

European Union**COMMITTEE OF THE
REGIONS**

Brussels, 7 April 2003

DRAFT RESOLUTION

submitted by the EA Group in the Committee of the Regions

on

"Attacks and threats made against local and regional politicians in the Basque Country"

WHEREAS

- A.** defending the right to life is a fundamental principle of any community;
- B.** upholding and defending the basic rights of individuals are the bases on which community life is organised;
- C.** the barbaric terrorism practised by ETA, which unjustly targets the elected representatives of the democratic parties of the Basque Country, is a cruel attack on both the principle of political freedom and democracy itself;
- D.** all such violent acts are not only morally reprehensible, but also politically unjustifiable;

E. the violence and persecution committed against the regional and local politicians of the Basque Country range from verbal harassment to assassination;

F. the attacks and threats carried out by ETA and its supporters have negative repercussions across all sections of Basque society and affect not only the politicians concerned, but also their families, neighbours, work colleagues and the people of the Basque Country as a whole;

G. the persecution of our colleagues in the Basque Country is a direct attack on political plurality and respect for human rights;

H. the diversity of ideas, ambitions and feelings of identity in Basque society contributes to our cultural, political and social richness and must be protected and upheld;

The Committee of the Regions

1. defends the right to life as a fundamental principle of any community as well as the duty to respect and ensure that others respect the basic rights of all individuals;

2. offers its unconditional support to the defence of democracy and freedom and upholds the legitimacy of all political ends achieved through exclusively democratic means;

3. supports the free exercise of the right of citizens to political participation and representation;

4. forthrightly condemns the threats, persecution and attacks committed by the terrorist organisation ETA, in particular against elected representatives and members of the democratic political parties of the Basque Country;

5. expresses its support for:

- all local and regional politicians who have been threatened and attacked by ETA activities in the Basque Country
- all individuals who as a result of their profession have fallen victim to terrorist violence
- and lastly all victims, their families and friends and the Basque people as a whole;

6. would like to send out a message of solidarity to the democratic institutions of the Basque Country in their endeavours to guarantee the freedom and safety of citizens and bring the terrorist activities of ETA to an end;

7. supports and urges the politicians and candidates of the Basque Country to fill their electoral lists for the local elections to be held in May of 2003;

8. in this respect, congratulates those civil movements which have denounced all such violence and lend their support to individuals who have been threatened and encourages these movements to continue to work towards the creation of a social conscience anchored in respect, tolerance, pluralism and reconciliation;

9. demands that ETA respect the wishes of the Basque people by renouncing all violence definitively;

10. calls on the institutions of the EU and regional and local governments to implement police and judicial measures within the strict framework of the rule of law so as to prevent all terrorist activity and bring those responsible for such activity to justice;

11. urges the democratic political parties to work actively to seek dialogue that will enable the basic consensus necessary for a peace process in the Basque Country to be reached;

12. over and above expressing its support for the victims, offers to assist in any concrete projects that could help create the dialogue necessary for peace;

13. indicates its solidarity and support for all elected representatives and other individuals threatened in all of the Member States of the European Union who fall victim to terrorist violence.

Brussels,

The President

of the
Committee of the Regions

Albert Bore

The Secretary-General

of the
Committee of the Regions

Vincenzo Falcone

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