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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for the debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure

by Pasqualina Napoletano, Marianne Mikko, Hannes Swoboda, Raimon Obiols i Germà, Dan Mihalache, Jan Marinus Wiersma,

on behalf of the PSE Group

on the serious and continued human rights violations in Transnistria and the need for the EU's greater involvement in the settlement of the frozen conflict in this region of the Republic of Moldova

European Parliament resolution on the serious and continued human rights violations in Transnistria and the need for the EU's greater involvement in the settlement of the frozen conflict in this region of the Republic of Moldova

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Moldova and Transnistria, and in particular those of 16 March 2006 and of 25 October 2006,
 - having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between Moldova and the European Union, which entered into force on 1 July 1998,
 - having regard to the statements of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) at the 1999 Summit in Istanbul and the 2002 Ministerial Council meeting in Porto,
 - having regard to the Council's decision implementing common position 2004/179/CFSP on restrictive measures against the leadership of the Transnistrian region of Moldova and a common position renewing the restrictive measures (5326/06 and 5456/06),
 - having regard to the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Ilascu and others against Moldova and the Russian Federation, which was delivered on 8 July 2004,
 - having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the frozen conflict in Transnistria and the control of this region of Moldova by the illegitimate self-proclaimed "authorities" of Tiraspol prevent respect for human rights in this region,
- B. whereas the illegal self-proclaimed authorities of Tiraspol have illegally deprived of their freedom a number of persons for their political beliefs, in particular the Ilascu group, as stated by the judgment of European Court of Human Rights of 8 July 2004,
- C. whereas the European Union took important steps to enhance its engagement with the Republic of Moldova and the search for a resolution of the Transnistrian conflict by opening a permanent European Commission delegation in Chisinau, appointing an EU Special Representative (EUSR) for Moldova with a mandate to contribute to a sustainable settlement of the Transnistrian conflict and establishing an EU Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) to Moldova and Ukraine,
- D. whereas negotiations concerning Transnistria have been ongoing since 1992, in the so called "5+2" Format, in which Moldova, the Transnistrian region of Moldova, Russia,

Ukraine and the OSCE participated, whereas the EU and the United States of America became observers since 2005, whereas in April 2006 the negotiations broke down,

1. Strongly deplores the state of the respect for human rights and human dignity in Transnistria as reflected by the trial and detention of the Ilascu Group, the denial of liberties of the population living in that area, ignoring the right to access to information and education, resulting in wide-spread trafficking in human beings and organised crime;
2. Welcomes the release of Mr. Andrei Ivantoc and Mr. Tudor Petrov-Popa, but deplores the fact that their release by the self-proclaimed regime of Tiraspol was declared as resulting from the expiry of their term of imprisonment, and not due to the implementation of the decision of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR); condemns the fact that Mr. Andrei Ivantoc was subjected to violence and attacks to human dignity upon his release, as film footage taken by witnesses to his release testifies;
3. Emphasizes the EU's firm commitment to the territorial integrity of Moldova; points out that the illegitimate regime of Tiraspol has no authority to stop Moldovan citizens from entering the territory of the left bank of the Nistru river and has no authority to issue "persona non-grata" decisions;
4. Demands the cessation of deprivation of freedom of persons for political activity; in this respect condemns the arrest on 2 June 2007 and subsequent treatment of Mr Valentin Besleag, a mayoral candidate in legitimate local elections in Corjova;
5. Asks the international community and the EU Commission in particular to use the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights to support the Transnistrian population directly, developing programmes to support civil society, access to information, education and free media, which have been denied by the self-proclaimed authorities of Tiraspol;
6. Calls for the European Court of Human Rights Decision of 8 July 2004 to be applied fully and for compensation to the victims to be granted by the two respondent States identified by the ECHR Decision, namely the Russian Federation and Moldova;
7. Calls on the Russian Federation to immediately stop its support for the self-proclaimed Transnistrian regime, to withdraw its arms, troops and munitions from Transnistria in line with the 1999 Istanbul OSCE commitments;
8. Calls on the Council, the Member States and the Commission to continue to give their fullest support to a political and peaceful solution of the conflict in the immediate neighbourhood of the EU borders and urges them to discuss these matters at their next meetings with the President and the Government of the Russian Federation;
9. Calls for a greater involvement of the EU in solving this conflict in its immediate neighbourhood, including the enhancement of the EU's status to that of a negotiating partner, as Romania's accession in 2007 has made this conflict an issue of the EU's immediate neighbourhood;
10. Reminds all parties that the Transnistria allows organised crime, including trafficking in

arms, in human beings, smuggling and money-laundering activities to flourish; points out that this constitutes a considerable risk to the stability of the region;

11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States, the Government and Parliament of Moldova, the Government and Parliament of the Russian Federation, the Government and Parliament of the Ukraine, the Secretary-General of the OSCE and the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.