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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on statements by the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and by the Commission

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

by Joseph Daul, João de Deus Pinheiro, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Edward McMillan-Scott, Charles Tannock, Jana Hybášková, Antonio Tajani, Gay Mitchell and Tokia Saïfi

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the situation in Gaza

European Parliament resolution on the situation in Gaza

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Middle East, and in particular those of 1 June 2006 on the humanitarian situation in the Palestinian territories and the role of the EU, 16 November 2006 on the situation in the Gaza Strip, 21 June 2007 on MEDA and financial support to Palestine - evaluation, implementation and control, 12 July 2007 on the Middle East and 11 October 2007 on the humanitarian situation in Gaza,
 - having regard to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973),
 - having regard to the conclusions of the External Relations Council of 28 January 2008,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, as a result of the lack of essential goods and services, the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip has further deteriorated,
- B. whereas the border crossings in and out of Gaza have been closed for months, and whereas the embargo on the movement of people and goods has further paralysed the economy in the Gaza Strip,
- C. whereas key public service sectors, including the health and education systems, are facing serious shortcomings owing to a lack of the basic materials required for their functioning,
- D. whereas hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have crossed the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt in recent weeks, after the breaking down of the border wall,
- E. whereas, after a long period without such acts, a suicide terrorist attack in Dimona killed and wounded civilians, and whereas the firing of rockets by Hamas militias from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory has continued, and the military operations killing and endangering civilians and the extrajudicial targeted killings by the Israeli army have also continued in the Gaza Strip,
- F. whereas the situation and the recent developments in the Gaza Strip do not undermine the ongoing negotiations between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority or the efforts to conclude an agreement by the end of 2008, as declared by the parties at the Annapolis Conference,
- G. whereas the European Union has provided considerable financial support to the Palestinians in the past years, and whereas the EU's Temporary International Mechanism and project funding have played an important role in avoiding a humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and PEGASE will constitute a new financing mechanism for EU and other international assistance to the Palestinian Territories,

- H. whereas the participants in the International Donors' Conference for the future Palestinian State, held in December 2007 in Paris, pledged a total of USD 7.4 billion to support Palestinian institution-building and economic recovery for the next three years,
1. Reiterates its deep concern at the deteriorating humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip caused by the embargo following the illegal Hamas takeover in Gaza in June 2007, and its further grave consequences;
 2. Expresses its deepest sympathy for the civilian population affected by the violence in Gaza and in southern Israel; reiterates its call for an immediate end to all acts of violence;
 3. Welcomes the non-violent reaction by Egypt and its positive role in negotiations with all parties in the Rafah border crossing crisis, and supports the government of Egypt in its continuing to play an active role in maintaining peace and stability in the area;
 4. Reiterates its call to Israel, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority to ensure the movement of people and goods at Rafah, Karni and the other crossings, confirms the readiness of the EU Border Assistance Mission to immediately resume its activities in compliance with the Agreement on Movement and Access, and supports the recent resolution adopted by the Arab League in that respect;
 5. Urges Hamas to accept immediately the three principles of the Quartet and to support the peace process and negotiations;
 6. Demands that Hamas immediately stop all terror activities, including the launching of Qassam rockets;
 7. Reiterates its call to Hamas to release immediately Corporal Gilad Shalit;
 8. Calls on Israel to fulfil its international obligations, as an occupying power, in the Gaza Strip; calls on Israel to guarantee a continuous and sufficient flow of humanitarian aid and essential goods and services to the Gaza Strip, and to cease any military action in Gaza that is damaging to the civilian population;
 9. Calls on Israel to release immediately imprisoned Palestinian former ministers, legislators and mayors who have not been charged with terrorist activities;
 10. Demands that the parties in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict strictly observe the provisions of international law, and in particular international humanitarian law;
 11. Reminds the parties of their commitments, made in Annapolis, to hold negotiations in good faith in order to conclude a peace treaty resolving all outstanding issues, including all core issues, without exception, as specified in previous agreements, by the end of 2008;
 12. Welcomes the outcome of the International Donors' Conference for the Palestinian State held last December, namely the pledging of over USD 7.4 billion, and calls on all donors to deliver on their pledges in support of efforts to build the future Palestinian State in accordance with the Reform and Development Plan presented by Prime Minister Fayyad;

13. Calls on the Council and the Commission to continue to guarantee, together with the international community, essential humanitarian aid for the Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip, with special regard for the needs of particularly vulnerable groups; welcomes the work of the Commission to launch the new funding mechanism PEGASE, which constitutes a key channel for EU and other international assistance and aims to promote development and economic growth in the region;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the UN Secretary-General, the Special Envoy for the Middle East Quartet, the President of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, the President of the Palestinian Authority, the Palestinian Legislative Council, the Israeli Government, the Knesset, and the Egyptian Government and Parliament.