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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on statements by the Council and Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Graham Watson, Chris Davis and Marios Matsakis

on behalf of the ALDE Group

on the situation in Gaza

European Parliament resolution on the situation in Gaza

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolutions of 27 January 2005, 2 February 2006 and 7 September 2006 on the Middle East,
- having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. Deeply concerned at the continued Israeli operation in the Gaza Strip and deploring the continuing loss of civilian life, which within the last week has resulted in the loss of more than 70 civilians, including the recent bombing in Beit Hanun which caused the death of 19 innocent civilians, including eight children,
- B. noting Prime Minister Olmert's statement expressing sorrow for the victims and describing the Beit Hanun bombing as being due to a technical mistake, and considering the offer of fresh talks which he has made to President Abbas to be a positive step,
- C. whereas the Middle East peace process is in a political and diplomatic deadlock although a just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is needed for the establishment of peace and security in the whole region,
- D. deploring the recent appointment of Avigdor Lieberman, renowned for his extreme positions, as Deputy Prime Minister of Israel,
- E. whereas the European Union has a special responsibility for peace and security in the Middle East, which forms part of Europe's neighbourhood, and whereas the instruments and methods for the coordination of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) must therefore be improved, including through the adoption of a common position within the framework of the CFSP and on the basis of Articles 15 and 16 of the Treaty on European Union,
- F. stressing that the humanitarian crisis in the Occupied Territories is worsening in spite of the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) set up by the international community in order to continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian population,
- G. having regard to the importance of full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access,
 1. Expresses its condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims of the recent bombing in Beit Hanun and to all other innocent victims following the recent violence in Gaza;
 2. Declares once again that there is no military solution to the conflict and that the continuing loss of civilian lives is unbearable; believes that a solution to the Middle East

conflict is only possible through bilateral negotiation assisted by the international community, as set out in the Roadmap;

3. Recognises Israel's legitimate right to self-defence, but urges Israel to exercise utmost restraint and condemns the Israeli army's use of disproportionate action, which is undermining attempts to initiate the peace process;
4. Reiterates its call on Israel to stop the extra-judicial killings, which are contrary to international law and undermine the concept of the rule of law;
5. Calls on the Palestinian leadership to bring an end to the firing of rockets onto Israeli territory and on all Palestinian armed groups to maintain a truce and to refrain from further escalation, which is an essential element for the establishment of genuine dialogue;
6. Calls for the immediate and unconditional release of the abducted Israeli soldier in Gaza, and on Israel for the immediate release of Palestinian ministers and legislators in Israeli custody;
7. Urges Israel to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to establish conditions for free trade for Palestinians, in line with the relevant UN resolutions, in particular in Gaza, and to guarantee the reopening of the Rafah and Karni crossings, since their closure is another form of collective punishment affecting the whole civilian population;
8. Expresses its support to President Abbas and calls on Palestinians to support his efforts towards national unity and the formation of a government with a political platform reflecting the Quartet principles and allowing for early engagement.
9. Supports the EU Presidency statement urging the Israeli Government to cease all activities in the Palestinian territories, including settlement building, the construction of the separation barrier as well as the demolition of Palestinian homes;
10. Calls on the Council and the Commission to continue to guarantee, together with the international community, essential humanitarian aid for the Palestinian population; demands that the TIM be reinforced and extended in terms of duration and resources; calls on the Israeli Government urgently to resume the transfer of withheld Palestinian tax and customs revenues; calls on Israel to permit the movement of people, respecting the Agreement on Movement and Access in Rafah and at other border crossings in Gaza;
11. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to provide in particular extra medical aid to Palestinian hospitals, in particular in Gaza;
12. Reaffirms its commitment to the two-state solution, as laid out in the Roadmap and agreed between the parties, which would result in a viable, contiguous, sovereign and independent Palestinian state existing side by side with Israel in peace and security, and reiterates the established EU position that the Union will not recognise any change to the pre-1967 borders other than those arrived at by agreement between the parties;
13. Calls on the Council to make every effort to convene an international peace conference – along the lines of the Madrid Conference in 1991 – in order to find a comprehensive, lasting and viable solution to the problems in the area, based on the relevant UN Security

Council resolutions, and considers that a unilateral approach by any of the parties concerned must be rejected;

14. Invites the Council to launch an initiative to dispatch international military observers to Gaza, and calls on all parties to endorse and fully cooperate with such a proposal;
15. Calls on the United States Administration to reassess its role in the Quartet and in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with a view to supporting an end to the violence and a new and genuine dialogue between the parties;
16. Considers the 2002 'Beirut Plan' agreed by the member countries of the League of Arab States and the Geneva Initiative to be important contributions to the negotiations, which should be duly taken into account;
17. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Legislative Council, the Israeli Government and Knesset, the US Government, the Government of the Russian Federation, the UN Secretary-General and the Secretary-General of the Arab League.