

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

30 June 2003

B5-0341/2003

DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

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

by Francis Wurtz

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on Chechnya

European Parliament resolution on Chechnya

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the findings of its ad hoc delegation to Chechnya of 15 to 17 June 2003,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on Russia,
 - having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Russia which entered into force on 1 December 1997,
 - having regard to the Common Strategy of the EU on Russia dating from June 1999 and valid for a period of four years,
 - having regard to its resolutions of 10 April 2002¹ and 16 January 2003² on Chechnya,
 - having regard to its resolution of 21 November 2002 on the outcome of the EU-Russia summit of 11 November 2002,³
 - having regard to the Commission Communication to the Council and Parliament of 11 March 2003 entitled ‘Wider Europe – Neighbourhood: a new framework for relations with our eastern and southern neighbours’ (COM(2003) 104),
 - having regard to the sixth meeting of the Cooperation Council between the EU and Russia on 15 April 2003,
 - having regard to the 2003 tercentenary celebrations in St Petersburg and the EU’s representation,
- A. whereas the Chechen Republic has for more than a decade been experiencing a situation of armed conflicts, insecurity and instability; whereas the population of Chechnya, regardless of ethnic background, is suffering the daily consequences of this conflict; whereas living conditions in Chechnya and in particular in Grozny are disastrous, as the water supply, sewage system and electricity grid are severely damaged; there is a complete absence of any opportunity for employment and levels of personal security are clearly very low,
- B. whereas the combination of ill-disciplined troops and the apparent failure to pursue alleged crimes committed by service personnel has created a climate of impunity, leading to more human rights violations,
- C. whereas humanitarian organisations are being hindered in their work by lack of access to

¹ P5_TA(2002)0174.

² P5_TA(2003)0025.

³ P5_TA(2002)0563.

Chechnya and lack of support from the Russian side, in particular in the form of for permission to import necessary technical and security equipment; whereas the independent media also have no access,

- D. whereas the European Union and other international donors have repeatedly offered their assistance to alleviate the humanitarian situation,
- E. whereas the OSCE mission's original 1995 mandates in Chechnya covered alleged human rights violation, relief aid, help for refugees, conflict resolution and supporting mechanisms for maintaining law and order,
 - 1. Condemns the continuing grave violations of international humanitarian law, extra-judicial executions, arrests, torture and disappearances, and ill-treatment of civilians by the Russian army and Chechen fighters; condemns all form of terrorism;
 - 2. Reaffirms its position that there is no military way to solve the problems in Chechnya and that without a political solution acceptable to the majority of the Chechen people there can be no lasting peace and stability in the region;
 - 3. Considers that the ongoing conflict in Chechnya has to be seen as a conflict of various dimensions, not only involving the fight against terrorism and separatism; considers that the failure of the political dialogue and democratic reforms, the disproportionate use of force by the Russian army and the absence of reconciliation and physical reconstruction after the first Chechen war provided the ideal ground for the continuation of the conflict;
 - 4. Urges the Government of Russia to put a stop to military atrocities and to intensify efforts towards political dialogue, demilitarisation, democratisation and reconstruction of Grozny and other parts of Chechnya in order to provide the basic necessary conditions for political and social reconciliation;
 - 5. Calls for an ongoing political process involving all parts of Chechen society, in order to arrive at truly democratic and fully representative elections by the end of the year;
 - 6. Reiterates that the primary responsibility for the reconstruction of Chechnya lies with Russia; reaffirms the readiness of the EU to support the reconstruction process;
 - 7. Reiterates its concerns about human rights abuses in Chechnya and its call upon Russia to establish a proactive policy towards the prosecution of all citizens, including military personnel, who have committed serious criminal acts in Chechnya; calls for international monitoring of the human rights situation;
 - 8. Urges the Russian Federation to agree to the renewal of the full OSCE mandate, which should not be restricted to focusing on coordinating humanitarian assistance in the region, but should also include all former tasks of the OSCE missions;
 - 9. Calls on the Russian Government to grant access to the media and facilitate access of NGOs and, in particular, humanitarian health organisations to the region, providing security and giving permission for the importing of necessary technical and security

equipment;

10. Emphasises that the return of internally displaced people should be an objective, but that this return must be voluntary and based on a real improvement in living conditions in Chechnya, particularly as regards security;
11. Welcomes the decision by the Commission to commit further funds to humanitarian aid for Chechen refugees;
12. Calls on the Commission to prepare a programme of rehabilitation in Chechnya, including in particular educational programmes such as professional training and support for higher education, which will be needed urgently for the rehabilitation of an entire generation of young people deeply endangered by the decade of armed conflict;
13. Urges the Council and the Commission to reestablish the issue of Chechnya as a separate item on the agenda of the political dialogue, with a view to assisting the search for a political solution to the conflict in a constructive manner;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Parliament and Government of the Russian Federation, and the Chechen authorities.