

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

22 November 2001

B5-0741/2001

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Andrew Nicholas Duff, Willy C.E.H. De Clercq and Jules Maaten

on behalf of the ELDR Group

on the preparation of the Laeken European Council of 14-15 December 2001

European Parliament resolution on the preparation of the Laeken European Council of 14-15 December 2001

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Declaration 1 of the Nice Intergovernmental Conference on European security and defence policy,
 - having regard to Declaration 23 of the Nice Intergovernmental Conference on the future of the Union,
 - having regard to Parliament's resolution of 19 October 2001 on the informal European Council in Ghent,
- A. having regard to the grave international crisis caused by the assault of 11 September on the United States of America,
- B. having regard to the social, economic and political costs of European disunity,

Constitutional reform

1. Congratulates the Belgian Presidency of the Council on the decision in principle to establish the Convention to prepare the next Intergovernmental Conference, and refers to its report on the Laeken European Council and the future of the European Union (A5-0368/2001) and to the report on the Commission White Paper on European Governance (A5-XXXX/2001);

Afghanistan

2. Urges the European Council to seek to clarify with the US government the political goals of the coalition against terrorism and the strategy to achieve them;
3. Requests an intensification of the effort to bring humanitarian and development aid to the Afghan people, and full support for the UN initiative to achieve political stability in the country and respect for the human rights of all citizens;
4. Proposes that the European Council, in cooperation with the USA, launches a fresh initiative for the establishment of a viable Palestinian state while fully respecting the security and integrity of Israel;
5. Calls on the European Council to give a clear lead to the development of the EU's measures against terrorism and organised crime, with particular regard to an EU arrest warrant, a common definition of terrorism and the alignment of relevant laws and penalties;

6. Urges the European Council to deploy Article 42 of the Treaty on European Union in order to bring EU criminal policy under proper parliamentary and judicial control;

Enlargement

7. Welcomes the Commission's reports on the progress of the enlargement negotiations and the setting of the target of the end of 2002 for their completion, and looks forward to the accession of ten member states in time for the European Parliament elections of 2004, once they have fulfilled the Copenhagen criteria in all respects;
8. Urges the European Council to take a new initiative to solve the division of Cyprus and to propose the European Union as a guarantor, alongside the UN, of a new political settlement that will enable both communities to be fairly represented within the EU and EU jurisdiction to apply throughout the island;

Euro

9. Notes that the single currency has made a major contribution to maintaining economic stability in Europe during the international crisis, and looks forward to the physical introduction of the euro at the New Year, which should, among other things, encourage other Member States to join the euro zone;

Security

10. Insists that the European Council settle the operation and financing of the Rapid Reaction Force as well as questions of democratic accountability so that the Union can contribute more effectively to the prevention of conflict; urges Turkey to accept that the development of a common European security and defence policy is not only in the best interests of NATO but will also strengthen its own progress towards EU membership;

Doha

11. Notes the encouraging progress made by the World Trade Organisation in Qatar, and asks the European Council to underline its support for an early start to a new round of comprehensive multilateral trade negotiations which will include the issues of agricultural subsidies, protection of the environment and intellectual property;

Other matters

12. Hopes that the European Council will settle the issue of the Food Safety Agency;
13. In the field of foreign affairs, calls on the European Council to revise its common position on Cuba and to request the UN to accomplish a peace plan for the Western Sahara;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the European Council, the Council, the Commission and the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States.