

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the debate on topical and urgent subjects of major importance pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by VAN DEN BERG, TERRON et MEDINA
on behalf of the PSE Group

VAN LANCKER

65-597/01

on the situation of 438 Afghan refugees on board a Norwegian cargo ship off the coast of Australia

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the 1951 UN Convention on the status of refugees, de laquelle l'Australie est un des tous premiers Etats contractants,

- having regard to the International Maritime organisation's safety of life at sea convention,

A. concerned about the situation of 438 refugees aboard a Norwegian ship off Australia's Christmas Island,

B. concerned about the Australian government's determination not to grant sanctuary to these 438 people,

C. whereas these refugees were rescued from a sinking Indonesian ferry by a Norwegian cargo ship responding to an Australian request to help them,

D. salue la décision du capitaine du cargot norvégien "Tampa" d'avoir sauvé les naufragés afghants de la détresse en haute mer,

E. deploring the fact that Indonesia has declared that it cannot and will not help,

F. insisting that it is a maritime tradition that vessels go to the nearest port in an emergency, enshrined in the International Maritime organisation's safety of life at sea Convention,

G. whereas the 1951 UN Convention on refugees provides that they should be accepted for humanitarian reasons at the nearest port,

H. whereas the freighter's owners have reported that medical conditions on board are serious, with many cases of diarrhoea as well as dysentery and scabies; forty three children and two pregnant women are on board,

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1. invites Australia to take prompt actions to secure the safety of these 438 refugees for humanitarian reasons,
2. believes that Australia has a moral responsibility to help these refugees,
3. recalls the existence of international convention on the protection of refugees and asylum procedures that must be observed by all States, and the need to take into consideration the humanitarian aspects involved in this dramatic event,
4. rappelle au Gouvernement australien son image d'un Etat accueillant, ouvert et solidaire, qu'il a donné au monde lors des jeux olympiques de 2000 et que la communauté internationale a beaucoup apprécié,
5. salutes the efforts made by the Norwegian government to find a solution to this situation and the courage of "The Tampa's" captain in refusing to move from international waters,
6. welcomes the invitation of the East Timorese and the New Zealand government to find a humane solution to this problem,
7. invites Australia, Norway and Indonesia to hold discussions to address immediate humanitarian concerns and calls for an international cooperative effort to find solutions and share responsibilities,
8. invites the Council and the Commission to address this issue in the framework of the United Nations by identifying solutions which may include some form of shared responsibilities between States at regional and international level,
9. demande au Conseil et à la Commission d'entreprendre les initiatives nécessaires afin d'établir l'obligation des Etats riverains des mers sur lesquels de telles situations sont arrivées et d'aider es naufragés et de leur assurer les procédures prévues par la Convention internationale relative au Statut des réfugiés du 28 juillet 1951,
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Government of Australia and Indonesia and the Secretary General of the United Nations.

Pantander

*REDINA
TERRON
P. M.*