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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 Pasqualina Napoletano, Véronique De Keyser and Hannes Swoboda

on behalf of the PSE 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, in particular those of 2 February 2006 on the result of the Palestinian elections and the situation in East Jerusalem, 1 June 2006 on the humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian territories and the role of the EU and 7 September 2006 on the situation in the Middle East,
 - having regard to UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338,
 - having regard to the Quartet's 'Roadmap for Peace' of 30 April 2003,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the External Relations Council of 15 September 2006 and 17 October 2006,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Israeli military operation in Gaza has resulted in over 300 deaths, including many civilians, since June 2006 and whereas the Israeli attack in Beit Hanun on 8 November 2006 killed 19 Palestinians, mostly children and women,
- B. whereas the renewed violence is making the humanitarian situation in Gaza still worse as a result of large-scale devastation of public facilities and private homes, the denial of access to water, food and electricity, the disruption of hospitals, clinics and schools, and the destruction of agricultural lands,
- C. whereas attacks targeted directly at civilian assets and disproportionate or indiscriminate attacks on the civilian population represent a flagrant breach of fundamental rights as laid down by international law and the Geneva Conventions,
- D. whereas the new cycle of violence is threatening the efforts made by the President of the Palestinian Authority to form a new Palestinian government of national unity,
- E. whereas the international community and the European Union are providing considerable support for efforts to solve the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the West Bank, with special regard to the Temporary International Mechanism; whereas, however, such assistance cannot meet all needs,
- F. whereas the right of a state to defend itself cannot justify any disproportionate or indiscriminate use of force, and whereas international humanitarian law strictly prohibits attacks on civilians,
1. Condemns the Israeli military operation carried out in Beit Hanun and in northern Gaza and the firing of rockets by Palestinian militias;

2. Calls on the Israeli Government to halt its military operations in Gaza without delay; calls on the Palestinian militias immediately to cease firing rockets into Israeli territory; reaffirms that there is no military solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;
3. Expresses its deep concern about the possible grave consequences of the current crisis, including further military and terrorist attacks, undermining the fragile political situation in the region as a whole;
4. Regrets the blocking in the United Nations Security Council of a draft resolution on the situation on Gaza by a US veto and the lack of a strong and clear stance by the international community on the current crisis;
5. Calls on the Council and the Member States of the European Union to adopt a common position pursuant the Article 15 of the TEU, in order to make an appropriate assessment of the current situation and to promote a serious attempt to halt the violence and bring the parties concerned to the negotiating table;
6. Invites the Quartet (UN, EU, USA and Russia) to act urgently for the resumption of negotiations with and between the parties concerned and full implementation of all parts of the Roadmap; declares once again that a just and lasting solution to this conflict is only possible on the basis of the existence of two democratic, sovereign and viable states living peacefully side by side within secure and recognised borders;
7. Reiterates its view that the presence of a multinational force in Lebanon could be taken as an exemplary model to be followed in Gaza and the West Bank, in order to protect the civilian population on both sides;
8. Calls on the Council urgently to convene the EU-Israel Association Council in order to express the position of the European Union after the Israeli military operations in Gaza, with regard, in particular, to full compliance with Article 2 of the Association Agreement;
9. Expresses its deep concern about the involvement in the Israeli Government of a party with a political programme based on the ethnicity of Israeli citizens, which is unacceptable;
10. Stresses that human rights must be fully respected and that the violation of international humanitarian law must be halted immediately in Gaza and the West Bank;
11. Calls on the Council and the Commission to continue to guarantee, together with the international community, essential humanitarian aid for the Palestinian population; calls for the Temporary International Mechanism be further reinforced and extended in terms of duration and resources; encourages donors to make full use of this mechanism;
12. Repeats its call on the Israeli Government urgently to resume transfers of withheld Palestinian tax and customs revenues; recalls the utmost importance of full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access; condemns the regular closing of the Rafah, Karni and other border crossings;
13. Reiterates its call for the immediate release of the Palestinian ministers and legislators in

Israeli custody and of the abducted Israeli soldier;

14. Welcomes the agreement reached by the President of the Palestinian Authority to promote a national dialogue between the Palestinian parties and the appointment of a new Palestinian Prime Minister to form a new Palestinian Government, which could act as a negotiating partner for the international community; considers that, in this context, the economic aid to the Palestinian Authority should be restored;
15. Calls for full involvement of Palestinian civil society, with special regard to women's organisations, in the internal political dialogue;
16. Repeats its call on the Council to make every effort to convene an international peace conference – along the lines of the Madrid Conference in 1991 – with the aim of finding a comprehensive, lasting and viable solution to the problems in the region, based on the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, which includes the right of Israel to live within secure and recognised borders and the right to a viable state for the Palestinians based on the Occupied Territories;
17. Considers the involvement of the Arab League to be essential in this context; 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;
18. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the High Representative for the CFSP, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the UN Secretary-General, the President of the Palestinian Authority, the Palestinian Legislative Council, the Israeli Knesset and Government, the Governments of the United States and the Russian Federation, and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States.