



European Claims, Iranian Concerns

An Iranian View to European Parliament's Recent Resolution on Iran

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On the last day of March 2014, the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs released a draft resolution entitled the "European Union's Strategy towards Iran," and put the text of the draft resolution on the website of the European Union (EU). The contents and tone of the resolution and its coincidence with the measures taken by the Iranian government to improve relations with the European Union, frequent visits to the Islamic Republic of Iran by representatives of various European

countries, and the fragile atmosphere of optimism resulting from the aforesaid developments caused the draft resolution, unlike previous resolutions adopted by the European Parliament (EP), to draw serious attention from all quarters while eliciting negative reactions both among high-ranking Iranian officials and the country's mass media. However, in parallel to the critical views, there has been another different viewpoint in Iran whose proponents argue that the EP resolution should be taken lightly and considered as an ordinary issue in order to control domestic reactions to it. Of course, the latter viewpoint has drawn far less attention in comparison with the first one.

Although the entire text of the draft resolution drawn up by the EP's Committee on Foreign Affairs consisted of about 49 opening and executive paragraphs, two paragraphs in this document were especially in-

strumental in eliciting the strong reaction of the Iranian officials. Those two specific paragraphs underlined that "presidential elections in Iran were not held in accordance with the democratic standards valued by the EU," and that "EP delegations to Iran should be committed to meeting members of the political opposition and civil society activists." Of course, the public opinion in Iran is generally and naturally unaware of the entire content and text of such resolutions as many people are not willing to read them. Given the fact that the overall course and results of Iran's presidential elections last year were generally hailed as a cause of pride for all Iranians, such baseless claims, which aim to cast doubt on the credibility of presidential elections in Iran, has convinced the Iranian nation that these resolutions actually aim to pave the way for the Europeans to interfere in the country's internal affairs.