

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

further to the Council statement

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

by the following Members: Schori, Sakellariou, Krehl, Paasilinna, Wiersma and Lalumière

on behalf of the PSE Group

on the situation in Chechnya

**B5-0326/1999****Resolution on the situation in Chechnya**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolution on the situation in Chechnya and in particular its resolution of 18 November 1999<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to its assent of 30 November 1995 to the conclusion of an Agreement on Partnership and Co-operation between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Russian Federation, of the other part<sup>2</sup>, its assent of 11 June 1997 to the conclusion of the Protocol to the Partnership and Co-operation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States and the Russian Federation<sup>3</sup> and the Common Strategy of the European Union on Russia, adopted by the Council in June 1999,
  - having regard to the EU Council presidency's fact finding mission to Ingushetia on 30 October 1999,
  - having regard to the declaration of the European Council in Helsinki of 10 December 1999,
- A. deeply concerned by the further escalation of the armed conflict in Chechnya and in particular the increasing number of victims among the civilian population as well as the ever worsening situation of the civilian population still remaining in Chechnya,
- B. outraged at the intense bombardments of Chechen villages and cities and the unacceptable ultimatum set by the Russian military to all remaining civilians in Grozny who are mainly children, disabled and elderly people, who have neither the means nor the strength to leave the city,
- C. recognising the important role of the Russian Federation in geostrategic stability and security far beyond the region,
- D. stressing the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation and its right to fight terrorism,
- E. recalling the obligations of the Russian Federation, not only under the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement but also as a member of the UN Security Council, the Council of Europe and the OSCE, to respect democratic values and human rights,
- F. concerned that international relief agencies have still no safe access to the area even though Russia had committed itself to facilitating such access during the OSCE summit,

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<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted at that sitting, Item 15.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 339, 18.12.1995, p. 45.

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 200, 30.6.1997, p. 66.

1. Strongly condemns the ongoing Russian military action against civilians in Chechnya and in particular the ultimatum directed against the thousands of remaining inhabitants of Grozny, treating them as hostages;
2. Expects Russia to honour its commitments under international law, to stop any further military action immediately and withdraw the ultimatum, to facilitate safe delivery of humanitarian aid to the region and to search for a negotiated political solution to the conflict; points out that Russia has to respect international law and democratic values if she wants to be recognised as a full respectable member of the international community;
3. Expects the Chechen authorities to respect humanitarian law, to stop all terrorist activities, to contribute to the liberation of all remaining hostages and to a negotiated peaceful solution of the conflict;
4. Welcomes the proposal by the Council to transfer funds from Tacis to humanitarian assistance and invites the Council and the Commission to make the necessary financial proposal and to check upon the viability and absorption capacity of the region;
5. Welcomes the suspension of some of the provisions of the Partnership and Cooperation agreement;
6. Urges the Commission and the Council to maintain the political dialogue with the Russian Federation;
7. Invites other International Organisations to use the means at their disposal to contribute to a peaceful solution of the crisis and in particular the OSCE and the Council of Europe to urge Russia to honour the obligations linked to its membership or to consider the review of the status of Russia in these organisations;
8. Repeats its proposal to organise jointly with the OSCE a Caucasus Stability Conference for all parties concerned in order to contribute to the creation of a conflict prevention forum to solve the problems of the region;
9. Invites its ad-hoc delegation monitoring the Duma elections on 19 December 1999 to take this opportunity to use its influence on the Russian authorities and in particular on the Duma deputies in order to contribute to a swift political solution to the conflict and to convey the message that Russia's current way of dealing with the Chechen problem is unacceptable to any democratic country;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the OSCE, the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Russian State Duma and the Federal Council and the authorities in Chechnya, Dagestan and Ingushetia.