

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members: Lannoye, McKenna, Schroedter, Lucas, Bautista Ojeda, Boumediene-Thiery, Ceyhun, Jillian Evans, Gahrton, Hautala, Isler-Beguin, Jonckheer, Knörr Borràs, Lambert, Lipietz, Maes, MacCormick, Onesta, Turmes, De Roo, Ilka Schroeder, Sörensen, Staes and Wuori

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on the failure by the US Senate to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)

B5-0202/1999

Resolution on the failure by the US Senate to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its earlier resolutions on nuclear disarmament, nuclear proliferation and nuclear testing, in particular to its resolution of 19 November 1998 on the New Agenda Coalition on Nuclear Disarmament¹,
- A. deeply regretting the news that on 13 October 1999 the US Senate refused to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT),
- B. considering that in doing so the Senate has for the first time voted down a major arms control accord since the Treaty of Versailles after World War I and that as a result the CTBT will be effectively doomed if no active steps are undertaken by the international community,
- C. considering that in the USA (as well as in Europe) numerous polls have shown that there is overwhelming public support for ending nuclear testing and that President Clinton was one of the first to sign the CTBT in 1996,
- D. considering that the CTBT has so far been signed by 154 nations but that it cannot enter into force until all 44 nuclear-capable countries, including the USA, have ratified; whereas only 29 of them have so far done so,
- E. fully aware of the fact that the CTBT would not completely ban all forms of testing and that in fact several nuclear weapon states, including the USA and, in the EU, France, are undertaking or planning to undertake sub-critical tests, tests by simulation and tests by non-fission ignition,
- F. fully aware that the decision of the Senate not to ratify has coincided with a military coup in Pakistan and with a high-level military plea in Japan to give that nation nuclear weapon capability,
- G. fully aware as well that with non-ratification of the CTBT, the USA is once again failing to honour its obligations to take steps towards nuclear disarmament to which it is nevertheless committed under the rules of the Non-Proliferation Treaty,
- H. noting that so far the USA is the only nation to have made use of nuclear weapons,
- I. fully aware as well of the fact that the Senate's refusal parallels renewed American military and political efforts to deploy in Alaska a National Missile Defence system in

¹ OJ C 379, 7.12.1998, p. 261.

violation of and notwithstanding the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM) which has until now been the cornerstone of global strategic stability,

- J. fully aware therefore that the Senate's rejection strongly supports a US foreign policy which puts emphasis on its own freedom of action, unilaterally based on internal policy motives, American military and technological superiority, and disregard for global disarmament issues,
- K. noting with particular concern that in the issue of arms control the USA apparently does not take sufficiently into consideration the interests of its partners in NATO as if these partners are not relevant for USA strategic interests,
- L. taking into account in this context that the Treaty rejection was made despite an open letter in the New York Times on 8 October 1999 in which Jacques Chirac, Tony Blair and Gerhard Schroeder together called upon the USA to ratify the CTBT; taking into account the prompt reaction of the Council after the Senate's refusal,
- M. taking into account as well that the UK and France were the first two nuclear weapon states to ratify the CTBT and that all EU Member States have signed and many have ratified; underlining therefore that after the Senate's failure Europe should be called upon to play a leadership role in the efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament,
- N. noting in this context with the utmost satisfaction that on 21 October 1999 in the UK three female anti-nuclear activists were acquitted by a Scottish Court and permitted to walk free on charges of damaging a Trident nuclear submarine at the Faslane Naval Base after the judge ruled that these weapon systems were illegal under international law according to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice in 1996,
 - 1. Strongly condemns the decision of the US Senate not to ratify the CTBT; calls on the Senate to ratify as soon as possible and to abide by the ABM Treaty;
 - 2. Reminds the US Senate and the whole global community that such non-ratification could have serious consequences for the fragile worldwide system of treaties against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and therefore for world security; points out that this entails an enormous risk for the future of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Treaty and the Biological Weapons Convention;
 - 3. Expresses its concern that this decision appears to be part of a policy in which the USA does not enter international cooperative regimes for narrow and self-interested reasons, such as the International Criminal Court and the Convention for a Global Ban on Antipersonnel Landmines, and also does not pay its outstanding debts to the United Nations;
 - 4. Congratulates the British, French and German prime ministers on their open letter of 8 October and takes it for granted that by their early ratification the UK and France have expressed their determination to adhere to the Treaty and its provisions as if it were binding;

5. Calls upon all EU Member States and applicant Member States to take up the challenge to play a leadership role in all issues of nuclear disarmament;
6. Urges these states in particular to give their full support to the “New Agenda Coalition Resolution” which is now before the 55th United Nations General Assembly First Committee for consideration and which sets forth a new way of thinking on proposed measures to advance the cause of a nuclear weapon free world;
7. Calls upon these states also to play an outstanding leadership role next spring at the historic first NPT Review Conference which is the culmination of the first cycle of the new review process of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty;
8. Recommends moreover that all European member states of NATO should undertake to redouble their efforts in connection with the current NATO internal review of its arms control policies, including nuclear weapons;
9. In this context, calls upon these states to urge NATO to finally adopt a no-first-use declaration on nuclear weapons;
10. Calls on the Presidency of the Council to ensure that these issues are raised during the forthcoming EU-US Summit, stressing EU support for the ABM Treaty and the CTBT, and further calls on the Commission and Council to raise CTBT ratification at all future bilateral meetings with US counterparts until the Treaty is ratified;
11. Requests the Chair of its US delegation to raise this issue with his or her counterpart at the next opportunity, to forcefully communicate the tenor of this resolution, to stress EU support for the ABM Treaty and to ensure that CTBT ratification by the US is on the agenda for all delegation meetings with their US counterparts until the US Senate ratifies the Treaty;
12. Congratulates Angela Zelter, Ellen Moxley and Bodil Ulla Roder for their firm anti-nuclear citizens’ attitude during their trial for alleged damage of Trident submarine equipment;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to Xavier Solana, to the Finnish Presidency and to the European Commission, as well as to the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the UN Secretary-General, the President and the Vice-President of the USA, all US Senators, to the Secretary-General of NATO and to Angela Zelter, Ellen Moxley and Bodil Ulla Roder.