



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION  
118<sup>th</sup> Assembly and related meetings  
Cape Town (South Africa), 13 – 18 April 2008



Assembly  
Item 2

A/118/2-P.6  
9 April 2008

**CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE REQUESTS FOR THE  
INCLUSION OF AN EMERGENCY ITEM IN THE ASSEMBLY AGENDA**

**Request for the inclusion of an emergency item  
in the agenda of the 118<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
submitted by the delegation of Turkey**

On 8 April 2008, the Secretary General received from the President of the Turkish Group a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 118<sup>th</sup> Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Xenophobia".

Delegates to the 118<sup>th</sup> Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request (Annex I), as well as an explanatory memorandum (Annex II) and a draft resolution (Annex III) in support thereof.

The 118<sup>th</sup> Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Turkey on Monday, 14 April 2008.

Under the terms of Assembly Rule 11.1, any Member of the Union may request the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda. Such a request must be accompanied by a brief explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution which clearly define the scope of the subject covered by the request. The Secretariat shall communicate the request and any such documents immediately to all Members.

Furthermore, Assembly Rule 11.2 stipulates that:

- (a) A request for the inclusion of an emergency item must relate to a major event of international concern on which it appears necessary for the IPU to express its opinion. Such a request must receive a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in order to be accepted;
- (b) The Assembly may place only one emergency item on its agenda. Should several requests obtain the requisite majority, the one having received the largest number of positive votes shall be accepted;
- (c) The authors of two or more requests for the inclusion of an emergency item may combine their proposals to present a joint one, provided that each of the original proposals relates to the same subject;
- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the request and title of the subject adopted by the Assembly.

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL  
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE TURKISH INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP**

Ankara, 8 April 2008

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

With reference to the 118<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly scheduled to be held in Cape Town from 13 to 18 April 2008, on behalf of the Turkish delegation, I wish to submit to you my delegation's proposal for an emergency item entitled:

"Xenophobia".

Xenophobia is an undeniable problem that affects migrant communities living in western countries.

Please find enclosed the text of an explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution on the proposed item for your kind consideration and action.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Cevdet YILMAZ  
President of the  
Turkish Inter-Parliamentary Group

## **XENOPHOBIA**

### ***Explanatory memorandum submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Group of Turkey***

Xenophobia is an undeniable problem that affects migrant communities living in western countries. In addition to economic and social security concerns, terrorism inspired by fundamentalism and extremism has caused host countries to approach the Muslim communities that constitute the majority of migrants with bias and to reject their culture and traditions. Although terrorism inspired by Islamic fundamentalism is a common threat for all of humanity, it is particularly so for the Muslims living and working peacefully in western countries. Indeed, Muslims have been the focus of prejudices stemming from the association of Islamic fundamentalism with Islam. Governments,, political parties and the media - which could have played a constructive role in correctly defining the global threat directed at humanity and in preventing discrimination against Muslim migrants - have remained, at best, neutral vis-à-vis the rise of xenophobia. Meanwhile, the media has resorted to using freedom of the press and freedom of expression as pretexts for issuing publications and materials that are insulting to Muslim communities. The reactions prompted by these provocative publications in the media have further strengthened the islamophobic and xenophobic approach of host countries to migrant communities. Consequently, the number of xenophobic offences directed at Muslims living in western countries, their properties, holy places and associations, has been on the rise since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## XENOPHOBIA

### ***Draft resolution submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Group of TURKEY***

The 118<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

1. *Calls on* all IPU Members to acknowledge that terrorism inspired by fundamentalism and extremism are common threats for all of humanity, and as such, for all Muslims living and working peacefully in western countries;
2. *Urges* all concerned parties to realize that confusing Islamic fundamentalism with Islam has resulted in unjustified prejudices, discrimination and hostility directed at Muslim communities that constitute the majority of the migrants living in western countries;
3. *Invites* governments and host countries to understand that xenophobic approaches resulting from unjustified prejudices and discrimination against the migrants living in western countries discourage efforts aimed at integration;
4. *Urges* governments to encourage political parties and the media to play a constructive role in preventing the emergence of discrimination in public opinion against migrants;
5. *Calls on* all parties to understand that freedom of the press and freedom of expression should not be used as pretexts for issuing publications and other material that are insulting to migrant communities;
6. *Underscores* that the number of xenophobic offences directed at migrants living in western countries, their properties, holy places and associations has been on the rise since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century; and calls on governments to take the necessary measures to prevent the repetition of such incidents.