

13 January 2000

B5-0035/2000

## **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: Gahrton, Cohn-Bendit, Knörr Borràs, Jonckheer and Ilka Schröder

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on the Middle East peace process

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**Resolution on the Middle East peace process**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the peace process in the Middle East and notably that of 6 October 1999<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to the conclusions of the General Affairs Council of 10-11 December 1999 in Helsinki,
  - having regard to the conclusions of the Madrid Conference and the Oslo Accords,
  - having regard to UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338 and 425,
- A. whereas tangible hopes are now reviving in the Middle East after the resumption of bilateral negotiations between Israel and Syria from the point at which they stopped in January 1996,
- B. pointing out that, in spite of the anticipated differences between the two sides, the determination to continue substantive talks seems to prevail notwithstanding the lack of results at the first rounds of negotiations,
- C. considering that the questions under discussion, namely borders, security, normalisation and water, are difficult and complex and require a profound overall evaluation with the assistance and direct involvement of the international community,
- D. underlining the intention of the Israeli Government to present the peace treaty with Syria for approval in a referendum and stressing the necessity of the full involvement of the people in the development of the peace process,
- E. welcoming the willingness also to involve Lebanon as a measure that could bring about a decisive step forward on the way to a final global agreement for the whole region,
- F. pointing out the gradual progress towards implementation of the Sharm el-Sheik agreement between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority despite frequent standstills,
- G. whereas the framework agreement between the two parties is due to be concluded before the end of February,
- H. stressing that it is becoming ever more important to provide the Palestinian National Authority with the necessary assistance to make the future Palestinian state viable,

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<sup>1</sup> See Texts Adopted of that Sitting, Item 19.

- I. emphasising once more the marginal role played by the EU in the present talks which does not correspond to the consistent amount of humanitarian, economic and financial aid provided by the EU and EU Member States to the countries of the region,
  1. Welcomes the decision of Israel and Syria to reopen bilateral negotiations and encourages the two parts to continue in a spirit of cooperation with a view to reaching a peace agreement which must exert a positive influence on the outcome of the whole peace process in the Middle East;
  2. Urges the Council to make all efforts to avoid any eventual treaty between Syria and Israel slowing down the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority or being concluded at the expense of the Palestinians;
  3. Regrets that once again the political role of the EU has been very weak in spite of the recent appointment of the High Representative for CFSP which should have contributed to making the external action of the EU in this field more effective;
  4. Urges the Council and the Commission to reinforce all programmes relating to the development and consolidation of the future Palestinian state with a view to strengthening its viability, facilitating its economic development and preparing it for full independence;
  5. Urges Israel and the PNA to continue negotiations in accordance with the timetable decided in Sharm el-Sheikh and to refrain from unilateral actions that could endanger the peace process, having regard in particular to the Israeli housing policy and the settlements in the West Bank;
  6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Israeli Government, the Knesset, the Palestinian National Authority, the Palestinian Legislative Council, the governments and the parliaments of Syria and Lebanon and the UN Security Council.