

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

25 March 2003

B5-0201/2003

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

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

by Hans-Gert Poettering, Ilkka Suominen, Arie M. Oostlander,
Philippe Morillon, Gerardo Galeote Quecedo, José Ignacio Salafranca
Sánchez-Neyra and Francesco Fiori

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the situation in Iraq

European Parliament resolution on the situation in Iraq

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Iraq,
 - having regard to the United Nations Security Council resolutions on Iraq, particularly Resolutions 661, 678, 686, 687, 778, 986 and 1441,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the extraordinary European Council meeting of 17 February 2003 in Brussels and the conclusions of the General and Foreign Affairs Council meeting of 27 January,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the spring European Council meeting of 20 and 21 March 2003,
- A. having regard to the beginning of the military offensive launched by the allied troops on Iraqi military targets on 20 March 2003,
- B. whereas ultimate responsibility for the current state of the conflict lies solely and exclusively with Saddam Hussein's regime, which systematically neglected for a very long time the clear and serious warnings issued by the international community,
1. Endorses the European Council statement on Iraq;
 2. Stresses the European Union's commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq, Kuwait and neighbouring countries;
 3. Firmly condemns the refusal of the Iraqi regime to rid itself over the last 12 years of its capacity for aggression and its military arsenal and its systematic violation of the most fundamental rights of its citizens and minorities, making it a serious threat to the security and stability of the region and of the world as a whole;
 4. Deplores the fact that, despite the efforts made, agreement on an appropriate solution to the conflict could not be reached under the auspices of the United Nations Security Council, and believes that the UN must continue to play a central role during and after the current crisis;
 5. Reiterates its belief in the need to strengthen the peace process in the Middle East through peaceful, secure and free coexistence of two sovereign and independent states (Israeli and Palestinian) along the lines set out in the 'roadmap' endorsed by the Quartet;
 6. Reiterates its belief in the need to deepen the Euromediterranean dialogue as well; welcomes the European Council conclusions on that goal, but hopes that this statement will be promptly followed by concrete action;

7. Favours a closer relationship with the Arab countries;
8. Welcomes the European Council statement on the determination to strengthen the common foreign and security policy and European security and defence policy;
9. Reaffirms the full validity of the transatlantic partnership, resulting from loyal cooperation and based on the existence of a shared history, values and culture, in the belief that the world prosperity, security and stability are better served when America and the European Union work together;
10. Hopes the conflict will, as soon as possible and with the minimum loss of human life and suffering, lead to a lasting, secure and prosperous peace not only in Iraq but throughout all the Middle East region, and calls on the Council and the Commission to remain actively involved in the region;
11. Welcomes the swift response and the willingness shown by the European Commission with regard to the potential victims of this tragedy, and asks the international community not to haggle over ways and means when dealing with the humanitarian and other needs resulting from the conflict;
12. Is confident that once the needs and the damage are properly evaluated after the conflict, the international community coordinated by the United Nations will show its commitment to re-establishing peace and freedom in Iraq, as well as to working to reconstruct the country in the way that will be the most appropriate and beneficial for the prosperity and well-being of the Iraqi people, in order to secure the country's rapid integration in the international community; expects the Council and Commission to consult Parliament before any relevant decisions entailing European Union financial assistance for that purpose are taken;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the High Representative for the CFSP and the UN Secretary-General.