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## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up the debate on statements by the European Council and Commission  
pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Sophia in 't Veld

on behalf of the ALDE Group

on the increase in racist and homophobic violence in Europe

**European Parliament resolution on the increase in racist and homophobic violence in Europe**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the related case law,
  - having regard to Articles 2, 6, 7 and 29 of the Treaty on European Union and Article 13 of the EC Treaty, and to the European Charter of Fundamental Rights,
  - having regard to European Union activities to fight racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and homophobia, in particular the anti-discrimination Directives 2000/43/EC implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin and 2000/78/EC establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation, as well as to the draft Framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia,
  - having regard to its previous resolutions on racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, homophobia, protection of minorities, anti-discrimination policies and the situation of Roma in the EU,
  - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and homophobia are motivated by irrational reasons and are linked to social marginalisation and exclusion, unemployment, lack of education, as well as by a refusal to conceive diversity in our societies as a source of richness,
- B. whereas several Member States, most recently Belgium, France, Germany and Poland, have experienced violent events and/or killings motivated by racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic hatred, while other direct and indirect forms of racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and homophobia persist inside and outside the EU,
- C. whereas the Russian authorities have banned the march for equality and tolerance for GLBT people planned for the 27 May in Moscow in violation of the right of peaceful assembly and demonstration guaranteed by the ECHR, in a situation where political and religious authorities were involved in denigration, and incited and participated in the violent events that subsequently occurred,
- D. whereas some political parties, including government parties in a number of Member States, have placed issues of racial, ethnic, national, religious and gay intolerance at the heart of their political agenda allowing their political leaders to foster fear and intolerance, and incite hatred and violence,

- E. whereas Member States have foreseen various measures against political parties that promote programmes and activities that are contrary to the values guaranteed by the ECHR, including the withdrawal of public funding,
  - F. whereas disgraceful and serious racist incidents take place during football matches, and whereas there are concerns that similar events could take place during the forthcoming World Cup tournament,
  - G. whereas the education system and the media play an important role in the fight against intolerance and discrimination,
  - H. whereas the police and the judicial system in Member States play a crucial role in the prosecution and prevention of violence related to such phenomena, but sometimes fail to meet the responsibility of protecting citizens against violence and discouraging extremists from committing such crimes,
  - I. whereas there is a lack of statistical data on racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and homophobia in the Member States, and notably on violence and discrimination related to these phenomena,
  - J. whereas the Council has so far failed to adopt, after 5 years of negotiations, the Commission proposal for a Framework Decision on combating racist and xenophobic crime, leading the Commission to threaten to withdraw it,
1. Deplores the fact that the Council has failed to adopt the 2001 Framework Decision on combating racist and xenophobic hate crime, and urgently calls on the future Finnish Presidency of the Council to restart the work on it and on the Council to reach an agreement, including homophobic, as well as Islamophobic and anti-Semitic behaviour within the remit of the Decision;
  2. Strongly condemns the premeditated murder of a black woman of Malian nationality and the Belgian child of whom she was the nurse, perpetrated in Antwerp on 12 May 2006 by a young Belgian right-wing extremist, this same person having a few moments earlier seriously wounded a woman of Turkish origin while trying to kill her;
  3. Is shocked at the rape, torture and assassination of Ilan Halimi last February in France by a gang of 22 persons of different origins, and is particularly worried about the anti-Semitic dimension of this crime;
  4. Welcomes the fact that the mass demonstrations in Antwerp and Paris to express public horror at these events and public support in the fight against racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism were attended by thousands of people; welcomes also the demonstrations for tolerance in Poland;
  5. Strongly condemns the Russian authorities' decision to ban the first Gay Pride in Moscow on 27 May as well as their failure to ensure the safety and security of the peaceful demonstrators and human rights activists, and reminds the Russian authorities that freedom of assembly is a basic human right guaranteed by Article 31 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation;

6. Is deeply disappointed at the failure of EU leaders to raise the matter during the EU-Russia Summit on 18 May;
7. Is equally disappointed at the failure of the meeting of President Barroso and Commissioners Frattini and Spidla with the religious leaders of Europe on 30 May to condemn the active participation of Russian Orthodox priests in the violent anti-gay and neo-Nazi march in Moscow on 27 May;
8. Expresses its astonishment and concern at the reaction of the President of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly to the incidents in Moscow, when he congratulated Russia on its human rights record, instead of condemning the violation of basic human rights on 27 May;
9. Calls on the EU representatives at the upcoming G8 Summit to raise the issue of human rights with Russia as a matter of urgency, in particular the right to demonstrate peacefully;
10. Regrets that several Member States are experiencing rising support for extremist parties and groups with a clear xenophobic, racist, anti-Semitic and homophobic agenda, some of which have recently acceded to government in Poland, and stresses the need to address the roots of this phenomena, such as social marginalisation and exclusion, unemployment and a lack of education;
11. Urgently requests all Member States to at least foresee the possibility of withdrawing public funding from political parties that do not abide by human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law as set out in the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Charter of Fundamental Rights, and calls on those that already have this possibility to apply it without delay;
12. Condemns the attack against Michael Schudrich, Chief Rabbi of Poland, which took place in Warsaw, as well as the declarations by a leading member of the League of Polish Families inciting violence against GLBT people with a view to the march for tolerance and equality; is seriously concerned about the general rise in racist, xenophobic, anti-Semitic and homophobic intolerance in Poland, partly fuelled by religious platforms such as Radio Maryja, which is also criticised by the Vatican for its anti-Semitic discourse;
13. Believes that the EU should take appropriate measures to express its concerns and notably to address the issue of the participation in the government of the League of Polish Families and the Self-Defence Party, whose leaders incite people to hatred and violence; reminds Poland of its commitments and obligations under the EU Treaties, in particular Article 6, and the possible sanctions in the event of non-compliance; urges the Polish Government in this context to reconsider the abolition of the Office of the Plenipotentiary for Equal Status;
14. Asks Member States to launch campaigns and projects at all levels and sectors, in particular in the media and in schools, in order to promote multiculturalism, difference as a form of richness, equality, the fight against discrimination, tolerance, dialogue and integration, for instance in the context of the European Years of Equal Opportunities for All (2007) and Intercultural Dialogue (2008);

15. Stresses the need to support anti-racist and anti-xenophobic initiatives in relation to the forthcoming World Cup tournament in Germany, and asks to authorities to closely monitor, prosecute and condemn those responsible for racist acts;
16. Recalls the need for sound and clear definitions and statistics on racism and xenophobia, in particular on racist and xenophobic violence, as a means of effectively combating these phenomena, as already highlighted in the EUMC's 2005 annual report, stressing the lack of statistical registration of racist violence i.e. in Italy, Portugal and Greece;
17. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Member States, the Council of Europe and the Government of the Russian Federation.