

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Session document*

9 April 2003

B5-0210/2003 }  
B5-0214/2003 }  
B5-0217/2003 }  
B5-0220/2003 }  
B5-0225/2003 }

RC1

## JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 50(5) of the Rules of Procedure by

- Peter Liese and Bernd Posselt on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Wolfgang Kreissl-Dörfler and Margrietus J. van den Berg on behalf of the PSE Group
- Carles-Alfred Gasòliba i Böhm, Bob van den Bos and Cecilia Malmström on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Miquel Mayol i Raynal, Alain Lipietz, Josu Ortuondo Larrea, Camilo Nogueira Román and Monica Frassoni on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Laura González Álvarez, Giuseppe Di Lello Finuoli, Hans Modrow and Joaquim Miranda on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- ELDR (B5-0210/2003),
- PSE (B5-0214/2003),
- PPE-DE (B5-0217/2003),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0220/2003),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0225/2003),

on Guatemala

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PE 330.848 }  
PE 330.853 }  
PE 330.856 }  
PE 330.859 }  
PE 330.864 } RC1

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## European Parliament resolution on Guatemala

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Guatemala,
  - having regard to its decisive and ongoing commitment to the peace process and human rights in Guatemala,
- A. whereas to respect, protect and guarantee all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights is the basis for lasting peace and sustainable human development,
- B. whereas the human right to food, recognised in Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, implies the obligation on the part of the State and the international community to guarantee access for vulnerable groups to the resources they need to feed themselves, in particular land,
- C. whereas, nearly six years after the Peace Accords were signed, the United Nations Mission for Guatemala (MINUGUA) reports that their implementation is at a standstill or being reversed, in the area of both agriculture and human rights, especially the rights of indigenous peoples,
- D. whereas, according to information provided by human rights organisations, violations of human rights are on the increase and the justice system is deteriorating further, since the present government has not provided the necessary resources,
- E. having regard to continuing insecurity regarding land, as evidenced by threats of eviction and the destruction and looting of crops, reported by the organisations of farmers and indigenous peoples, CNOC, UASP, the Foro Maya and the Plataforma Agraria united under the banner of the Indigenous and Farmers' National Coordinating Office (CONIC),
- F. whereas social organisations of various tendencies, belonging to the Collective of Social Organisations – COS – are asking the government of Guatemala to abide by the commitments it made at the meeting of donor countries of the Consultative Group held in February 2002,
- G. whereas the next meeting of the Consultative Group, to be held in Guatemala in May 2003, should be the ideal forum for tackling ways out of the crisis in the implementation of the peace accords,
1. Calls on the Guatemalan Government to draw up and launch a national policy on food security and rural development, a specific commitment made by the government by virtue of the Peace Accords; in this context stresses the importance of the role played by the Secretariat of Agrarian Affairs;

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PE 330.848}  
PE 330.853}  
PE 330.856}  
PE 330.859}  
PE 330.864} RC1

2. Expresses its concern at the present situation and calls on the European Commission, at the next meeting of the Consultative Group, to insist that the Guatemalan Government should make a substantial contribution to speeding up the process of implementing the Peace Accords, guaranteeing sufficient budgetary resources, establishing appropriate taxation arrangements and promoting a process of consultation about the Poverty Reduction Strategy;
3. Expresses its concern for the victims of the current increase in violence and calls on the Guatemalan Government to abolish impunity, improve civil security and guarantee human rights; requests that the Guatemalan authorities fully support and facilitate the task of the Commission for the Investigation of Illegal Groups and Clandestine Security Apparatus (CICIACS), as agreed on 13 March this year between the Human Rights Prosecutor and the Minister for Foreign Affairs;
4. Condemns the recent murder of local farmers' leaders and threats and intimidation against national farmers' leaders, and therefore demands that the Guatemalan authorities investigate these events and bring those responsible to justice;
5. Stresses the need to promote a national debate on a reform of the system of tenancy and land use and in this context recommends that the Congress of the Republic should adopt as soon as possible the Law on land registration and information and that the Government should institutionally strengthen CONTIERRA, the organisation set up to settle agricultural disputes;
6. Expresses its concern at the weaknesses of CONTIERRA and therefore calls on the Guatemalan Government to give CONTIERRA a political and legal mandate within the new Secretariat for Agricultural Affairs and the resources necessary to impose settlements effectively in specific disputes, by exercising the authority of the State;
7. Expresses its concern at the insecurity of the indigenous peoples and their eviction from the land where they work, and therefore calls for strict compliance with the legal reforms laid down in the Peace Accord in order to rationalise, restore, protect and guarantee the historical land rights of the indigenous peoples and the transposition of WTO Convention 169 in national legislation and administration;
8. Expresses its concern at the continuing failure to comply with the agreement on the identity and rights of indigenous peoples, and therefore calls on the government of Guatemala to implement it and to develop, on this basis, a set of integrated public policies to combat the traditional discrimination against the Mayan, Garifuna and Xinka peoples;
9. Expresses its concern at the continuing discrimination against indigenous and peasant women as regards access to and control over land, and against female agricultural workers as regards recognition of their work, and hence calls on the State institutions to apply consistently the right of co-ownership, to reform Article 139 of the Labour Code to ensure that women are recognised as workers with wages of their own and that the other rights of women are respected, such as non-discrimination and fair treatment in political decisions and economic, social and cultural activities;

10. Recognises the international community's contribution to the peace process in Guatemala, in particular the work of verifying the Peace Accords carried out by the United Nations Mission for Guatemala (MINUGUA) and the investments made by the various bilateral and multilateral donors in support of a stable and lasting peace in Guatemala;
11. Reiterates its support for the peace process in Guatemala and requests that in future EU - Guatemala cooperation priority be given to food security, rural development and reform of the tenancy system and land use, accompanied by a training programme;
12. Supports the Commission's move to offer economic cooperation for rural development and agrarian reform programmes, provided that the Guatemalan Government puts forward a plan agreed with the sectors of civil society and demonstrates that it will mobilise appropriate internal resources to carry out the plan;
13. Calls on the Commission to promote coordination and coherence with the other donor countries in the framework of the Guatemala Consultative Group scheduled for 2003, in particular as regards future co-operation to support food security and rural development in Guatemala;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Government of Guatemala, the Congress of Guatemala, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the Organisation of American States and the Central American Parliament.