

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

28 June 2001

B5-0477/2001

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

by Heidi Hautala, Nelly Maes, Inger Schörling and Alexander de Roo
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

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

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

The European Parliament,

- having regard to conclusions of the Nice European Council of 7-10 December 2000, the Stockholm European Council of 23-25 March and the Göteborg European Council of 15-16 June 2001,
 - having regard to its resolution on the preparation of the European Council in Göteborg,
- A. whereas the Amsterdam Treaty of 1997 regards 'environmental integration' and 'sustainable development' as key principles of the European Union,
- B. whereas the Commission has undertaken to come present proposals for legislation addressing the labelling and traceability of GMOs and their derivatives, liability for damage caused by GMOs and the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

The violent incidents during the Summit

1. Considers that the Göteborg Summit was overshadowed by unprecedented violence both by a minority of demonstrators and by the Swedish police;
2. Stresses the right of citizens to demonstrate peacefully on any political occasion in Europe; welcomes the peaceful demonstrations in Göteborg as a sign of civil society participation and of a widespread call for a more sustainable society;
3. Is shocked by the police's intervention against protestors, while strongly condemning the acts of violence committed by a minority of the latter; holds, however, that police shooting with live bullets on protestors is by no means acceptable and expects a thorough investigation to be carried out;

The future of Europe

4. Underlines that the rejection of the Nice Treaty by the Irish people cannot be isolated as an Irish problem; is astonished at the Council's disregard for the outcome of the Irish referendum; is of the opinion that this behaviour could have negative effects on European citizens' acceptance of the Union;
5. Believes that the ratification of the Nice Treaty is not indispensable for enlargement; urges instead the Heads of States and Government to agree as soon as possible on the post-Nice process to make sure that a genuine democratic reform of the Union can be achieved before the first accessions;

6. Welcomes the renewed commitment by the Council to pursuing the road map for accession negotiations as agreed in Nice, so as to complete negotiations by the end of 2002 with the most advanced countries;
7. Stresses the crucial importance, to the Union's cohesion and to public support for the enlargement process, of the principle that Member States have equal rights and equal obligations; insists on the defence of this principle, in particular with regard to the future Member States' participation in the common agricultural policy and the union's social and economic cohesion policy;

A strategy for sustainable development

8. Welcomes the establishment of a European Sustainable Development Strategy, adding the environmental dimension to the Lisbon Strategy, and the commitment by Heads of State to regularly review the progress of this strategy with the help of sustainability indicators at the Spring Council; underlines the importance of the link with the Cardiff environmental integration process;
9. Notes with regret that the European Council has managed to agree on general principles for a sustainable development strategy but has failed to take decisions on concrete actions; reiterates that the Prodi paper on sustainable development contained a series of interesting ideas and measures and welcomes statements by the Commission that these proposals will continue to be their basis for further work; urges the Belgian Presidency to further specify, at Laeken, concrete actions and quantified targets for sustainable development in time for the 2002 Spring European Council in Barcelona;
10. Stresses that the decision to set up an EU sustainable development strategy is only a first step on a long road and that further discussions and decisions will be needed, especially concerning the global dimension of sustainable development, to make the position of the European Union at the Rio + 10 Conference in South Africa in 2002 credible;
11. Calls for the European Parliament to be fully involved in the preparation of, and the follow-up to, this process, together with the different stakeholders in the European Union and in the applicant countries;
12. Considers that the European Council's call on industry 'to take part in the development and wider use of new environmentally friendly technologies' should explicitly extend to activities outside the European Union, especially in developing countries;
13. Calls on the Commission and the Council, in preparation for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, to come up with concrete proposals in order to make sure that European companies apply at least the same high environmental standards to external production and marketing as they do to the domestic market, especially concerning pharmaceuticals, pesticides and genetically modified organisms;

14. Welcomes the Council's commitment to achieving concrete progress towards reaching the UN target for official development assistance of 0.7% of GDP before the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 and will measure the Council by how it fulfils its promises; considers this to be a minimum target;
15. Welcomes the Council's concerns about the sustainability of the common agricultural and fisheries policies and considers that in this context due attention should be given to the negative environmental and social effects of international fisheries agreements and EU agricultural practices on third countries, especially developing countries;
16. Welcomes the confirmation by the European Council that the EU is planning a quick ratification and entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, even without the USA, before the Rio + 10 Conference in 2002;
17. Welcomes the Council's support for the Commission's work on a draft on the labelling and traceability of GMOs and urges the Commission to present without delay legislative proposals addressing the labelling and traceability of GMOs and GM derivatives, liability for damage caused by GMOs or their derivatives and the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

Follow-up to the Stockholm European Council

18. Regrets that the European Council did not provide further guidance to ECOFIN on how to strengthen the role of sustainability considerations in the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines;
19. Strongly deplores the fact that the Swedish Presidency did not manage to make any progress in adopting the directive on minimum energy taxation in Europe and reiterates its position that only a swift change to majority voting and codecision for Parliament could lift the 'blockade' imposed by a few Member States on this subject; urges, furthermore, the Commission to come forward with a proposal on CO₂ emissions trading before the COP-6, part 2 conference in Bonn;
20. Is critical of the fact that no new impetus was given for fighting harmful tax competition within the Union and urges the Council not to wait until the end of 2002 before coming to an agreement;

World Trade Organisation

21. Welcomes the Council's intention to make the trade talks at the 4th WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha in November responsive to the interests of developing countries and the concerns of civil society; in this context, reminds the Council that a majority of developing countries, together with most civil society groups, remain opposed to the introduction of new trade issues into WTO negotiations whilst there is so much unfinished business from the Uruguay Round;

22. Notes also the Union's emphasis on the strategic goals of sustainable development and the social dimensions of globalisation as being essential elements of a multilateral trading system and urges the Council to propose that the objectives of the WTO be restated to make these the primary purpose of international trade;

External relations

Macedonia

23. Regrets the lack of substantial progress as regards the negotiations between the parties on constitutional reforms and the draft peace plan;
24. Welcomes the efforts made by EU High Representative Solana to defuse tension and facilitate dialogue and create the conditions for reconciliation between the parties; considers the appointment of a special EU envoy to Macedonia and of a EU advisor on constitutional amendments to be a concrete step forward towards a more effective EU role in the conflict;
25. Supports the determination of the Council in linking further financial aid to Macedonia to tangible progress in the negotiations between the parties;

Middle East

26. Welcomes the report on the Middle East presented to the Council by EU High Representative Solana; is convinced that his recent efforts in cooperation with EU Special Envoy Moratinos have enhanced the visibility of the EU; expects further concrete initiatives for an effective improvement of the situation;
27. Urges the parties to actively implement the recommendations contained in the Mitchell Report; believes, nevertheless, that further immediate confidence-building measures are needed with regard, in particular, to the gradual lifting of the blockade of the Occupied Territories ;
28. Reiterates its call for the deployment of an international monitoring mission in the Occupied Territories and urges Member States to launch in this respect a relevant initiative within the UN;
29. Urges the Commission and the Member States to continue to put pressure on Israel to comply with all parts of the Association Agreement, in particular with regard to products coming from the settlements and respect for human rights;
30. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the parliaments of the Member States, the social partners and the applicant countries.