

RESOLUTION
of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland
of 23 June 2006
concerning the European Parliament resolution of 15 June 2006 on “the
increase in racist and homophobic violence in Europe”

The Sejm of the Republic of Poland is indignant at the accusations – untrue and hurtful for the Poles – of the “rise in racist, xenophobic, anti-Semitic and homophobic intolerance in Poland” referred to in the European Parliament resolution of 15 June 2006.

Defending the rights of minorities and combating signs of intolerance is one of the permanent concerns of the President, Parliament and Government of the Republic of Poland. Poland has not avoided and does not avoid participation in the European monitoring of acts resulting from intolerance. However, Poland expects such actions to include all cases of human rights violations, including violations of the right to life, religious freedom and public morality.

The cases of intolerance in Poland are of a completely marginal character, are met with general outrage and a stern reaction of Polish authorities, so it is impossible to quote them as the basis for forming general opinions on the Polish society. Consequently, we find juxtaposing the few Polish examples of intolerance with examples of racist crimes and murders perpetrated in other European Union countries and referred to in the same document as completely unfounded and inadequate.

The hooligan attack on the Chief Rabbi of Poland presented in the resolution was sharply condemned by the highest state authorities, including the President of the Republic of Poland and the Prime Minister, and treated with all due importance by the law-enforcement authorities.

In view of data concerning a large number of the most serious and cruel racist-motivated crimes in other European countries and in connection with the clear condemnation by the authorities of the Republic of Poland of any attempts at transposing the ideology of intolerance to Polish public life, we find that recognising Poland as a country of intolerance may only be caused by ill will and lack of objectivism.

The Sejm of the Republic of Poland identifies with the Judeo-Christian moral heritage of Europe and therefore may not consent to introducing notions such as “homophobia” to European Union documents.

At the same time, the Sejm of the Republic of Poland deplores the conduct of nine Polish members of the European Parliament who voted in favour of adopting the resolution.

We would also like to remind that Poland traditionally defends the rights and fosters the growth of all religious and national minorities pursuant to the principle of solidarity. Therefore, we urge the European Parliament to disseminate the Polish tradition of tolerance and multi-ethnicity as Poland’s contribution to the European catalogue of values.

Marshal of the Sejm: Marek Jurek