

Monday, 14 November 2005 - Strasbourg

One-minute speeches on matters of political importance

Ana Maria Gomes (PSE). - (PT) On 15 May, a general election was held in Ethiopia. One of the reasons why people cast their votes was that they trusted the international observers, which included the EU. Since election day, massacres have taken place - on 8 June, for example - and yet the Ethiopian Prime Minister has been received by the G8 and took part in the Africa Commission.

Recently, on 1 November, there was dreadful violence and repression in Ethiopia and all opposition leaders were arrested. At this very moment, there are tens of thousands of people in jail and dozens have died. Even so, the Ethiopian Prime Minister has been received in Germany.

Mr President, on 13 July, Parliament adopted a very clear resolution on the situation in Ethiopia. I call on you to write to the Ethiopian Government and European governments, drawing their attention to the fact that it is impossible to conduct 'business as usual' with a country that is under repression and in which elected opposition leaders are incarcerated.