



## RESOLUTION

### **Condemning human rights abuses in Hong Kong**

*Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Valencia, 14.09.2019*

#### **Recognizing that:**

- Hong Kong is a special administrative region of Peoples Republic of China, with executive, legislative, and judicial powers devolved from the national government;
- The state of affairs developed in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China must guarantee the preservation of democratic principles in compliance with the Sino-British Joint Declaration signed in 1984, whereas Chinese Government is bound to uphold Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy and its rights and freedoms;
- The mass protests in 2003 and 2014 were intended to cease Mainland People's Republic of China's interference with the Hong Kong democratic process;
- The 2014 Umbrella Revolution, driven by students and young people, was the consequence of the quasi-democratic reform on the Hong Kong Legislative Council's Chief Executive elections;
- On the 29th of March 2019 the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has published the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019 to amend the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance (FOO) and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance (MLAO);
- The promotion of and respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law are at the centre of the long-standing relationship between the EU and People's Republic of China , in line with the EU's commitment to uphold these values in its external action and People's Republic of



China's expressed interest in adhering to these very values in its own development and international cooperation;

- On the 18th of July 2019 European Parliament adopted the resolution on the situation in Hong Kong, whereas the EU supports the 'one country, two systems' principle and Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy<sup>1</sup>.

### **Acknowledging that:**

- The proposed bill could facilitate the rendition to People's Republic of China of people for political reasons and their exposure to a judicial system with serious human rights failings; whereas under the proposed amendments, the Hong Kong court would not have the clear, explicit jurisdiction and legal obligation to examine the various human rights involved in cases being handled by the courts in mainland People's Republic of China or in other countries;
- Mainland People's Republic of China 's judiciary lacks independence from the government and the Chinese Communist Party and is characterised by arbitrary detention, torture and other ill-treatment, serious violations of the right to a fair trial, enforced disappearances and various systems of incommunicado detention without trial<sup>2</sup>;
- The people of Hong Kong have taken to the streets in unprecedented numbers, peacefully exercising their fundamental right to assemble and to protest; whereas on 12 June, tens of thousands of protesters assembled around the Legislative Council building and its nearby roads, calling on the government to drop its proposed amendments to Hong Kong's extradition law<sup>3</sup>;
- More than 70 human rights NGOs, including, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Human Rights Monitor, the Hong Kong Bar Association and the Law Society of Hong Kong, had addressed a

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2019-0004\\_EN.html](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2019-0004_EN.html)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/People's Republic of China -and-tibet](https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/People's%20Republic%20of%20China%20-and%20tibet)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-People's Republic of China -48656471](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-People's%20Republic%20of%20China_-48656471)



collective letter to Chief Executive Lam, requesting that her government drop the extradition bill as it posed a threat to respect for human rights<sup>4</sup>;

- The Hong Kong police used the violent acts of a small number of protesters as a pretext to use unnecessary and excessive force against the peaceful vast majority, including tear gas, rubber bullets, beanbags and pepper spray, labelled the incident a riot and hence proceeded to make several dozen arrests; whereas several people were charged with rioting, which carries a 10-year prison sentence<sup>5</sup>;

### **YEPP calls on:**

- The HKSAR Government to enforce its promise to withdraw the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019;
- People's Republic of China's and Hong Kong's Governments to systematic reform the implementation of direct elections for the position of Chief Executive and to the Legislative Council, as enshrined in the Basic Law, and calls for agreement on an electoral system that is overall democratic, fair, open and transparent and that it grants the people of the HKSAR the right to elect candidates and to stand for election in the selection process for all leadership positions;
- The EU, its Member States and the international community to work towards the imposition of appropriate export control mechanisms to deny People's Republic of China, and in particular Hong Kong, access to technologies used to violate basic rights;
- The EPP and its affiliated member organizations to make awareness about the situation in Hong Kong in the terms of strengthening democracy, including the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary, fundamental freedoms and rights, transparency, and freedom of information and expression in the HKSAR.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org.hk/en/open-letter-to-the-chief-executive-on-proposed-changes-to-hong-kongs-extradition-laws-2/>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-People's Republic of China - 49534439?intlink\\_from\\_url=https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/cp7r8vg1ne2t/hong-kong&link\\_location=live-reporting-story](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-People's_Republic_of_China-49534439?intlink_from_url=https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/cp7r8vg1ne2t/hong-kong&link_location=live-reporting-story)