objective criteria should be set up how to identify a genuine political prisoner. The Assembly would then use those criteria as a reference for all reports related to allegations of the presence of political prisoners in a member state.

Although there are currently different definitions about who is to be considered as a political prisoner - according to different international bodies - the Assembly has never taken a decision in this matter. The sometimes mentioned document 1272/2002 is only referring to a specific country and there is not a general definition that could be used as an applicable rule in every member state. The absence of such a definition creates a serious risk for double standards and unwanted precedents, and may hamper the credibility of the Assembly.

For this reason clear criteria should be established to be respected by all member states. Because of their high importance, these criteria should be adopted by the Assembly before any report on political prisoners in a particular case or country is prepared, as a general definition has to be clear before, and not during or after, the preparation of an individual report.

In the interest of all member states of the Council of Europe, the process of establishing criteria for the definition of a political prisoner should be considered without delay.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
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EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
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