

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Foreign Affairs

2008/2097(INI)

13.10.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Development

on development perspectives on peace-building and nation building in post-conflict situations
(2008/2097(INI))

Rapporteur: Willy Meyer Pleite

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes that peace and stability result in development progress and that the absence of hostilities that marks post-conflict situations does not automatically lead to an entrenched and lasting stability; stresses, therefore, that peace, security and durable stability are basic and essential prerequisites for national reconstruction in post-conflict situations;
2. Underlines the importance of tackling the root causes of instability by means of development policies that are in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other socio-economic, political and cultural measures which can create the environment required to prevent the resurgence of conflict and which aim to eliminate poverty, foster economic, social and cultural development, create institutional and administrative capacities, improve the quality of life of the population and consolidate the rule of law; stresses, in this connection, the importance of education, especially for young people and women, in making a direct contribution to generating stability; regrets the impossibility of achieving the MDG commitments and the fact that in many of those instances there has been a deterioration, especially as regards those related to education and health (malaria, HIV and infant and maternal mortality);
3. Points out also the need to employ social and economic measures aimed at eliminating poverty and fostering economic and social development that can create the environment required to prevent the resurgence of conflict;
4. Stresses the vital need for the international community to assume a major responsibility in supporting the authorities of states which are in the process of reconstruction, as they seek to establish the rule of law; emphasises that such support is fundamental for the construction of a national constitutional and political system;
5. Stresses the importance of addressing questions concerning the political structures of post-conflict societies, in particular the arrangements for power-sharing between the various factions previously engaged in conflict; supports the office of EU Special Representatives as the EU's principal tool to help mediate political settlements and to foster lasting political stability in post-conflict societies;
6. Highlights the role of transregional cooperation in cross-cutting issues and in areas that transcend political borders; calls on the Commission and the Council to adopt a regional approach to tackling the situation in individual countries;
7. Considers it vitally important that causes of instability and the problems of post-conflict societies be tackled by a combination of civil and military measures; points out that without the security guarantees of peacekeeping forces on the ground the essential precondition for stability in conflict-torn societies (i.e. the security of individuals and their property) cannot generally be fulfilled;
8. Encourages the EU to develop best practices for issues that require broad cooperation

among political, military, humanitarian and developmental actors in the areas of conflict prevention, mediation, peacekeeping, respect for human rights, the rule of law, humanitarian assistance and long-term reconstruction and development;

9. Notes that democratisation, demilitarisation and disarmament of the factions engaged in the conflict are of key importance and should be key priorities in every peace-building and nation-building process;
10. Points out that aid to post-conflict societies is generally effective only when delivered alongside military support that, in addition to creating the basic precondition for post-conflict economic development, prevents aid from being usurped by warlords and criminal gangs; is of the opinion that local conditions and views must be taken into account by foreign aid donors in their development efforts; notes, however, that such aid must also be based on international best practice in promoting economic development in post-conflict societies;
11. Stresses the need to strike a balance between civilian and military components of development aid in order to guarantee the functioning of basic infrastructure and government services without downplaying requirements for reconstruction, rehabilitation and the relaunching of democratic and economic processes; praises the work of the newly established United Nations Peacebuilding Commission; points out the need to cooperate with international partners, notably the United Nations, in aid-related issues;
12. Stresses the essential need to continue to develop the military capacity of the ESDP in order for the European Union and its Member States to be better able to contribute to the stabilisation and development of post-conflict societies;
13. Deplores the fact that light arms account for a considerable number of deaths resulting from armed conflicts in the developing world; considers that EU policies on preventing and combating illicit trafficking in conventional arms must be transparent, harmonised, further clarified and rendered more effective on the basis of the Code of Conduct on Arms Exports, and that this Code should be legally binding; believes that the adoption of a joint position on arms exports could make a contribution in this direction; underlines the importance of mine clearing, demilitarisation, demobilisation, rehabilitation and reintegration, as well as security sector reform in post-conflict situations;
14. Points out that the establishment of the rule of law is an essential precondition for lasting stability and economic development; supports the deployment of ESDP operations focussed on fostering the rule of law in post-conflict societies (e.g. EUPOL Afghanistan, EULEX Kosovo and EUJUST LEX in Iraq); points to the importance of the establishment of independent war crimes tribunals to avoid impunity for war criminals and to further the post-conflict reconciliation process;
15. Reiterates the conclusions of the paper on Climate Change and International Security¹, presented in March 2008 to the European Council by the High Representative of the EU and the European Commission, warning that climate change threatens to overburden states and regions of the world which are already fragile and conflict-prone, creating new

¹ S113/08, 14 March 2008.

immigration flows and intensifying security risks for the EU; urges the Commission to take climate change considerations into account in its peace-building efforts;

16. Notes that many developing countries have the basic energy, natural resources and human resources required for their development; underlines, however, the need for greater transparency and efficiency in the extractive industries in order for those countries to develop; welcomes initiatives such as the Kimberley process and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, which promote ways to avoid major conflict potential; points out the importance of education in furthering development;
17. Affirms the vital importance of fair migration policies towards developing countries; notes that migration can be turned into a positive force in the development process, notably by means of remittances sent by migrants living in the EU, by curtailing the brain drain, by facilitating return migration and by preventing trafficking in human beings;
18. Is of the opinion that Member States have a moral obligation to shelter refugees fleeing from conflict areas; believes that this obligation can only be fulfilled on the basis of burden-sharing between Member States; further believes that Member States should actively assist refugees wishing to return to their countries of origin after the end of violent conflict;
19. Stresses that a suitable reconciliation strategy needs to take account of the role of women in peace consolidation processes; emphasises that reconciliation programmes must incorporate the specific circumstances of children affected by armed conflict;
20. Reiterates its commitment to protecting the rights of women and children in post-conflict situations with the ultimate aim of taking the necessary measures for the empowerment of women – an indispensable requirement for the attainment of lasting peace and stability;
21. Considers that international donors should take account of regional and local circumstances when devising a policy of reconstruction for stability and democracy, starting from the experience acquired in promoting economic development in post-conflict societies;
22. Stresses the need to aid local authorities, providing suitable training and sharing experiences; recalls, in this connection, Parliament's commitment to the principles and practices of parliamentary democracy;
23. Supports the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts and the security and development measures envisaged in the EU Action Plan for 2009, and urges the Commission to attach high priority to the implementation of measures linked to peace-building.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	7.10.2008
Result of final vote	+: 35 -: 2 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Sir Robert Atkins, Christopher Beazley, Angelika Beer, André Brie, Colm Burke, Véronique De Keyser, Giorgos Dimitrakopoulos, Michael Gahler, Georgios Georgiou, Ana Maria Gomes, Klaus Hänsch, Richard Howitt, Jana Hybášková, Anna Ibrisagic, Metin Kazak, Maria Eleni Koppa, Willy Meyer Pleite, Pasqualina Napoletano, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Vural Öger, Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Michel Rocard, Libor Rouček, Christian Rovsing, Flaviu Călin Rus, Katrin Saks, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Marek Siwiec, Charles Tannock, Geoffrey Van Orden, Andrzej Wielowieyski, Luis Yañez-Barnuevo García, Zbigniew Zaleski, Josef Zieleniec
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Carlo Fatuzzo, Patrick Gaubert, Tunne Kelam, Nickolay Mladenov, Jean Spautz, Johan Van Hecke