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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission and Council statements

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

by Jannis Sakellariou, Margrietus J. van den Berg, Rosa M. Díez González,
Michael Cashman, Anna Karamanou, Fiorella Ghilardotti and Valter Veltroni,

on behalf of the PSE Group

on the human rights priorities and recommendations for the upcoming session
of the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva

European Parliament resolution on the human rights priorities and recommendations for the upcoming session of the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the EU Treaty and its provisions on human rights,
 - having regard to Regulations (EC) Nos 975/1999 and 976/1999 of 29 April 1999 on the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms under Articles 179 and 308 of the EC Treaty, which provide a legal basis for all human rights and democratisation activities of the EU under Chapter B7-70 of the Budget,
 - having regard to the 58th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights, which will take place in Geneva from 18 March to 26 April 2002,
 - having regard to its earlier resolutions on the UN Commission on Human Rights adopted on 27 March 1996¹, 20 February 1997², 23 October 1997³, 19 February 1998⁴, 11 March 1999⁵, 16 March 2000⁶, 18 January 2001 and 5 April 2001,
- A. whereas the promotion and the defence of human rights is a high priority for EU common foreign and security policy and one of the fundamental principles of the Union,
- B. whereas all 15 EU Member States subscribed to the obligation to 'respect and ensure respect for' international humanitarian law when they ratified the four Geneva conventions, as complemented by the additional protocols of 1977,
- C. whereas the European Parliament continues actively to influence the human rights strategy and the human rights priorities of the EU, with regard to thematic issues as well as concerning specific regions or countries,
- D. whereas the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has shown an impartial and consistent commitment to safeguarding and promoting respect for human rights of all individuals and groups worldwide,
- E. whereas the UN Commission on Human Rights is the main forum of debate on human rights within the UN system,
- F. whereas a negative human rights situation is often caused and/or exacerbated by the

¹ OJ C 117, 22.4.1996, p. 13

² OJ C 85, 17.3.1997, p. 143

³ OJ C 339, 10.11.1997, p. 154

⁴ OJ C 80, 16.3.1998, p. 237

⁵ OJ C 175, 21.6.1999, p. 254

⁶ OJ C 377, 29.12.2000, p. 335

absence of democracy and inefficient and corrupt government structures, often combined with or resulting in a disastrous economic and social situation for a large part of the population,

- G. deeply concerned by the State of Sokoto's Islamic court ruling that sentenced Ms Safiya Husaini Tungar-Tudu to death by stoning after finding her guilty of adultery, a punishable offence under Sharia law,
 - H. whereas - for a considerable number of states - the gap is widening between human rights instruments they signed and ratified and the treatment they inflict upon their citizens,
 - I. welcoming the growing number of people's demands for freedom and democracy throughout the world, but deploring the persistence of flagrant violations of human rights in many countries,
 - J. whereas a permanent and constructive dialogue with the representatives of civil society, NGOs and grassroots organisations, in particular human rights organisations, is fundamental for effective action in favour of the promotion and defence of human rights around the world,
 - K. considering that the EU should play a well-prepared leadership role in this session in its capacity of the most important actor in the 'Western Group', with a special responsibility to ensure the integrity and the credibility of the work of the CHR as the world's primary human rights body,
1. Reaffirms that respecting, promoting and safeguarding human rights is the 'acquis éthique' of the EU and one of the cornerstones of European cooperation;
 2. Welcomes the fact that more and more countries sign and ratify human rights conventions, but regrets the growing gap between the legal situation and daily practice in some countries; stresses the need for full implementation of such conventions as well as effective inspection and control mechanisms;
 3. Calls on the Council and the Member States to work for the universal ratification of the main human rights instruments available to countries, in particular the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture, and calls on all governments, as a matter of urgency, to ratify those conventions without reservation and to implement them;
 4. Invites the Member States and in particular the Presidency to use the political leverage of the Union to appeal to all UN members to ratify the Treaty setting up the International Criminal Court and to those who have not yet signed it to do so as soon as possible;
 5. Calls upon the Council to ensure and make public that the UNCHR resolutions are integrated in the EU human rights policy, in particular by making regular monitoring of

their implementation as part of the political dialogue of the EU with the countries concerned;

6. Calls upon the EU Presidency to sponsor or co-sponsor resolutions on the development of the human rights situation in different regions of the world according to the political priorities of the Union;
7. Invites the Council to express its support for to the aid and the efforts made by the Nigerian federal government in order to help the victims condemned for adultery by the Sharia law, and also to condemn all forms of religious intolerance; expresses its concern that fundamentalist interpretation and implementation of the Sharia law, in some Nigerian states and Iran, is contrary to respect for basic human rights;
8. Calls upon the EU Presidency to sponsor or co-sponsor resolutions on fundamental rights and freedoms versus anti-terrorist and security legislation and practices; asylum and refugee protection; human rights clauses; death penalty; torture; disappearances; racism; and minorities and indigenous peoples;
9. Calls upon the Council to report to the European Parliament's plenary its progress on the preparation of the session immediately after the General Affairs Council in March 2002, and to Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs on a regular basis before, during and after the session;
10. Decides to establish a delegation to participate in the forthcoming session; invites the Council and the Commission to establish full cooperation with this delegation;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States and the applicant countries, the UNCHR, and the Governments of the other countries named in this resolution.