

11/12/00

Draft Resolution

Pursuant to Article 50

**Tabled by MENDILUCE, VAN DEN BERG and TERRON
In the name of the PES Group**

On the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

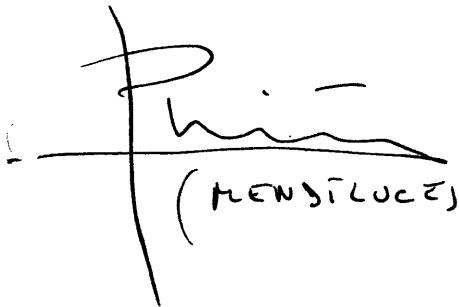
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The European Parliament

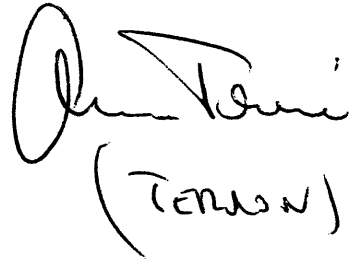
- having regard to its previous resolutions on asylum policy in Europe, Europe's contribution to refugee protection and assistance in the world at large and the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR),
 - A. recalling that the UNHCR has a unique mandate, as adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, in responding to the protection and assistance needs of refugees and in promoting durable solutions to their plight,
 - B. noting that since the founding of the UNHCR in December 1950, it has become one of the world's principal humanitarian agencies, there being nearly 22 million people of its concern in more than 140 countries,
 - C. noting the significant role of UNHCR as the guardian of international protection principles in the construction of a common European asylum system,
 - D. recalling that UNHCR has twice been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its service to humanity
 - E. deeply disturbed by increasingly violent attacks on humanitarian aid workers, most recently culminating in the brutal killing of UNHCR staff in West-Timor and Guinea,
 - F. recalling that 14 December 2000 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the UNHCR and a half century of humanitarian work carried out since its establishment
- 1. recognises, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, the unique mandate of UNHCR and the importance of its efforts to protect and promote durable solutions for refugees and other uprooted people of its concern, and expresses its continuing support for UNHCR's work,
- 2. reminds the European Governments of their solemn declarations made at the Tampere Summit referring to the absolute respect of the right to seek asylum and the Union's commitment to the development of a common European asylum system based on the full and inclusive application of the 1951 Convention as the cornerstone of that system, and encourages the Commission and Member States to prepare and adopt future EU asylum instruments based on high protection standards,

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3. calls on the Commission and the Member States to establish a true partnership with UNHCR by offering both political and financial support, and calls for EU funding to ensure predictability, flexibility and geographical balance, including for non-emergency situations, as well as a smooth transition from emergency relief to reconstruction and development,
4. calls upon States and all concerned parties to take urgently all possible measures to safeguard the physical security and property of UNHCR staff and all other humanitarian aid workers, to investigate fully any crime committed against them, and to bring to justice those responsible,
5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Member States, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.


(HENSILUCÉ)


(VAN DEN BERG)


(TERAS)

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