

Monday, 15 May 2006 - Strasbourg

One-minute speeches on matters of political importance

Ana Maria Gomes (PSE). - (PT) It is exactly one year since the election in Ethiopia, when the people voted en masse for democracy and change. Through its mission, which I headed, the EU unfortunately had to conclude that the elections did not meet international standards, due to the lack of transparency of the count and, above all, due to the serious violations of human rights that took place. The main opposition leaders and thousands of people have been arrested and face the death penalty. What more needs to happen for the Council to take action and impose targeted sanctions on those in charge of the Addis Ababa regime, as it did in the case of Belarus? What more needs to happen for the Commission and the Council to take action to secure the swift, unconditional release of the detainees? The EU does make a difference in Addis Ababa. We must not let the people of Ethiopia down.