

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Session document*

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## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the European Council report and Commission statement  
pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Jens-Peter Bonde on behalf of the EDD Group

Georges Berthu

Daniel Hannan

Patricia McKenna

on the Nice European Council of 7-11 December 2000

**European Parliament resolution on the Nice European Council of 7-11 December 2000**

*The European Parliament,*

A. having regard to the conclusions of the Intergovernmental Conference,

***Decentralisation***

1. Deplores the fact that the negotiations have revolved around proposals which were already rejected at Amsterdam, and which further undermine parliamentary democracy;
2. Deplores the fact that, once again, the outcome of the reforms will take away power from the regions and nation states of Europe and transfer more decision-making powers to Brussels;
3. Reminds the Council that 63% of the European electorate prefer decisions to be taken at local, regional and national level if they can deal with a given matter, while only 18% want them taken at European level (*Eurobarometer 53*, p. 44); to centralise even more power in the Brussels institutions, without decentralising any of the existing power, goes not only against the principle of subsidiarity but also directly against the wishes of the vast majority of the citizens of Europe;

***Democracy***

4. Is concerned that the Nice Treaty will continue the transfer of power from the national parliaments to European civil servants; from the legislative branch to the executive power;
5. Notes that parliamentary democracy in the Member States will diminish without being replaced by democracy on a European level;
6. Believes that EU jurisdiction should be limited to those areas of policy where the actions of one Member State can be shown to impact directly on the internal affairs of another Member State;
7. Calls for a limitation on the powers of the Commission, which lacks democratic accountability and legitimacy;
8. Emphasises that Article 133 must remain under the exclusive competence of the Member States;

## ***Transparency***

9. Regrets that the Nice Treaty moves decision-making from open meetings in national and regional parliaments to the EU institutions in Brussels where elected representatives of the people have no access; regrets the intention to place legislation behind closed doors, denying the public insight into the voting details, and making it very difficult to hold Ministers and civil servants responsible;
10. Refuses to accept that legislation should become less transparent, and the fact that it is very difficult to amend the law, since amendments can only be proposed by the unelected Commissioners and adopted by a qualified majority in the Council of Ministers;

## ***Legitimacy***

11. Urges,
  - as it leads to more centralisation rather than decentralisation,
  - as it denies our voters their expressed desire for more influence and participation,
  - as it makes law-making less transparent,

that those Member States whose constitutional arrangements allow for referenda should allow their people to give their opinion on the Treaty and the consequent radical change in our democracies;
12. Calls for European cooperation to involve doing less and doing it better, yielding more freedom to the participating countries; European cooperation should be conducted in an open and transparent way by elected representatives of the people;
13. Encourages national parliaments, organisations in civil society and citizens of the Member States to give the conclusions from Nice a very close look and, if possible, call for a referendum; the Nice Treaty is not a 'nice' treaty but a highly problematic treaty, as it affects the very foundation of democracy in Europe;

## ***Enlargement***

14. Argues for a Europe open for all European nations, focusing their cooperation on cross-border issues where Member States are unable to govern effectively in their own democracies and their people recognise this to be the case;
15. Especially regrets the determination to develop a militarised European Union; considers the proper and important role of the European countries to lie in the field of 'soft' security policy: economic, political, and social cooperation;
16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the governments and parliaments of the applicant countries.