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B5-0095/2000

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Oral Questions B5-0040 and 0041/2000

pursuant to Rule 42(5) of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members: Vanhecke, Dillen, Le Pen, De Gaulle, Gollnisch, Martinez, Lang, Bigliardo and Speroni

on behalf of the TDI Group

on the area of freedom, security and justice

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B5-0095/2000**Resolution on the area of freedom, security and justice***The European Parliament,*

- A. whereas the Belgian Government is undertaking a three-week regularisation campaign with a view to issuing, on request, valid residence permits to illegal immigrants,
- B. whereas Paula D'Hondt, the former Royal Commissioner for Immigration Policy, estimated that there were already 100 000 illegal immigrants in Belgium in 1990,
- C. whereas, in 1999, the number of applications for asylum in Belgium amounted to a record 35 000, with Belgium thus becoming the second most popular country in the Union for asylum-seekers,
- D. whereas the Italian Government pursues a very lax immigration policy on the basis of the Turco-Napolitano Act, and whereas it has regularised the situation of 300 000 illegal immigrants,
- E. whereas the number of non-European immigrants who entered France in order to settle there increased by 55% between 1997 and 1998, and whereas such a lax approach represents a threat not only to France but also to all the other countries of the Union, now that internal frontiers have been abolished,
- F. whereas the attraction of wholesale regularisation of the situation of illegal immigrants is plain for all to see,
- G. whereas the Belgian Government is planning to introduce a law on nationality which will be one of the most flexible in the world, without informing its European partners of its intentions,
- H. whereas wholesale regularisation of the situation of illegal immigrants has completely circumvented the halt to immigration imposed in 1974,
- I. whereas wholesale regularisation of the situation of illegal immigrants gives local people the impression that deceit and illegal activities are rewarded by the authorities,
- J. whereas the criteria applied to determine eligibility for regularisation are vague and open to all kinds of fraudulent activities,
- K. whereas the Belgian Government cannot count on a majority of Belgians to support its immigration policy,

- L. whereas the Schengen Accords lay down that immigrants arriving at the Union's external borders must be in possession of valid documentation if they are to be allowed to enter the territory of the countries covered by that Agreement,
- M. whereas a call is made in the text of the Schengen Accords for supplementary measures to protect security and to reduce illegal immigration involving non-nationals of EU countries,
- N. whereas adoption of the Regularisation Act means that Belgium will be in breach of the Schengen Accords,
1. Calls on the Commission to initiate proceedings against Belgium on the grounds of manifest violation of the Schengen Accords;
 2. Hopes that the European Union will ensure that the territoriality principle is incorporated into the Geneva Convention;
 3. Urges the countries of the European Union to grant asylum, on the basis of a uniform procedure, exclusively to genuine European political refugees;
 4. Calls for transfrontier cooperation in order to facilitate a resolute approach to persons trafficking in human beings;
 5. Urges the utilisation of a list of politically insecure countries;
 6. Calls, in the spirit of Article 23 of the Schengen Accords, for the resolute and rapid expulsion of illegal immigrants present on the territory of the European Union;
 7. Calls for immigration flows to be reversed;
 8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and to the Belgian, French and Italian Governments.