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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the statement by the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy

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

by Enrique Barón Crespo and Jannis Sakellariou

on behalf of the PSE Group

on the situation in Iraq

European Parliament resolution on the situation in Iraq

The European Parliament,

- having regard to UN Security Council Resolution 1441 of 8 November 2002,
 - having regard to the report submitted by the Head of UNMOVIC and the Director of the IAEA to the UN Security Council on 27 January 2003,
 - having regard to the statement by the General Affairs Council of 27 January 2003,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on Iraq,
- A. whereas UNMOVIC's inspections are continuing, under the UN Secretary-General's and the Security Council's responsibility and under appropriate conditions,
- B. whereas the UN Security Council is due to discuss the situation, on the basis of the new report by the Head of UNMOVIC, on 14 February 2003,
- C. whereas the European Union and its Member States must pursue the same approach with the aim of securing rapid and effective international monitoring of the situation in Iraq, and calling on the applicant countries, by means of appropriate consultations, to fall into line with a European common position,
- D. expressing its opposition to any unilateral military action and its belief that a pre-emptive strike would not be in accordance with international law and would lead to a deeper crisis involving other countries in the region, and stressing that everything must be done to avoid military action,
- E. whereas widespread, informed opposition has been expressed to a pre-emptive war on ethical grounds, and calling for international law to be respected, in particular by civil and religious authorities throughout Europe and worldwide,
- F. stressing the serious responsibilities borne by the Iraqi regime for having brought economic, social and democratic hardship to the country, and urging it to be responsive to the widespread criticism of its internal and external policies, of which the main victims are its own people,
- G. expressing its concern over the US military preparations in the region and strongly opposing all declarations and actions by both sides which could lead to an escalation of tension,

- H. whereas the present crisis might provoke a division within the international coalition against terrorism, which was set up after 11 September, and whereas terrorism has a variety of causes and the fight against it should be conducted in a different manner, requiring a renewed commitment and the adoption of an appropriate strategy,
- I. reiterating the importance of transatlantic relations, in particular between the USA and the European Union, and the need for enhanced international cooperation, based on stronger efforts from all the parties involved, to address the causes of terrorism,
1. Stresses the importance of achieving the complete elimination of Iraqi chemical, bacteriological, radiological and nuclear weapons of mass destruction, in so far as they exist, and of dismantling Iraq's potential capacity to produce such weapons, in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions;
 2. Calls on the Iraqi Government to comply with UN Security Council Resolution 1441 and continue to allow UNMOVIC inspections, unconditionally and with unimpeded access, and to cooperate fully and respond to the remarks made by the Head of UNMOVIC in its report; calls, furthermore, for all available pertinent information, from all sources, be forwarded without delay to UNMOVIC;
 3. Considers that UNSC Resolution 1441 does not authorise the automatic recourse to the use of force; any further steps must be taken by the Security Council, after a full assessment of the situation and on the basis of a new resolution;
 4. Calls on the four EU Member States which currently sit on the UN Security Council to cooperate closely and, accordingly, urges the Council to adopt a common position on this issue in the framework of the CFSP, with the applicant countries, so that the European Union speaks with one voice about the present situation and its future evolution;
 5. Supports the General Affairs Council statement of 27 January 2003 that reaffirms the role of the UNSC in the implementation of its Resolution 1441; welcomes the agreement reached on support for UNMOVIC to continue and step up its operations;
 6. Calls on the Council and the Commission to assess the impact on the global economy of possible military action in Iraq and the preparations for such action;
 7. Asks the UN to verify the effects of the embargo, notably the adverse impact on the humanitarian situation of Iraqi civilians, particularly women and children, so that, if the necessary conditions are met, steps can be taken towards the lifting of the embargo; calls for the UN Security Council Resolution 1409 of 14 May 2002 to be implemented, as the EU is presently doing;
 8. Looks to the regime in Iraq to implement a policy of tolerance and freedom for all its citizens, irrespective of ethnicity and religion; supports the aspirations of the Kurdish people for regional autonomy within the borders of Iraq and calls for the safe return of refugees; proposes an international initiative, in the framework of the United Nations, to assess the situation with regard to human rights and democracy in Iraq;

9. Considers that the conflict would have serious implications for the situation in the Middle East; therefore calls strongly for an urgent resumption of the Quartet initiative (EU, USA, Russia and the UN) in cooperation with the Arab states; calls on all the parties involved in the region to comply with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the High Representative for the CFSP, the UN Secretary-General and the Government of Iraq.