

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

29 August 2002

B5-0458/2002

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

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

by Cecilia Malmström, Bob van den Bos and Willy C.E.H. De Clercq

on behalf of the ELDR Group

on the situation in Afghanistan

European Parliament resolution on the situation in Afghanistan

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas the outcome of the Loya Jirga held in Kabul was the establishment of a new government led by President Karzai,
 - B. whereas Afghanistan in the last 25 years has been suffering internal conflict, occupation and brutal repression by totalitarian and corrupt governments and in the last years the barbarous regime of the Taliban, which devastated Afghan society, inflicting all kinds of abuses,
 - C. whereas there is a risk that large amounts of reconstruction aid coming to Afghanistan are being misused due to lack of proper planning, coordination and accountability on the part of the donor community,
 - D. whereas there is evidence of the existence of residual terrorist networks in Afghanistan and Pakistan that are potentially very dangerous for the whole region and the rest of the world,
1. Takes note of the conclusions of the Loya Jirga and welcomes the establishment of the new Afghan Government; stresses in particular the important step of establishing the Afghan Human Rights Commission;
 2. Reaffirms the commitment of the EU to the reconstruction of civic institutions in Afghanistan and expresses its support to assist the efforts of the government of President Karzai in providing Afghanistan with national reconciliation and internal and external security;
 3. Welcomes the Commission decision to deliver a further EUR 16.7 million in aid of rural populations suffering from drought conditions and the pledge to deliver overall EUR 1 billion as EU development aid to Afghanistan; is aware of the great need of the country in the fields of health, education, water and sanitation and de-mining; calls on the Commission to actively play a role not only as an important donor but also in coordinating with the United Nations the overall international rehabilitation activity for Afghanistan, also in order to optimise the available resources and avoid unnecessary aid;
 4. Considers it a matter of urgency to review procedures to actually deliver the available financial aid, avoiding the current unacceptable delays;
 5. Notes with satisfaction that one of the first results of achieving peace is that total cereal production in Afghanistan for 2002 is 82 % above last year's crop but recognises that many Afghans, particularly nomads, have little access to food due to serious erosion of their purchasing power;

6. Considers a priority the rebuilding of the judicial system and a legal framework for effective human rights protection and for the improvement of women's condition;
7. Calls on the United Nations to dispatch an adequate number of human rights monitors not only to Kabul but also to the provinces and on the Afghan Government to provide a proper mechanism to observe the human rights situation in the field;
8. Notes with satisfaction that the blasphemy charge against former Women's Affairs Minister Ms Sima Samar has been dismissed by the Kabul court; is, however, concerned about possible further intimidation of Ms Sima Samar and other militants for women's rights;
9. Recalls that the joint Afghan and international struggle against the Taliban regime has liberated the people of Afghanistan from a barbarous regime; considers urgent the adoption and the implementation by the new Afghan Government of effective measures to promote women's condition in the country, individual freedoms and human rights; calls on the European Union and the United Nations to assist Afghanistan in carrying out those reforms;
10. Considers the completion of the so-called "unfinished agenda" of fighting the terrorist network a priority for the new Afghan Government as well as the international community and the governments of the neighbouring countries, in particular Pakistan;
11. Deeply deplores the loss of civilians unintentionally killed during operations carried out by the international military forces; calls for greater attention to be paid to avoiding such tragedies and asks the governments concerned to award appropriate compensation to the families of the victims;
12. Believes that the mandate of the international military force in Afghanistan must include fighting terrorism as well as defence of human rights and ethnic tolerance;
13. Calls on the United Nations and the donor governments to find just and coherent criteria for repatriation schemes for the Afghan refugees who are facing uncertain fates and have to deal with different policies operated by hosting countries and humanitarian agencies;
14. Calls on the new government as well as the governments of the neighbouring countries to take all possible measures to fight drug production and trafficking, this being an essential element to reach stability in the region;
15. Is concerned by the lasting problem of warlords operating in the country and believes that joint efforts by Afghan security forces and the international military forces should be increased in order not to tolerate the warlords' activity;
16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the United Nations and the Governments of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.