

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

further to the Council statement

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

by the following Members: Haarder, Väyrynen and Rutelli

on behalf of the ELDR Group

on the OSCE Summit in Istanbul on 17-19 November 1999

**B5-0315/1999****Resolution on the OSCE Summit in Istanbul on 17-19 November 1999**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Charter for European Security adopted by the Heads of State or Government of the OSCE participating States, 19 November 1999,
  - having regard to the Istanbul Summit Declaration of 19 November 1999,
  - having regard to the 99 Vienna Document on negotiations on confidence and security building measures,
  - having regard to the final act of the conference of the states party to the Treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe adopted on 19 November 1999,
  - having regard to the Treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe and taking note of the 1999 agreement on adoption of that Treaty,
  - having regard to the two OSCE reports on the situation of human rights in Kosovo issued in Vienna and Pristina on 6 December 1999,
- A. whereas the OSCE Heads of State and Government adopted in Istanbul a new security document, the Charter for European Security,
- B. noting that the Charter takes a number of important steps toward strengthening the OSCE's ability to prevent conflicts as well as its capacity to settle and rehabilitate societies ravaged by war and destruction,
- C. whereas the Charter for European Security lists a number of challenges to OSCE participating states, such as armed conflicts, international terrorism, organised crime and economic and environmental problems,
- D. whereas human rights, including the rights of national minorities, form an important part of the charter; whereas the participating states regret any policy of ethnic cleansing or mass expulsion and reaffirm their commitment to respect the rights of asylum seekers,
- E. noting with satisfaction that the participating states are willing to undertake measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to end all forms of trafficking in human beings,
- F. whereas the signatories to the Charter reaffirm their obligation to conduct fair elections in accordance with OSCE commitments and reaffirm the importance of independent media and the free flow of information as well as public access to information,

- G. noting that leaders of 30 nations have agreed a landmark treaty aimed at controlling conventional weapons in Europe,
- H. seriously alarmed by the conflict raging in Chechnya, the threat to the fledgling peace in Kosovo from continued ethnic violence, and the situation in Central Asia teetering on the edge of serious regional unrest and violence,
- I. whereas the OSCE reports on the human rights situation in Kosovo notes that deficiencies in law enforcement capabilities and the administration of justice have contributed to a climate of impunity within which human rights violations are more likely to occur,
1. Welcomes the adoption of the Charter for European Security and the Istanbul Summit Declaration of 19 November 1999;
  2. Deeply regrets that the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty will not be ratified until Russia ends its offensive in Chechnya which currently puts it in breach of the levels of weaponry permitted;
  3. Appreciates the EU's recent strongly-worded condemnations of Russia's methods in prosecuting this war, but urges the Council and its Member States to continue to use every opportunity, including the OSCE platform, to call on Russia to:
    - refrain from violations of international humanitarian law, including indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks on civilian targets;
    - provide unhindered access to Chechnya for humanitarian and other agencies seeking to assess the needs of civilians inside Chechnya and provide unhindered access for all humanitarian organisations to displaced persons, including those waiting to exit Chechnya at the Chechen-Ingush border;
  4. Condemns also the gross abuses committed by armed gangs encouraged by the absence of law and order in Chechnya and in the neighbouring regions;
  5. Strongly condemns the attacks on the Serbs, Roma and other minorities remaining in Kosovo and calls on the Council and the Commission to send an unequivocal signal on the scheduling of elections in Kosovo, insisting that elections will be scheduled only once conditions for free and fair polling have been established;
  6. Insists that the preparation of elections in Kosovo should be geared towards achieving appropriate conditions, including functioning, independent and representative media, the unobstructed operation of political parties representing a broad spectrum and the healthy functioning of a varied and representative civil society;
  7. Welcomes the conclusions of the OSCE reports on the human rights situation in Kosovo calling for thorough investigations into allegations and for an increase in international police and judicial experts to help break the cycle of violence in Kosovo;

8. Asks the Council and the Commission to assist the OSCE in its efforts to send concrete benchmarks to bring all of the Central Asian states (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan) into conformity with human dimension commitments and human rights standards;
9. Is alarmed by the recent developments in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia that show no progress toward genuine reform of legal systems and of state institutions that would foster respect for the rule of law in the region; deplores the poor human rights records of all three countries and the increase in the number of incidents of violence and government-sponsored discrimination against religious minorities;
10. Asks the Council and the Commission to set up together with the OSCE a common action plan aimed at improving the political and humanitarian situation in the South Caucasus;
11. Urges the OSCE and its EU member states to continue to make strenuous efforts towards full implementation of member states' human dimension commitments and to do so in a manner that fully integrates these norms into other regional security priorities;
12. Invites the OSCE and its EU member states to assume a leadership role in generating and promoting new international norms to tackle emerging concerns, including the plight of children in armed conflict, the dangerous flow of light weapons used in human rights abuses and in conflict zones and the persistent discrimination against, and abuse of, women throughout the region;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Secretary-General and the member states of the OSCE.