

Motion nr. 9

Name of the person introducing the motion: Miroslavs Mitrofanovs

On behalf of the party: Latvian Russian Union

Title: Prevention of political repressions in Latvia

A. Weather freedom of speech, freedom of opinion and freedom of expression are basic human rights and are seen by the European Union as cornerstones of democracy in any society;

B. Weather established human rights standards declare that no one should suffer discrimination because of political or other opinion, national, social or geographical origin;

C. Having the regard that member of EFA, former MEP Tatjana Ždanoka, was deprived of her right to participate in National Parliamentary elections in Latvia as a candidate solely because of her too active position on the minority's rights defending field; moreover this decision was taken by the Central Election Commission of Latvia and later on by Latvian Court on the base of a secret report of the Latvian Security Police, which was forbidden to familiarize for Central Election Commission of Latvia, as well as the Court and T.Ždanoka herself due to a "secrecy reasons";

D. Taking into account the number of arrests and criminal prosecutions against Latvian journalists and activists, defending minority's rights and education in national minority's languages.

The European Free Alliance

1. Calls on the European Commission to establish a special control over Latvia on the field of human rights in general and freedom of speech, freedom of opinion and freedom of expression in particular

2. Calls on the European Commission to establish an effective mechanism of controlling and preventing the human rights violations in Member States;

3. Welcomes the activities of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), but notes with regret that existing FRA mandate is not enough to keep up with the control over fundamental human rights violations in a Member States; therefore, calls on the European institutions to increase the FRA's mandate.

Explanatory note :

Our party needs the EFA to tackle this issue because many socially active people are living under a real threat from Latvian state to be repressed in a different ways because of their active position.

If a support from our European party will be given to them, it will both give them a strength to go on with the minority right protection, as well as it will send a clear message to a State authorities that they are not free to push people in any way they find more effective, but have to act only according to Latvian and EU legislation.