

Situation in Algeria

The ELDR Party,

A. Appalled by the continuing violence in Algeria and shocked by the increase of massacres during the recent months;

B. Deploring that five years of massacres in Algeria have probably killed more than 60,000 people, and stating that there is no military solution to the problem;

C. Regretting that the recent legislative elections and the constitution of the new government have not yet led to a genuine dialogue between the different sections of Algerian society;

D. Concerned that security force operations aimed at fighting terrorism do not seem to involve the taking of prisoners and that security forces do not always succeed in defending attacked human settlements;

E. Concerned by the strong denunciations made by Amnesty International, Reporters sans Frontières and other organisations defending human rights, of the systematic violations of human rights perpetrated by the Algerian authorities;

F. Recalling that negotiations on the Association Agreement between the European Union and Algeria are underway;

G. Recalling the close historical and cultural links between the Algerian people and the Europeans;

1. Strongly condemns terrorism in Algeria and expresses its solidarity to the people of Algeria;

2. Considers that the response to terrorism in Algeria should not be limited to a strategy of eradication but should also include a major political initiative of the Algerian Government to establish a dialogue between all non-violent forces of Algerian society;

3. Considers that the fight against terrorism by the authorities must be conducted within the law and with due respect to human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of the media;

4. Calls on the Algerian Government to take further measures to protect the Algerian population from attacks and to bring to justice those responsible for the violent crimes;

5. Believes that the framework to the negotiations of the new Association Agreement between the European Union and Algeria should constitute a privileged possibility to launch a political initiative towards Algeria;

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6. Calls on the Commission to support measures and projects which promote democracy and human rights in Algeria with special emphasis on improving the situation of women and the freedom of the media.

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