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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Othmar Karas and Klaus-Heiner Lehne

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the draft Statute for Members of the European Parliament

European Parliament resolution on the draft Statute for Members of the European Parliament

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 190(5) of the EC Treaty,
- having regard to Rule 37(2) of its Rules of Procedures,
- A. whereas the European Parliament adopted a draft Statute for Members on 4 June 2003¹,
- B. whereas its Bureau adopted a revision of the rules for the reimbursement of travel expenses on²,
- C. whereas the Greek Presidency, in its letter dated 25 June 2003, transmitted the concerns of a couple of Member States regarding the rules on immunities, pension age and supplementary national taxation,
- D. whereas the Italian Presidency, in its letter dated 21 November 2003, stressed the importance of arriving at the adoption of the Statute for Members of the European Parliament, and stated its interest in enhancing the dialogue in order to identify acceptable compromise solutions,
- E. whereas it has, on several occasions, called on the Council to enter, at the level of Heads of State and Government, into a dialogue with the European Parliament on the arrangements for adopting this Statute for Members³,
- 1. Considers it appropriate to complete the procedure for the adoption of the Members' Statute, and asks the Council to adopt the Statute and to inform it about this decision no later than 15 January 2004;
- 2. Agrees, in order to facilitate the Council's approval, to a separate, autonomous examination, and approval in accordance with the respective institutional arrangements, of that part of the Statute which is governed by secondary law and of that part governed by primary law; with regard to the part governed by primary law, invites the Member States to review the 1965 Protocol on Privileges and Immunities in so far as it concerns the Members of the European Parliament and along the lines proposed in the Statute which was adopted on 3-4 June 2003;
- 3. Decides to change the starting age for Members' entitlement to an old-age pension to 63;

¹ P5_TA-PROV(2003) 0241

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4. Is prepared to accept the interpretation whereby the provision concerning the Community tax to be levied on the Members' allowance will not prejudice the Member States' power to apply the provisions of national tax law to the allowance, provided that this does not entail any double taxation;
5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.