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B5-0319/2003

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

further to Oral Questions B5-0094/2003 and B5-0095/2003

pursuant to Rule 42(5) of the Rules of Procedure

by Elmar Brok

on behalf of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common  
Security and Defence Policy

on a renewed transatlantic relationship for the third millennium

**European Parliament resolution on a renewed transatlantic relationship for the third millennium**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Transatlantic Declaration on EU-US relations of 1990 and the New Transatlantic Agenda of 1995 (NTA),
- having regard to Articles 11 and 12 of the Treaty on European Union, which impose on the Member States a binding requirement to enhance and develop their mutual political solidarity, and Title V thereof, which sets out provisions governing the common foreign and security policy,
- having regard to the Conclusions and Plan of Action of the Extraordinary European Council meeting held in Brussels on 21 September 2001 and the Declaration by the Heads of State and Government of the European Union and the President of the Commission on the attacks of 11 September 2001 and the fight against terrorism made at the informal European Council in Ghent on 19 October 2001,
- having regard to the Presidency Conclusions of the European Council meeting in Brussels on 20 and 21 March 2003,
- having regard to its resolution of 15 May 2002 on the Commission Communication to the Council on Reinforcing the Transatlantic Relationship: Focusing on Strategy and Delivering Results,
- having regard to the Road Map to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict agreed by the Quartet on 20 December 2002 and published on 30 April 2003, and to its recommendation of 13 December 2001 on the crisis in the Middle East and the role of the European Union in the region,<sup>1</sup> as well as to its resolution of 7 February 2002 on the situation in the Middle East,<sup>2</sup>
- having regard to the ministerial meeting of the North Atlantic Council and to the NATO-EU ministerial meeting held in Madrid on 3 June 2003,
- having regard to its resolutions of 25 October 2001, on the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference,<sup>3</sup> and of 13 December 2001, on the WTO meeting in Qatar,<sup>4</sup>
- having regard to its resolution of 10 April 2003 on the new European security and defence

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 177 E, 25.7.2002, p.277

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 284 E, 21.11.2002, p. 312

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 112 E, 9.5.2002, p. 321

<sup>4</sup> OJ C 177 E, 25.7.2002, p.290

architecture – priorities and deficiencies,<sup>1</sup>

- having regard to Rule 37(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. reaffirming its commitment to the democratic values which are the foundation of both the transatlantic community and solidarity: freedom, democracy, the rule of law and human rights,
- B. whereas balanced EU-US relations are important to global peace and stability based on international law and to strengthening international institutions in order to provide a multilateral framework and improve global governance,
- C. whereas a number of high-ranking US politicians from both the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as Europeans, have emphasised the importance of revitalising good transatlantic relations,
- D. stressing, in this regard, the positive results achieved in the field of external actions when a common approach and effective action are developed, e.g. in the Balkans and finally now also on the Middle East peace process, and regretting that in recent years the potential differences between the EU and the US have grown to encompass trade, economic and environmental issues, increasing divergences in foreign policy and, particularly, the International Criminal Court,
- E. whereas the inability of the EU Member States to follow up the common position arrived at by the Greek Presidency with regard to the Iraq conflict, despite the overwhelming non-belligerent will of European public opinion, has ruthlessly exposed the EU's shortcomings,
- F. pointing out that international treaties are the basic elements upon which the foundation of a multilateral framework and a renewed transatlantic partnership must be laid down,
- G. whereas, in economic terms, Europe and the USA are the two most closely bound regions in the world and already a large proportion of bilateral trade takes place free of any restrictions, but major exceptions, such as non-tariff trade barriers, remain,
- H. whereas the EU and the USA have treaties and agreements with almost every State in the world, but not with each other,
- I. whereas a new common framework could be created in economic and trade policy – without endangering the multilateral institutions – both in order to solve disputes and to further common interests,
- J. whereas by acting together Europe and the United States could develop solutions to global challenges such as the environment, migration, development, terrorism, international crime and social and ethnic conflicts,

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<sup>1</sup> PT\_TA-PROV(2003)0188

- K. recalling the substantive implications for the EU-US partnership deriving from the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 on the United States,
- L. whereas greater involvement of legislators on both sides of the Atlantic is a fundamental prerequisite for enhancing the whole transatlantic process,
1. Stresses that a strong Europe is a precondition for a well-balanced partnership based on equality;
  2. Asks therefore for a comprehensive European Strategy which includes a long-term strategic focus for the Transatlantic partnership, given that the issue-by-issue approach can only be successful if an overall framework is embedded in this strategy and that the experiences of the last decade show that under the existing mechanisms new questions arise faster than old ones are solved;
  3. Urges an effective reshaping of a genuine and well-balanced in-depth dialogue with the United States with a view to reinvigorating the transatlantic community of values and developing action better suited to today's world situation;
  4. Underlines the importance of a close linkage between political, economic and defence and security cooperation as a fundamental basis for the transatlantic relationship;
  5. Stresses that the EU will only be recognised as a partner if it can accompany its economic strength with a real CFSP and that this requires the extension of QMV (qualified majority voting) in the Council to services in external trade and the field of the Foreign and Security Policy, the establishment of a European common diplomatic service, enhanced cooperation in defence policy and stronger and more efficient use of military capabilities;

#### **Priority for political issues in the post-Afghanistan and Iraq Wars context**

6. Reiterates its recommendation to make the pursuit of common global interests (spread of democracy, modern governance, open societies and markets, sustainable economies, freedom of expression, fundamental human rights and respect for the rule of law around the world) the central defining political purpose of the transatlantic partnership;
7. Expresses concern that the EU-US partnership could be undermined, on the one hand, by the apparently growing influence of those neo-conservative currents in US politics which emphasise unilateral, and often military, solutions to global problems at the expense of the traditions of more than 50 years of US internationalism and multilateralism, and, on the other, by the political and the military weakness of the EU and most of its Member States;
8. Recommends continuing to build a long-term transatlantic collaborative framework and an Action Plan for the Fight against Terrorism to combat international terrorism firmly using all effective means against terrorists groups or individuals and their networks in order to defend the democratic system and the rule of law and protect fundamental rights and freedoms, not only by military means but, above all, by a civilian approach in the framework of conflict prevention and by addressing the roots of the tremendous political,

social, economic and environmental problems of today's world; stresses that the fight against terrorism cannot be waged at the expense of basic shared values such as respect for human rights and civil liberties;

9. Suggests that the partnership continue to be shifted progressively from a transatlantic community of values to an effective transatlantic community of action by developing a collaborative strategy and action in contexts such as: post-conflict cooperation and nation-building in Afghanistan and Iraq; relations with the Arab world; the Middle East Peace Process; North Korea; infectious diseases; nuclear proliferation;
10. Welcomes in particular the common actions designed to achieve a sustainable peace in the Middle East in the framework of the Quartet as the best way of relaunching the transatlantic relationship in practical terms;
11. Believes, in this regard, that the EU and NATO and others, preferably under the umbrella of the UN, could contribute to guaranteeing on the ground and in security terms the results of the Final Treaty to be agreed by the parties in the last phase of the Road Map, provided that the parties in conflict and the other members of the Quartet so wish;
12. Reiterates its commitment to providing an adequate financial contribution to securing the implementation of the Road map;
13. Calls upon the transatlantic partnership actively to support and strengthen the international institutions and to reaffirm the value of international law; calls upon all partners to avoid unilateral approaches and to return to multilateralism and to the United Nations framework in order to develop global governance;
14. Regrets that the US has not acceded, or does not fully adhere, to major international instruments of international human and humanitarian law such as those protecting the rights of the child, abolishing the death penalty, and safeguarding the treatment of prisoners of war in the wake of the recent conflicts; in particular, urges the US to accede to the Statute of the International Criminal Court; invites the US to cooperate with the EU with a view to advancing effectively in the urgently needed reforms of the United Nations in order to reinforce the UN's position as the moral authority of the world community;

**Boosting economic and trade relations by signing a EU-US Framework Treaty including the completion of the Transatlantic Market**

15. Gives its full support to the ongoing transatlantic partnership, which should be developed further in order to enhance mutual understanding and seek joint solutions to global issues;
16. Underlines that EU-USA relations need a project aimed at enhancing not only the political discussion within, but also the economic and social elements of, the partnership and that a proposal for a EU-US Framework Treaty including the completion of a 'Transatlantic Market' could be such a project;
17. Recommends, therefore, a continuous initiative designed to accelerate the implementation of WTO rulings which, in the context of a renewed partnership, and as a long term

objective, could lead to the completion of a 'Transatlantic Market' which would help to achieve the free movement of goods, capital, services and persons, taking full account of the interests of the developing world;

18. Whilst welcoming recent commitments made at Monterrey and in respect of the UN Global Fund against AIDS, TB and Malaria, calls on the transatlantic partners to substantially increase development aid and strategies to meet the 0.7 per cent UN target and UN Millennium Development Targets; calls, furthermore, for an absolute commitment to meeting the just demands of developing countries in the current WTO round, including a joint commitment to ending agricultural protectionism against developing-country producers;
19. Recommends pursuing the approximation of the Atlantic zone business and market conditions by developing joint actions at least in the following areas: financial services and capital markets; aviation; the digital economy; competition policy; the ethical dimension of trade; the performance of regulatory systems;
20. Underlines that responding along the same lines to major global challenges such as the issue of global warming (i.e. by ratifying and implementing the minimum standards of the Kyoto Protocol) and that of global justice (i.e. the functioning of the International Criminal Court) are issues which must become a priority in the reinforcement of transatlantic relations;
21. Calls on the transatlantic partners to jointly re-assess EU and US development aid and humanitarian assistance strategies and instruments (including the Bretton Woods institutions), focusing in particular on performance and complementarity;
22. Agrees with the European Commission that the US complaint to the WTO about the EU's authorisation procedures for GMOs is legally unwarranted, economically unfounded and politically unhelpful;

#### **EU-US security and defence matters**

23. Reiterates that NATO remains not only a fundamental guarantee of Euro-Atlantic stability and security, but also the essential framework for coalition operations; underlines that it is in the interest of the transatlantic partnership and the word's stability to strengthen both NATO's capabilities and European defence;
24. Believes that a stronger Europe is important to the further development of NATO and that enhancing CFSP and ESDP is the best way of reinforcing NATO along the lines of the Prague Summit of November 2002;
25. Reaffirms its requests on the development of a European Security Strategy which would define the Union's values and interests in the field of promoting world-wide stability, conflict prevention and crisis management, and set out the Union's approach to making the world a safer place;

26. Underlines that the European Security Strategy should pay special attention to the Union's position on issues which the U.S., with its National Security Strategy, seems to interpret differently, followed by an in-depth dialogue, the two major points being currently the legitimacy of the use of military force in the absence of a UN mandate and the concept of preemptive strikes; a broad consensus should be possible in the field of fighting terrorism in the framework of the global coalition set up after the 11 September terrorists attacks; the promotion of democracy and the rule of law should appear as a common objective;
27. Urges again the EU and the US to seek to ensure the revival of institutionalised or negotiated arms control at multilateral level within the UN system and at bilateral level, in order to prevent a new arms race, and to support regional and global action to prevent the proliferation not only of weapons of mass destruction but also of small arms and light weapons;

#### **A renewed institutional framework**

28. Underlines that only with wider involvement at all levels of the Congress, the EP and national parliaments will it be possible really to enhance the whole process; considers therefore that the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue (TLD) should be fully activated, that an early-warning system should immediately be put in place between the two sides, and that the existing interparliamentary exchange should be gradually transformed into a de facto 'Transatlantic Assembly';
29. Reaffirms that the Annual EU-US Summit should be restructured in order to provide strategic direction and impetus to the transatlantic agenda, also actively involving civil society in the process;
30. Considers that the EU must support – including financially – exchanges between young people, particularly students and researchers, from relevant parts of society in order to guarantee that mutual understanding between partners can grow and to avoid relations being driven by a lack of understanding and knowledge on both sides;
31. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the parliaments of the Member States and the President and Congress of the United States of America.