

European Parliament resolution on the situation in the GDR (12 October 1989)

Caption: On 12 October 1989, the European Parliament adopts a resolution on the exodus of thousands of East German citizens to the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) in which it calls on the Government of the German Democratic Republic to open the way for democratic reforms.

Source: Official Journal of the European Communities (OJEC). 20.11.1989, No C 291. [s.l.]. "Resolution on the situation in the German Democratic Republic (12 October 1989)", auteur:European Parliament , p. 89-90.

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European Parliament Resolution on the situation in the German Democratic Republic (12 October 1989)

The European Parliament,

- A. noting with concern the flood of thousands of East German citizens to the Federal Republic of Germany via Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia,
- B. whereas discontent at the lack of democratic reforms is the main reason why most of these refugees have left the country, as has been underlined by the many demonstrations which have taken place in East German towns,
- C. concerned at the crackdown on the demonstrators who called on 7 October 1989 for democratic reforms — in East Berlin, Leipzig and Dresden in particular — which ended with hundreds being detained for questioning, dozens being injured and a number of arrests,
- D. whereas a vast flood of refugees poses humanitarian and practical problems for transit countries,
- E. recalling the Hungarian Government's decision to allow thousands of East German citizens to cross the Austro-Hungarian border in order to reach the Federal Republic of Germany and the decision by the Polish and Czechoslovakian Governments to facilitate their departure,
- F. whereas it is certain that the people of the GDR are following, and endorse, the Community's efforts to achieve a united Europe and self-determination for the German people in peace and freedom,
1. Calls on the Government of the GDR to open the way to democratic reforms;
 2. Calls on the Government of the GDR not to resort to repression and to meet all the obligations under the Helsinki Final Act, to which it is bound by treaty;
 3. Calls on the GDR to put an immediate end to all police action against individuals who wish simply to live in freedom in their country, to release those arbitrarily arrested or sentenced and to abandon judicial and police proceedings;
 4. Highlights the desire for freedom, democracy and personal involvement voiced by the demonstrators;
 5. Takes the view that the necessary democratic reforms may help to resolve the serious problems which are the root cause of the mass exodus and moreover stresses the need for dialogue between all political and social elements in society;
 6. Considers it the legitimate right of the people of the GDR to determine their own economic system, the form of government and the future of their country;
 7. Requests the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation to call on the Government of the GDR to observe human rights and calls on the governments of the Community Member States to discuss the human rights situation in the GDR, as well as support for the reform movements in Eastern and Central Europe, at their summit in Strasbourg on 8/9 December 1989;
 8. Expects the Council and Commission to take account of this resolution in future negotiations or contacts with the GDR;
 9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the parliaments of the Member States and the Government of the GDR.