

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

26 June 2003

B5-0329/2003

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

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

by Charles Pasqua

on behalf of the UEN Group

on the situation in Chechnya

European Parliament resolution on the situation in Chechnya

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolutions of 7 October and 18 November 1999, 20 January, 17 February, 16 March and 13 April 2000, and 15 April 2001,
 - having regard to the formation within the European Parliament of an ad hoc delegation for Chechnya,
 - having regard to the conflict that has been going on for several years between the Russian Federation and Chechen separatist terrorists,
 - having regard to the international political situation since the tragic events of 11 September 2001 and the urgent need to combat all forms of terrorism,
 - having regard to the increasing number of suicide attacks that Chechen terrorists have committed and admitted to in recent weeks, which have produced hundreds of victims among Russian forces and civilians,
 - having regard to the constitutional referendum held in Chechnya on 23 March 2003 on the province's status in the Russian Federation,
 - having regard to the Duma's adoption on 6 June 2003 of a bill tabled by the President of the Russian Federation granting amnesty to rebels who lay down their arms before 1 September and who have not committed serious crimes,
- A. having regard to the extreme violence of the terrorist acts committed in Moscow and throughout the Russian Federation since September 1999,
- B. whereas these criminal acts were very probably sponsored, organised and carried out by fundamentalist armed separatist groups that have grown up in the province of Chechnya,
- C. whereas fundamentalist terrorist networks are a threat not only to the Russian Federation but to all democratic nations,
- D. whereas the President of the Russian Federation has expressed his wish to find a political solution to the conflict in Chechnya,
1. Supports the Russian Government's action, including its policy aimed at strengthening national cohesion within the Federation, a necessary condition for continuing the process of democratisation;

2. Pays tribute to the Russian President's readiness to take a resolute stand against terrorism and notes that this decisive policy has won very widespread support among Russian public opinion;
3. Considers, as was moreover shown by the recent decision to put the police forces in charge of on-the-ground operations, that the Russian authorities' operations in the province of Chechnya are intended solely for the maintenance of order and, because of this, the conduct of these operations remains strictly within the competence of the Russian Federation;
4. Considers, in this connection, that there is a risk that non-governmental organisations' activities in Chechnya will constitute partisan acts that are contrary to the Russian Federation's interests;
5. Calls on the international community to respect the Russian Federation's sovereignty and consequently to show realism in expressing its views on the conflict between the Russian Federation and Chechen terrorist factions;
6. Notes in passing the positive developments in respect of the international community and the European Union with regard to the Russian authorities' efforts towards pacification and normalisation in the province of Chechnya;
7. Considers that the maintenance of order in Chechnya and the total eradication of terrorism in the province are also part of the international fight against terrorism;
8. Welcomes the holding of the constitutional referendum in Chechnya, held in accordance with the undertakings of the President of the Russian Federation, and notes the Chechen people's clear wish to remain within the Russian Federation;
9. Considers that a political solution to the Chechen problem presupposes *prior* and *definitive* renunciation of violence by the Chechen fundamentalist separatists;
10. Welcomes in this connection the Duma's adoption of the law granting amnesty to rebels who lay down their arms before 1 September;
11. Calls on the rebels to commit themselves to this solution and make a definitive break with the main leaders of sedition, Shamil Basayev and Aslan Maskhadov;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the authorities of the Russian Federation, the governments of the Member States and international organisations for the defence of human rights.