

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

18 March 2002

B5-0181/2002

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

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

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on behalf of the PSE Group

on the Barcelona summit conclusions

European Parliament resolution on the Barcelona summit conclusions

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the conclusions of the Lisbon European Council of 23 and 24 March 2000, the Nice European Council of 7, 8 and 9 December 2000, the Stockholm European Council of 23 and 24 March 2001 and the Göteborg European Council of 15 and 16 June 2001,
 - having regard to the Commission communication to the Spring European Council in Barcelona on the Lisbon Strategy – Making Change Happen (COM(2002) 14),
 - having regard to its resolution adopted on 28 February 2002 on the Lisbon process and the way to follow (A5-0030/2002),
 - having regard to its resolution adopted on 28 February 2002 on the sustainable development strategy for the Barcelona summit,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the Presidency of the Barcelona European Council of 15 and 16 March 2002,
 - having regard to its recommendation to the Council of 13 December 2001 and its resolution of 7 February 2002 on the Middle East,
- A. whereas the Lisbon European Council agreed on the strategic goal of transforming the European Union into the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world with the corresponding goals of sustainable growth, full employment, reduced poverty and greater social cohesion,
- B. whereas the Stockholm European Council and, in particular, the Göteborg European Council, by introducing environmental goals, added a third dimension to the process and adopted a long-term strategy for sustainable development in which economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection were to be mutually supportive,
- C. whereas hundreds of thousands of people attended the demonstrations in Barcelona by ETUC and the movements for a different kind of globalisation in order to reaffirm the paramount importance of a more social Europe and a holistic approach to sustainable development which could become a model for the world; whereas this high level of participation shows a new interest on the part of the public in taking part in the EU decision-making process,

Economic, employment, environmental and social context

1. Reiterates that the Lisbon policy mix of mutually supportive economic reform, full employment, social cohesion and sustainable development should be maintained in the form of significant progress in all of these fields at each Spring summit; recognises that

the Barcelona conclusions show a shift back towards the balanced policy mix laid down at Lisbon, in contrast to the initial agenda for the summit;

2. Believes that the completion of the internal market and further liberalisations in key sectors such as energy are not an end in themselves, but that they can be a means of reaching a more competitive, qualitative and sustainable form of growth with greater social cohesion and better, cheaper and more effective services for citizens. Very much welcomes, therefore, the key decisions reached in Barcelona to ensure provision of high-quality public services in the European Union as a matter of fundamental importance for citizens and for territorial and social cohesion; against this background, underlines the need for an effective regulatory system and framework if fair and consumer-friendly tariff-setting conditions are to be achieved;
3. Recalls the core idea of the annual spring meetings to offer a form of economic governance at the highest political level together with a European macro-economic policy which would complement the single monetary policy of the European Central Bank; regrets that the Barcelona European Council did not launch a Europe-wide economic and investment policy as a means of stimulating public and private investment and employment through justified economic coordination;
4. Welcomes, however, the decision to follow Parliament's long-standing call to increase overall spending on R&D and innovation in Europe, with the aim of approaching 3% of GDP by the year 2010; welcomes the decision to support Europe's own satellite navigation system GALILEO, which will give Europe a technological lead, as called for by Parliament, and urges the Member States to start the preparatory work without delay in order to make up for lost time;
5. Considers that the sustainable development strategy established at the Göteborg European Council has not been properly taken into account. Stresses again the need for balance among economic, social and environmental dimensions in the follow-up to the Lisbon and Göteborg processes. Regrets, therefore, the many shortcomings of the Barcelona Council and the lack of concrete measures in this field; the sustainable development dimension has not been properly incorporated into the various sectoral strategies addressed in Barcelona (employment, transport, energy, research, etc.); the Barcelona Council has been wasted as an opportunity to give impetus to the Göteborg process by agreeing on concrete measures such as a timetable for action, medium-term objectives, clear targets and appropriate follow-up actions. Calls again for the fullest possible preparations within the EU institutions, including full involvement of the EP, for the follow-up to the Lisbon and Göteborg processes, as well as for the World summit on Sustainable development in Johannesburg. More generally, calls for an ambitious approach by the EU to maintaining a leading role in the development of a sustainable development strategy. With this in mind, expresses its very deep concerns about the US climate change programme, and reiterates its commitment to the Kyoto process;
6. Considers that structural labour market reforms can only be meaningful if they go hand in hand with significant macroeconomic measures and real change. Points out that reforms must result in better jobs, in order to create a knowledge-based economy, and that, consequently, substantial investment in people and their potential, particularly in the form of education, training and life-long learning, is essential, with a view not only to

employability but also to individual empowerment; insists that, since economic and social progress must be mutually supportive, these reforms must be achieved in close cooperation with the social partners and must not undermine the individual and collective rights of employees; calls on the European Council meeting in Seville to endorse a new EIB facility for individual learning accounts/lifelong learning projects;

7. Points out that Member States have begun actively to recruit non-EU nationals; believes, in this context, that the admission of labour migrants can make an important contribution to the European Employment Strategy, and calls in consequence on the Commission and Council to implement the mandate given by the Tampere European Council to further their economic, social and political integration as a matter of urgency;
8. Welcomes the childcare targets as a way of helping people to combine work and family life, and reiterates the need to strengthen both positive action and gender mainstreaming in the EU employment guidelines;
9. Welcomes the proposal for a European Health Insurance Card to make it easier to obtain medical treatment in another Member State, but points out that other important barriers to mobility still need to be removed and an ambitious reform of Regulation 1408/71 adopted in order to achieve a genuine European labour market with a new basic framework of labour rights and social security for workers moving within the Community, with common objectives and definitions and minimum standards being formulated;
10. Regrets the absence of Employment and Social Affairs Ministers at the summit, and welcomes in consequence the initiative to improve the working methods of the Lisbon Strategy; inviting the Employment and Social Affairs Ministers, as well as the Economic and Finance Ministers, to future Spring summits will be of importance in this context and might help to maintain a balanced 'policy mix';

The Middle East

11. Expresses its support for the Declaration on the Middle East of the Barcelona European Council of 15-16 March 2002 and the proposals set out therein; in particular, agrees that there is a need to apply simultaneous political and security measures in order to bring violence and terrorist attacks to an end;
12. Reiterates its request for an immediate and effective withdrawal of the Israeli army from the territories under the control of the Palestinian Authority, an end to extra-judicial executions, the lifting of measures designed to isolate the Palestinian people and the freezing of settlements; calls on Israel to observe the fourth Geneva Convention; asks the Palestinian Authority to take full responsibility for fighting terrorism;
13. Asks that international observers be sent as a matter of urgency, as their presence is becoming more and more necessary;
14. Expresses its deep regret at the number of victims on both sides and the destruction of civilian homes, hospitals and infrastructure in the recent escalation of Israeli military operations; calls on the Council and Commission to implement all aspects of the Association Agreement with Israel and to consider the possibility of suspending it should

the Israeli government not change its present policy;

15. Sends its condolences to the family of the Italian reporter Raffaele Ciriello, who fell in the course of duty;
16. Requests that all restrictions on the freedom of movement of the Palestinian Authority President, Mr Arafat, be lifted immediately, particularly in view of the Baghdad Arab summit scheduled for 27 March;
17. Reiterates its conviction that a solution to the conflict could be found on the basis of compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions 242, 338 and 1397; expresses its full support for Saudi Crown Prince Abdallah's plan, which could lead to a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict;

Serbia and Montenegro

18. Welcomes the agreement reached on 14 March in Belgrade between Serbian and Montenegrin leaders on the principle of a single constitutional arrangement for Serbia and Montenegro. Expresses its hopes that the implementation of this agreement will make a decisive contribution to the stability of the region. Agrees, with the Council, to support the implementation of the agreement via the stabilisation and association process, respecting fully the policy of conditionality;

Conference in Monterrey

19. Considers that the decision taken by the General Affairs Council on 14 March 2002 is a good basis for giving momentum to European efforts to achieve the United Nations Millennium objective, and invites the Council to report back systematically on any progress made;

Gibraltar

20. Welcomes the relaunch of the 1984 Brussels process on Gibraltar, supports the UK and Spanish governments' attempts to conclude an agreement before the summer and invites the Commission to explore possible ways in which the EU could underpin any agreement reached;

Better regulation

21. Welcomes the impetus given to non-Treaty reform of the working of the Council by its Secretary-General's presentation to the European Council;
22. Welcomes the European Council's support for political dialogue with the European Parliament. In this context, eagerly awaits the setting up of an interinstitutional working party on better regulation before submission of the Commission Action Plan;
23. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Member States.