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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the European Council report and the Council and Commission statements

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

by Hans-Gert Poettering, Ilkka Suominen, W.G. van Velzen and Francesco Fiori,

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the European Council meeting in Seville (21-22 June 2002)

European Parliament resolution on the European Council meeting in Seville (21-22 June 2002)

The European Parliament,

- recalling its resolution of 13 June on the preparation of the European Council in Seville,
 - having regard to the Council and Commission statements on the results of the European Council meeting in Seville on 21-22 June 2002,
- A. whereas crucial progress has been made under the Spanish Presidency, notably in the fight against terrorism as well as towards implementing long-standing commitments such as those undertaken by the Tampere and Lisbon European Councils, but other important issues have been left for future European Council meetings to decide,

The future of the European Union and Council reform

1. Is pleased that the European Council supports the general approach followed by the Convention and hopes to see it continue along this path, adhering to the timetable initially laid down at Laeken;
2. Welcomes the decision taken on a whole series of specific measures applicable, without amendment of the Treaties, to the organisation and functioning of the European Council and of the Council; with the multiannual strategic programme and the annual operational programme drawn up jointly by the Presidencies concerned in consultation with the Commission, the work of the Council will be more structured and organised on a longer-term basis;
3. Regrets the disappearance of the Development Council, given its importance as a key link between the EU and the world's least developed nations; urges the Council to ensure that the name of the new body resulting from the forthcoming reform process is 'General, Foreign and Development Affairs Council';
4. Notes with satisfaction that the Council's debates on acts adopted under the codecision procedure jointly with the European Parliament are open to the public in their initial and closing stages, as repeatedly called for by the European Parliament;
5. Is pleased that the European Council has adopted a declaration which takes cognizance of the National Declaration by Ireland and recognises that, following the referendum and ratification of the Treaty of Nice, Ireland can take its own sovereign decision on whether to commit military personnel to participate in operations carried out under the ESDP;
6. Welcomes the fact that the European Council demonstrated its intention to see an interinstitutional agreement concluded before the end of 2002, aimed at improving the

quality of Community legislation and, to this end, calls for a working party to be set up, composed of political representatives of the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission;

Economic, labour market and social policies

7. Calls on some Member States to be more ambitious in relation to the goals and pace of their economic reforms, as sound macro-economic policies and effective reform will accelerate the ongoing recovery of growth, job creation and economic stability;
8. Welcomes the European Council's reaffirmed commitment to the Stability and Growth Pact and to fiscal consolidation, and calls on Member States to pursue budgetary policies in line with BEPG recommendations, and encourages them to use growth dividend related to the economic recovery to consolidate public finances;
9. Reminds the European Council that, as the labour market is reformed, stability and growth should also raise employability and remove obstacles and disincentives to taking up or remaining in a job, while preserving the high protection standards of the European social model;
10. Welcomes the progress made in the field of financial services and encourages the Council to proceed rapidly towards full accomplishment and implementation of the Financial Services Action Plan;
11. While welcoming the European Council's references to making progress on measures underway to connect Europe's economies, and to implementation of the Sixth Framework Programme for Research and of the Commission's biotechnology strategy, considers that the European Council must display more determination, and be more self-critical where necessary, if the Lisbon goals are to be met;
12. Welcomes the adoption of the E-2005 Plan and urges Member States to prepare national implementation plans as soon as possible;
13. Hopes that the establishment of a Competitiveness Council will contribute towards the development of an enterprise policy for industry which strikes a balance between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development; in this regard, regrets the absence of a specific reference to 'impact assessments' to ensure that legislative proposals do not hamper the competitiveness of European industry;
14. Calls on the Council to meet the target of ensuring that the tax package is adopted before the end of 2002;

Asylum, immigration and integration

15. Welcomes the results achieved by the Spanish Presidency in the field of justice and home affairs, especially as regards the fight against terrorism, the comprehensive plan to combat illegal immigration, the plan for the management of external borders and the

directive laying down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers in the Member States;

16. Supports the promotion of an integration policy for lawfully resident immigrants entailing rights and obligations in particular as regards the fundamental rights recognised within the European Union and action to combat racism and xenophobia;
17. Reiterates the urgent need for the creation of a common robust European policy on asylum and immigration and welcomes the fact that the Council is determined to speed up the implementation of all aspects of the programme adopted in Tampere and has fixed a series of precise dates to comply with this programme; urges the Council to make every effort to press ahead with the current legislative work on this matter;
18. Considers it essential that the Council comply with the calendar for the measures contained in the comprehensive plan to combat illegal immigration, namely the introduction of a common identification system for visa data, the conclusion of readmission agreements, the adoption of the components of a repatriation programme or the formal adoption, at the next JHA Council, of the legislative instruments, as provided for in the Conclusions of the European Council;
19. Calls for the European Union to take effective measures which help make progress with economic and political stabilisation, especially in the Maghreb states;
20. Welcomes the approval of the plan for the management of the external borders of the Member States and acknowledges the positive effect of the three recent initiatives on this issue; calls on the Council and the Member States to implement without delay the different measures contained in the plan, such as the common unit for external border practitioners, composed of Member States' heads of border control, joint operations at external borders or the creation of a network of Member States' immigration liaison officers;
21. Considers it essential to establish common integrated risk assessment, common rules for border guard training and European provisions concerning borders;
22. Supports the integration of immigration policy into the Union's relations with third countries and stresses the need for genuine cooperation between countries of origin and transit as regards joint management and border control, as well as on readmission - compulsory in the event of illegal immigration; emphasises the importance of the systematic assessment of relations with third countries which do not cooperate in combating illegal immigration and calls on the Council to adopt the measures needed to enhance such cooperation;

Terrorism

23. Strongly condemns the terrorist attacks which were committed in several Spanish cities when the European Council was taking place in Seville and caused injuries to citizens from different Member States; reiterates its determination to fight terrorism with all legal

means and calls on the European Union and its Member States to continue their efforts to combat all forms of organised crime;

Sustainable development and the Johannesburg Summit

24. Stresses the EU's commitment to a successful outcome at the WSSD and its willingness to continue to play a leading role in the preparation of the summit, with a view to reaching a global and balanced deal in the spirit of Kyoto, Monterrey and Doha; therefore supports all efforts made with a view to achieving a clear and concrete political commitment with a precise timetable, aimed at effective partnership;
25. Calls on the European Council and Commission to ensure that the decisions taken at the UN Conference on Financing and Development, the World Food Summit and the World Summit on Sustainable Development lead to concerted international action to eradicate hunger, poverty and disease, whilst promoting the key principles of good governance and the rule of law;
26. Regrets that the opportunity has not been taken to introduce more effective action against the Zimbabwean regime, whose disastrous policies have contributed significantly to widespread hunger and poverty in the southern African region and, whilst recognising the special legal status of UN meetings, regrets that the President of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe, was able to use the UN World Food Summit in Rome to flout targeted EU sanctions, and finds it particularly ironic that Mugabe should address the conference on food security whilst his own ZANU-PF policies are destroying Zimbabwe's agricultural base;
27. Urges the Council and the Commission to ensure that a clear timetable for action and for funding is decided in Johannesburg, and that the Commission takes the necessary legal and budgetary steps to promote greater cooperation with other multilateral donors such as the UN and the Bretton Woods institutions, namely the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund;
28. Fully endorses the priorities set in developing and implementing responsible and consistent initiatives concerning drinking water, energy (including renewable energy) and health;

Enlargement

29. Reiterates its position that the assessment of the candidate countries has to continue to be carried out on the basis of merit and in line with the principle of differentiation, and with strict maintenance of the Helsinki and Copenhagen criteria;
30. On this basis, welcomes the determination expressed by the European Council to conclude the accession negotiations with up to ten countries and stresses that these countries must make further progress towards implementing the *acquis communautaire*, including efforts to bring their administrative and judicial capacity up to the required level;

31. Expresses its firm belief that the EU itself should take all necessary steps to adhere to the timetable for enlargement agreed at the Laeken Summit, thus allowing for the accession of up to ten countries before the 2004 European elections, and stresses that the European Parliament has already set out its views, at the June part-session, on the financial impact of enlargement of the European Union concerning budgetary issues;
32. Taking due account of Turkey's progress towards fulfilling the accession criteria, considers it yet too early to set a timetable for negotiations and notes the European Council's position that new decisions could be taken in Copenhagen in the light of developments;

CFSP and ESDP

33. Welcomes the Council's determination to reinforce the role of the EU in combating terrorism and its recognition of the importance of the contribution of the CFSP, including the ESDP, to that end;
34. Welcomes also the willingness expressed by the Council to take over the NATO operation Amber Fox in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at the end of NATO's current mandate, provided that the permanent arrangements between the EU and NATO (Berlin +) are then in place; regrets however in this context that due to Turkey's unwillingness to accept any changes to its own earlier deal with the EU, following the intra-EU-compromise reached in Seville, Berlin + is still not in force, which throws into serious doubt EU access to NATO's planning, assets and capabilities, which are crucial for the success of its first military operation;

Russia, Kaliningrad

35. Insists that the further development of the Kaliningrad region as a future Russian enclave in the enlarged EU is of common interest; welcomes, therefore, the Council's decision to invite the Commission to submit an additional study on the possibilities for an effective and flexible solution to the question of the transit of persons and goods to and from the region; reaffirms its position that any solution to be found together with Russia, Poland and Lithuania has to be based on a sound balance between the needs to firmly secure the EU's external borders in full respect of the Schengen Agreement and the need to ensure the smooth functioning of visa and transit arrangements for travel to and from Kaliningrad;

Middle East

36. Reiterates :
 - its support for the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the principles for a sustainable and fair agreement between Israelis and Palestinians with a view to the two States living side by side within secure and recognised borders and full normalisation of relations between Israel and the entire Arab world,

- its full support for an international conference at an early date as agreed by the Quartet of the USA, the EU, Russia and the UN in order to promote such an agreement,
 - its condemnation of all acts of terrorism against the Israeli people,
 - its condemnation of the use of excessive military force against the Palestinian people,
 - its emphasis on the need for free elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council and the Presidency of the Palestinian Authority, and agrees with the European Council that reform of the Palestinian Authority is essential for the creation of a democratic, viable, peaceful and sovereign State of Palestine, on the basis of the 1967 borders, if necessary with minor adjustments agreed by the parties, and points out that the future authorities, legitimately elected by the Palestinian people, have to show and act with their clear determination to fight against terrorism and corruption and, in particular, to prevent the alleged diversion of EU aid to sustain terrorist activities;
37. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the European Council, the Council, the Commission, and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the applicant countries.