



RESOLUTION

REPATRIATION OF SALVATORE GIRONE AND MASSIMILANO LATORRE

Adopted at the YEPP Presidents Council

in Rome on 1st March 2014

Recognising:

- That on the 16th of February 2012 two Indian fishermen were killed in international waters. Three days later, the oil tanker *Enrica Lexie* that was protected by the Italian navy was, on false information, persuaded to enter Indian waters. Two Italian navy members, Salvatore Girone and Massimiliano Latorre, were arrested for homicide;
- That on the 25th of February, the Indian police boarded the *Enrica Lexi* and confiscated the weapons of Italian Navy. The Indian magistrate never allowed the Italian technicians access to the confiscated weapons for examination;
- That on the 5th of March the two marines were condemned to three months of preventive detention and only on the 30th of May they were released on bail and transferred to the Italian Embassy;
- That after several delays in the beginning of the trial, the Indian Supreme Court authorised on the 22nd February 2013 the return of the marines to Italy to vote in the national elections. However, India requested a written declaration of the Italian Ambassador Mancini, promising their return in India;
- That on the 11th of March the Italian government stated its intention not to send the two marines back to India, resulting in a strong reaction from India. India threatened commercial repercussions and ordered the Ambassador Mancini not to leave the country;
- That on the 21st of March the Monti government altered its plans and decided to send the two marines back to the Kerala region, with a written declaration from India that they would have not been possibly charged

with the death penalty. Due to this decision and the scandal in the Italian media, the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs Terzi resigned;

- That on the 1st of April the Indian government delegated further investigation to the National Investigation Agency, competent on terrorism according to the Sua Act, maritime law that foresees death penalty;
- That on the 20th of January 2014 the Indian Supreme Court fixed the 3rd of February as the deadline for the local administration to declare the charges against the two marines, which was then further delayed to the 10th of February 2014.

Acknowledging:

- That these two marines were illegally arrested by Indian authorities, as they were protecting oil tankers in international waters, and under International and European mandate, in the fight against piracy. Severe violations of International law were also shown by the Indian government in its threats to the Italian Ambassador;
- The President of the European Commission Barroso has stated that every Indian decision taken against the two marines will have effects on the entire European Union and Member states;
- The High Representative for Foreign Affairs Lady Ashton expressed on the 4th of February 2014 her worries for the two marines and promised that she will use every diplomatic means at her disposition to solve the situation.

YEPP calls on:

- The European External Action Service, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European Commission to halt any economic and commercial negotiation with India if the Indian government does not release Salvatore Girone and Massimiliano Latorre, as requested by the Vice-President of the EU Commission Tajani ;
- The European Institutions and the Member States to unanimously put pressure on India in order to prevent the sentence of the death penalty being handed down to the two marines and ask for the immediate release and repatriation of the two marines.