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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the Commission statement

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

by Cristiana Muscardini, Anna Elzbieta Fotyga, Roberta Angelilli and Inese Vaidere

on behalf of the UEN Group

on Afghanistan

European Parliament resolution on Afghanistan

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Afghanistan,
- having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 18 September elections took place for the lower house of the Afghan Parliament (the Wolesi Jirga) and around 50% of eligible voters cast their vote,
- B. whereas this exceptional event took place after 10 years of war with the Soviet Union, five years of Taliban government and five years of civil war,
- C. whereas, following the 2004 presidential election, the parliamentary election represents the final step in establishing a representative government,
- D. whereas the electoral process was peaceful despite difficult circumstances in the shape of a country ravaged by many years of war, terrorist threats and continuing military operations in some parts of the country,
- E. whereas international observers, including the European Union Election Observation Mission, assessed the electoral process positively,
- F. whereas ex-warlords received significant electoral support, and whereas the non-transferable voting system may lead to fragmentation of the parliament,
- G. whereas there were numerous reports of intimidation and some cases of candidates, clerics and election workers being killed,
- H. whereas continuing violence remains a challenge for the government in large parts of the country, and numerous soldiers of the ISAF forces, as well as Afghan police officers, are sacrificing their lives in order to restore and secure peace in Afghanistan,
- I. whereas the government and economy of Afghanistan are fragile, and the country depends on external political, economic and military assistance,
- J. whereas the European Union and its Member States disbursed approximately 1.7 billion euros in 2002-2003 for reconstruction and humanitarian aid for Afghanistan and pledged a further 2.2 billion for 2004-2006,
- K. whereas 23 EU Member States contributed to creating the ISAF forces, which have assumed a key role in providing security for Afghanistan,
- L. whereas Afghanistan is an important field for broad international cooperation between the European Union, the USA and other democratic countries, with the aim of bringing peace,

stability and reconstruction to the country, and creating a stable democratic government,

- M. whereas Afghanistan is one of the biggest producers of narcotics, and approximately 90% of the heroin sold in Western Europe is thought to originate in Afghanistan,
1. Welcomes the successful and peaceful accomplishment of the first free and democratic parliamentary elections in Afghanistan in over 30 years, and considers this to be a cornerstone of democracy and an important step towards securing a peaceful future for the country;
 2. Regrets that the electoral system may make the establishment of stable democratic parties difficult, but is convinced that, despite the ethnic divisions and conflicts dating back to the war, the Afghan Parliament will form a democratic majority capable of assuming responsibility for the continuation of the reform process;
 3. Expresses its solidarity with all those who – despite the many risks – contributed to the successful accomplishment of the elections: candidates, all those who participated in preparing for the elections and all those who worked to maintain security and order;
 4. Condemns the violent acts and murders that took place during the elections and the fact that numerous Afghan forces and foreign soldiers are dying in combat with terrorist groups; expresses its condolences and its solidarity with the victims and their families;
 5. Notes that the violent acts were not able to distort the electoral process as a whole;
 6. Notes with regret certain election irregularities and malpractices, especially in relation to the election of the commanders-turned-politicians, and expects that the Afghan authorities will handle this issue in a transparent and effective manner to safeguard the integrity of the elections;
 7. Expresses its conviction that the reconstruction and stabilisation process will require further solidarity and long-term support from the people of Afghanistan, and calls in consequence on the Council and the Commission, as well as the whole international community of democratic countries, for even greater financial, political and technical aid for the government of the Republic of Afghanistan;
 8. Calls on the EU Member States not to deny any civil or military support – if it is necessary and requested by the Afghan government – and to grant greater financial and technical assistance with training Afghan military forces in order to preserve peace in Afghanistan;
 9. Calls on the Pakistan authorities to take action to avoid Taliban recruitment and to cut off definitively Taliban supply lines from Pakistani territory;
 10. Calls on the President and the new Parliament of Afghanistan to make combating drug trafficking one of the government's priorities;
 11. Calls on the new Parliament to promote the presence of women in political and social life in Afghanistan and to protect their rights;

12. Calls on the Council and the Commission to examine the possibilities for more efficient cooperation with the Afghan authorities on combating the cultivation and smuggling of drugs;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission, the President and Parliament of Afghanistan, the governments of the donor countries for the stabilization and reconstruction of Afghanistan, and the UN Secretary-General.