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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

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on behalf of the PSE Group

on the European Council meeting of 15-16 June 2001 in Göteborg
(Gothenburg)

European Parliament resolution on the European Council meeting of 15-16 June 2001 in Göteborg (Gothenburg)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the European Council report and Commission statement on the outcome of the European Council meeting on 15-16 June 2001 in Göteborg,
- having regard to its resolution of 13 June 2001 on the preparation of the European Council on 15-16 June 2001 in Göteborg,
- having regard to the conclusions of the European Council meetings in Cardiff (June 1998), Helsinki (December 1999), Lisbon (March 2000) and Stockholm (March 2001),
- having regard to its resolution of 31 May 2001 on the Treaty of Nice and the future of the European Union¹,
- having regard to its resolution of 17 May 2001 on the situation in the Middle East²,
- having regard to its resolution of 15 March 2001 on conflict prevention and civil crisis management³,
- having regard to its resolution of 17 May 2001 on the Transatlantic Dialogue⁴,

I. THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

Enlargement

1. Welcomes the recognition by the European Council that the enlargement of the EU is now irreversible; calls on the Commission and the Governments of the Member States and the applicant countries to do everything in their power to ensure that the prospect of citizens of the applicant countries participating in the 2004 European elections becomes a reality;

Ireland

2. With regard to the Irish Referendum, reiterates its view that the European Council must accept full responsibility not only for the drafting of the Treaty but also for its ratification; welcomes the European Council's willingness to contribute in every way possible to helping the Irish Government find a way forward and meet the concerns of the Irish

¹ Texts Adopted, Item 4.

² Texts Adopted, Item 6.

³ Texts Adopted, Item 4.

⁴ Texts Adopted, Item 7.

people;

The future of the Union

3. Notes that the Göteborg Council did not reach a clear, definitive decision regarding the setting up of a Convention (the work of which should start at the beginning of 2002) made up of members of the national Parliaments, the European Parliament, the Commission and the Governments with the remit of presenting to the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) a constitutional proposal based on the results of broad public debate, to serve as a basis for the work of the IGC; expects the Belgian Presidency to make an ambitious and detailed proposal along these lines, which should be adopted at the Laeken Summit in order for the Convention to start its work immediately;
4. Expresses its concern at the fact that the Council, despite the efforts of the Swedish Presidency, was not able to agree on and adopt draft rules on the status of the European political parties;

The European Conference

5. Welcomes the decision of the European Council to invite Moldova and the Ukraine to the European Conference under the Belgian Presidency as a positive response to the European ambitions of both countries, and takes the view that these countries' participation in the structures of pan-European cooperation will contribute to the stability and peace of the continent; emphasises once again that a full and complete respect of basic human rights and respect for the rule of law should be considered as a fundamental requirement for any country participating in the further process of European integration;

Circumstances of the Summit

6. Deeply deplores the acts of violence and provocation committed at the Göteborg Summit by organised groups and even specialised commandos representing a marginal percentage of the demonstrators present; considers this behaviour totally unacceptable in a democratic society which attaches great importance to the maintenance of the principle of freedom of expression and the right to demonstrate publicly and peacefully; draws attention to the fact that the influence of demonstrations on the democratic process is intrinsically linked to the public's acceptance of the methods used and the validity of the arguments;

II. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

7. Welcomes the importance given by the Swedish Presidency to the issue of sustainable development; emphasises that no sustainable development strategy will be effective and efficient without full information and participation of all citizens;
8. Reiterates its view that pursuing environmental objectives and, more generally, a strategy based on sustainable development, can have a dynamic impact on growth, development and social well-being; urges the Council, therefore, to implement fully the decisions taken in Göteborg, particularly as regards the addition of a third, environmental dimension to the

Lisbon strategy, and the implementation of headline objectives and measures in the 6th Environmental Action Programme, which must be the environmental cornerstone of the EU's sustainable development strategy;

9. Welcomes the proposal for a Commission report on environmental technology, growth and employment; is convinced that the development of such technologies can create many jobs and contribute to a more environmentally friendly form of economic growth; welcomes, moreover, the view that energy, transport and environment should be taken into due account in the 6th Framework programme for Research and Development; considers that EU Research and Development policy should give a clear priority to environmentally friendly technologies;
10. Urges the Member States to draw up their own national sustainable development strategies and establish appropriate national consultative processes involving all relevant stakeholders, as proposed by the Council;
11. Stresses that sustainable development is a matter of solidarity between the regions and populations of Europe and the world; calls therefore on the Council and the Commission to prepare fully the EU strategy for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg in 2002, in which the European Union should develop real political leadership;
12. Welcomes the confirmation of the EU commitments to the Kyoto process and urges the Council and the Commission to take all necessary steps to prepare for rapid ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by the Union and its Member States and to take the concrete measures necessary for its implementation; reaffirms that the Kyoto process remains the cornerstone and the necessary first step of any strategy against climate change; stresses that the developed countries have a particular responsibility where environmental problems are concerned and calls on the European Union to play a leading role in the continuation of the Kyoto process, and particularly in the Bonn Conference of the Parties in July;
13. Welcomes the commitment contained in the Summit Conclusions to addressing threats to public health and believes that in terms of winning public confidence and support the issue of food safety is of particular importance; in that context, agrees that it is essential that Council and Parliament rapidly agree on the final adoption of the European Food Safety Authority and Food Law Regulation but would also stress the responsibility of Member States to better implement, enforce and monitor Community legislation in this field;
14. Emphasises that there is an urgent need for a revision of the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries policy with a view to sustainable development, and demands a clear timetable for these reforms;
15. Welcomes the support given to measures to ensure sustainable transport and to improved transparency in prices, and calls for the priorities identified for the revision of the guidelines for the trans-European transport networks (infrastructure investment for public transport and rail, inland waterways, short sea shipping, intermodal operations and effective interconnection) to be integrated into all EU proposals on transport, including

clauses to improve social conditions, quality and safety, as well as environmental requirements;

16. Calls on the Council and the Commission to present as soon as possible the requested proposals on trans-border regions and outermost regions; stresses the importance of improving the use of spatial planning for sustainability; stresses the necessity to reorientate European tourism towards sustainability on the basis of Member States' best practices;

III. FOLLOW-UP TO THE STOCKHOLM EUROPEAN COUNCIL

17. Welcomes the cautious integration of elements of the Union's sustainable development policy into the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines; stresses that further efforts should be made to incorporate in this policy field a few additional policy targets which are not covered by the guidelines and the proposed policy recommendations;
18. Underlines the challenges posed by recent developments in the economic outlook of the common economy, with the emergence of inflationary pressures and the downgrading of earlier growth forecasts; stresses in consequence the need for further, innovative measures, on both the supply and the demand fronts, to remove bottlenecks in labour and product markets and develop investment in education, quality of life, social inclusion and environmental protection;
19. Believes that an approach based merely on deregulated market forces would have serious negative consequences to the detriment of the cohesion of the EU; therefore stresses the utmost importance of general-interest public services; calls for the strong public services to be maintained and developed and is of the opinion that access to general-interest public services constitutes a citizen's right;
20. Considers that the economic and social dimensions of the Lisbon strategy must include the sustainable development strategy ("mainstreaming") and calls for the development of a strong analytical basis which will allow for the future introduction of (targeted) objectives and deadlines to counteract any trends which run counter to sustainable development;
21. Calls for the regular review and updating of the quality of public finances with the objective of upholding genuine intergenerational solidarity, which should encompass contributions from both the taxation and the expenditure sides; calls for specific attention to be paid to public pension schemes and the necessary quantitative and qualitative reorientation of public finances;
22. Considers that pension funds and private, public or mutual-benefit supplementary funded schemes can play a useful role in supplementing public PAYG schemes in order to meet the challenges posed by the ageing of the population, particularly capitalisation-based pension funds that are collectively agreed by social partners, accessible for all employees concerned, based on solidarity and equal treatment and, to a lesser degree, individual private pension arrangements offered on an annuity basis; recognises, however, that public schemes based on solidarity are essential on account of their basic social purpose and

warns, therefore, against any attempt to weaken or replace them;

23. Welcomes the further negotiations on the tax package, encompassing inter alia corporate tax and tax on earnings from savings; stresses the importance of fixing a deadline for a final agreement on the tax package as a whole; insists therefore on the further acceleration of the negotiations with third countries;
24. Believes that in order to achieve a sustainable and environmentally friendly transport policy the EU must ensure fair competition, in particular through the internalisation of social costs in all transport modes; calls on the Council in consequence to agree on the inclusion of self-employed drivers in the draft directive on working time in the road transport sector;
25. Calls on the Council to speed up the formal adoption of the common position on the directive on informing and consulting employees in the EU; stresses the need for a set of effective sanctions for non-compliance and, in particular that, in the event of a serious breach of the information and consultation obligations, the acts stemming from the decisions taken, and their legal effects on the employment relationships, be annulled;
26. Welcomes the mandate given to the Belgian Presidency to start an open method of coordination in the field of pensions and reiterates that social inclusion is a key dimension of any sustainable development strategy; points out that creating more and better jobs will reinforce the sustainability of social protection systems;
27. Reiterates its previous demand to the Commission to draw up a declaration on “economic and social cohesion in the context of the enlargement of the EU” in a spirit of solidarity, in line with the Treaties and historical experience;
28. Welcomes the European Council's support for a new WTO Round, but emphasises that the first priority of a new Round must be to restore public confidence in the world trade system through a radical strengthening of the roles of accountability, sustainability and development in the WTO treaties; expects these proceedings to be conducted as transparently as possible and in a manner that is sensitive to public concerns;

IV. EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

29. Notes the importance of the measures which the European Council has decided to put in place to supplement certain objectives of the European security and defence policy; and stresses the need to give the ESDP a parliamentary dimension;
30. Welcomes the Swedish Presidency's proposals to the European Council in the area of conflict prevention and civil management of crises, which together form a useful tool for the development of the European Union's policy in this area;
31. Welcomes the declaration of the European Council on the prevention of the proliferation of ballistic missiles and reiterates its concern about the US missile defence system initiative, which is unacceptable as proposed;

32. Stresses the need for the US to consult its European partners and all countries concerned, as announced during the discussion with the US President in Göteborg; reaffirms, nevertheless, its position that multilateral negotiations and dialogue should precede any new developments regarding the ABM Treaty;

V. TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

33. Regrets that the US has not reconsidered its position on the Kyoto Protocol and underlines the need for strong EU leadership in this field in order to ensure that the Kyoto process remains the cornerstone of the strategy against climate change; calls for continued diplomatic efforts to ensure that the US plays a full part in international efforts to combat climate change and that all the parties to the Protocol honour their undertakings on this subject;
34. Reaffirms its belief in the value of a close EU-US dialogue, and in the need to work together towards a common definition of the roles and responsibilities of the EU and the US in their strategic global partnership;
35. Stresses the importance, in particular, of strengthening the dialogue between the European Parliament and the US Congress, and the role of legislators in the wider transatlantic dialogue; and reaffirms the need for a review of the resources necessary for these activities and for further initiatives to enhance the links between these institutions;
36. Regrets that the death penalty continues to be used in 38 jurisdictions in the United States; notes that, in breach of several international conventions, it is applied disproportionately to the poor and to members of minority groups, that an alarming number of citizens have been erroneously incarcerated and sentenced to death, and that the death sentence has also been imposed on juvenile and mentally retarded offenders; calls therefore upon the United States and its member states to comply with international standards and place a moratorium on all executions;

VI. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Middle East

37. Expresses its full support for the European Council's proposals aimed at reestablishing trust between the Israelis and the Palestinians and ending the violence; takes the view in this connection that the recommendations of the Charm el-Sheikh fact-finding mission should be applied in their entirety;
38. Welcomes the presentation of the report by the High Representative for the CFSP and the initiatives taken by him in cooperation with the EU Special Representative in the Middle East; notes that these activities have given the role of the Union a higher profile;

39. Welcomes the joint EU-US declaration on events in the Middle East and calls for the European Union to be able to take part in all future initiatives aimed at a resumption of negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians;

FYROM

40. Underlines that there is no justification for the use of force by some extremists of Albanian origin (UCK and others) and that a solution to the crisis can only be built on the basis of an institutional reform programme agreed by all political parties democratically elected to the FYROM Parliament;

41. Welcomes the decision to send an official EU envoy to the FYROM with the aim of supporting the relevant political groups and the government in finding a viable compromise;

Algeria

42. Expresses its concern at the situation of instability and insecurity in Algeria; calls urgently for political and social authorities and groupings there to act quickly to put an end to the violent confrontations and terrorist activities, and calls for a political initiative to launch a dialogue in order to overcome the crisis and start out on the path of reform, democracy and peace;

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43. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the European Council, the Council, the Commission and the Parliaments of the Member States.