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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

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

by Monica Frassoni, Matti Wuori, Nelly Maes and Marie Anne Isler Béguin

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on the initiative in favour of a universal moratorium on the death penalty in the context of the UN

European Parliament resolution on the initiative in favour of a universal moratorium on the death penalty in the context of the UN

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on a universal moratorium on the death penalty,
 - having regard to the resolutions on the moratorium on capital punishment adopted by various UN bodies, including the Commission on Human Rights,
 - having regard to the numerous occasions on which the EU has advocated a universal moratorium on capital punishment, and the recent declaration by the Presidency to mark the first World Day against the Death Penalty on 10 October 2003,
 - having regard to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the European Union decided, in the guidelines on the death penalty adopted by the General Affairs Council in Luxembourg on 29 June 1998, to work within international bodies towards a universal moratorium on the death penalty and its abolition in due course,
- B. whereas on 2 July last the Italian Presidency of the Council told the EP that the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations, currently in session in New York, of a resolution establishing a moratorium on capital punishment was one of its political priorities as regards foreign policy,
- C. emphasising that on 29 September this year the President of the European Commission stated that he agreed with the European Parliament and urged that the campaign in favour of a worldwide moratorium on capital punishment, which has been under way for decades, should at last come to a successful conclusion at the General Assembly,
- D. whereas since 1994, when a resolution calling for the establishment of the moratorium, submitted for the first time to the General Assembly, was rejected by only 8 votes, 33 countries in the world have abolished the death penalty de jure or de facto,
- E. recognising that because of the current repressive mood and tension within the international community as regards the methods used to combat international terrorism, it is imperative to tackle the issue once again with determination; underlining, moreover, that there is a good chance that a majority of the UN General Assembly would vote in favour of a resolution calling for a universal moratorium if induced to take up the challenge;
- F. expressing regret that the Italian Presidency of the Council has still not submitted the text of a resolution calling for the establishment of a universal moratorium to the UN General Assembly and that it has not made any move to submit a draft resolution either to the

other EU countries or to the UN, and stressing that the deadline for the submission of such a text is 7 November this year,

- G. pointing out that thousands of people are executed all over the world each year and that the adoption of a universal moratorium is thus a tangible political objective of extraordinary importance, which the EU is urged not to overlook,
1. Reiterates its request to the Italian Presidency of the European Union to submit, without delay, a draft resolution calling for a universal moratorium on capital punishment to the UN General Assembly currently in session in New York;
 2. Urges the EU institutions, starting with the Italian Presidency of the Council, to make every endeavour in the political and diplomatic spheres to make up for lost time and to ensure the most appropriate support for the resolution within the UN General Assembly;
 3. Regrets that the wait-and-see attitude of the EU and the Italian Presidency of the Council has already caused months of potential work to this end to be wasted;
 4. Asks the current Presidency, the Council and the Commission to come and tell the European Parliament about the results achieved in the UN General Assembly at the first plenary sitting after the conclusion of the deliberations in New York;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council Presidency, the Commission, the parliaments of the Member States, the UN Secretary-General and all the member countries of the General Assembly.