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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

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on behalf of the PSE Group

on combating rising extremism in Europe

European Parliament resolution on combating rising extremism in Europe

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on racism, xenophobia and extremism, in particular that of 20 February 1997 on racism, xenophobia and the extreme right and that of 15 June 2006 on the increase in racist and homophobic violence in Europe (P6_TA(2006)0273),
- having regard to its legislative resolution of 29 November 2007 on the proposal for a Council Framework Decision on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law (Roure report),
- having regard to Articles 6 and 7 of the Treaty on European Union and Article 13 of the EC Treaty, which commit the EU and its Member States to uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms and which provide European means to fight racism, xenophobia and discrimination,
- having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights and to the Statute of the Fundamental Rights Agency,
- having regard to the international human rights instruments which prohibit discrimination based on racial and ethnic origin, and notably the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR), both signed by all the Member States and a large number of third states,
- having regard to Recommendation 1438 (25 January 2000) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 'The threat posed to democracy by extremist parties and movements in Europe',
- having regard to European Union activities to fight racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and homophobia, in particular the anti-discrimination Directives 2000/43/EC, implementing the principle of equal treatment of persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin, and 2000/78/EC, establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation, and having regard to the framework decision on combating racism and xenophobia,
- having regard to Resolution 1344 (29 September 2003) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 'The threat posed to democracy by extremist parties and movements in Europe',
- having regard to the Report on Racism and Xenophobia in the Member States of the EU in 2007, published by the Fundamental Rights Agency,

- having regard to the OSCE document 'Challenges and responses to hate-motivated incidents in the OSCE region' (October 2006),
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. seriously concerned at the resurgence in Europe of extremist movements and parties which base their ideology and political discourse, practices and conduct on intolerance, exclusion, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, anti-Roma measures and ultra-nationalism,
 - B. whereas this ideology is incompatible with democracy and human rights and with the principles and values on which the EU is founded,
 - C. whereas no Member State is immune to the intrinsic threats that extremism poses to democracy, and whereas, therefore, combating the spread of xenophobic attitudes and extremist political movements is a European challenge,
 - D. whereas some political parties and movements, including those in power in a number of countries or represented at local, national or European level, have deliberately placed intolerance based on race, ethnic origin, nationality, religion and sexual orientation at the heart of their agenda, allowing political leaders to use language which incites racial and other forms of hatred and stokes extremism in society,
 - E. whereas neo-Nazi and right-wing extremists are directing their violent attacks against a wide variety of vulnerable groups, including migrants, homosexuals, anti-racist activists, homeless people and youths belonging to non-right-wing extremist subcultures,
 - F. whereas the activities of extremist paramilitary organisations operating in a number of EU Member States are giving rise to concerns and fears both in their respective countries and in neighbouring countries,
 - G. whereas in some EU Member States a trend exists whereby the democratic political system is being progressively undermined and the replacement of traditional political parties by populist movements is being advocated, paving the way for extremist forces,
 - H. whereas the existence of some media outlets as well as a large number of Internet homepages which provide the main sources of information about movements and groups which incite hatred, attacks against democratic institutions and political stability and violence is giving rise to concerns as to how to counteract this problem without violating freedom of expression,
 - I. whereas extremist right-wing movements appeal mainly to socially isolated, excluded and vulnerable, economically insecure and uneducated persons,
1. Strongly condemns all racist and hate attacks and urges national authorities to do everything in their power to punish those responsible and to fight the climate of impunity with respect to those attacks; expresses its solidarity with all victims of such attacks and their families;

2. Points out that extremist movements inciting violence, whether within or outside political parties, abuse the right of association from a political point of view; measures designed to limit the ability of these movements to act should be envisaged in proportion to the danger of violence and with the clear purpose of ensuring equality and freedom for everyone;
3. Notes that the resurgence in extremist, extreme right-wing and irredentist organisations (often with anti-Semitic and neo-fascist elements) reflects the worsening social situation, unemployment, collective fear of globalisation, social marginalisation and school failure;
4. Asks the Member States to address the social and economic issues, such as unemployment, immigration and security, that these parties and movements capitalise on and to develop policies of education for democratic citizenship based on citizens' rights and responsibilities;
5. Asks the Commission and Council to lead the search for appropriate political and legal responses, especially at the preventive stage, and not forgetting the necessary responses regarding young people's education and public information, teaching about totalitarianism and spreading the principles of human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to keep alive the memory of acts and events as they really happened in Europe;
6. Insists that the Commission should monitor the full application of the existing legislation designed to prohibit incitement to political violence, racism and xenophobia and promote the extension of this legislation not only to individuals but also to political parties, organisations and movements;
7. Urges all democratic political forces, whether on the left or the right, to refuse any cooperation, whether explicit or implicit, with extremist parties of a racist or xenophobic nature and hence also any alliance whatsoever with their elected representatives in order to form majorities wielding political power;
8. Calls on the democratic media to promote and to spread in their messages the principles and values of democracy, equality and tolerance;
9. Welcomes the dissolution of the extreme right-wing political group Independence, Tradition and Sovereignty (ITS) and counts on a strengthening of the conditions governing the formation of political groups; asks the Members and the political groups in the European Parliament not to support any initiative coming from individual MEPs or political groups endorsing ideas at odds with the principles on which the European Union is based;
10. Warns, looking ahead to the 2009 European elections, of the possibility that extremist parties may obtain representation in the European Parliament and asks the political groups to take the appropriate measures in order to ensure that a democratic institution is not used as a platform for financing and echoing anti-democratic messages;
11. Requests all Member States to at least provide for the possibility of withdrawing public funding from political parties which do not respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law, as set out in the ECHR and the Charter of Fundamental Rights, and calls on those that already have this possibility to do so without

delay; calls, further, on the Commission to ensure that no EU funding is available to media outlets which are used as a platform for the large-scale promotion of racist, xenophobic and homophobic ideas;

12. Calls on the Commission to support NGOs and civil society organisations devoted to promoting democratic values, solidarity, social inclusion, intercultural dialogue and social awareness as a means of combating radicalisation and violent extremism;
13. Asks the Council and the Commission to strengthen European programmes designed to foster social inclusion and education in democratic citizenship and to address social and economic ills such as insecurity, unemployment and exclusion; encourages the Commission to demand that EU applicant countries pay more attention to policies of poverty reduction, social inclusion and education in democratic citizenship;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States and the Council of Europe.