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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 Francis Wurtz, Vittorio Agnoletto, André Brie, Luisa Morgantini, Willy Meyer Pleite, Miguel Portas and Mary Lou McDonald

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on a universal moratorium on the death penalty

European Parliament resolution on a universal moratorium on the death penalty

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on a universal moratorium on the death penalty, in particular that of 23 October 2003,
 - having regard to the resolutions on the moratorium on capital punishment adopted by various UN bodies, including the UN Commission on Human Rights,
 - having regard to the EU's statements in support of a universal moratorium on capital punishment,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure,
- A. deeply concerned by the fact that national laws still exist in dozens of countries around the world providing for the death penalty and, therefore, the killing of thousands of human beings each year, often without a fair and equitable trial or minimum judicial guarantees,
- B. whereas the European Union decided, in the framework of the 'EU Guidelines on the death penalty' adopted in Luxembourg on 6 June 1998 to work within international bodies towards a universal moratorium on the death penalty and its abolition in due course,
- C. highlighting the particularly high number of executions in such countries as the United States and China, which are permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and which have so far blocked any UN initiative on an international moratorium,
- D. deeply shocked by the unacceptable political and media use made of Saddam Hussein's execution by the Iraqi and US Governments, which – as illustrated by the unbearable content of the images circulated – shows that a form of summary justice, incompatible with the rule of law and subject to the US political agenda, is being practised in Iraq,
1. Reaffirms its total and principled opposition to the death penalty throughout the world, without distinction as to the type of crime and/or person it is intended to punish; condemns therefore all the executions which are carried out on a daily basis in many countries around the world;
 2. Is convinced that the abolition of the death penalty is per se a milestone in the history of human civilisation for countries which have decided to abandon the unacceptable practice of killing their fellow citizens and/or other persons;

3. Calls for an international moratorium on executions to be established immediately and unconditionally through a relevant solemn declaration of the United Nations General Assembly, whose actual implementation the UN Secretary-General should be able to monitor;
4. Strongly supports the recent formal initiative of the Italian Parliament, backed by the Council of Europe, asking the EU to present at the next UN General Assembly a motion for a resolution for a universal moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to completely abolishing the death penalty throughout the world, without being subject to the unanimous approval of all EU Member States;
5. 4. Asks the EU Presidency to take appropriate action, as a matter of urgency, to ensure that such a resolution calling for a universal moratorium on capital punishment is urgently submitted to the UN General Assembly; asks the EU Presidency and the Commission to keep Parliament informed of the results achieved at the UN General Assembly on a universal moratorium on the death penalty;
6. Believes that the European Union should use the various instruments of cooperation with different countries to persuade them to initiate a political dialogue that can lead them definitively to abolish capital punishment;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the UN Secretary-General, the Chair of the UN General Assembly and all the UN member states.