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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

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on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the Brussels European Council of 16-17 October 2003, including a progress report on the work of the Intergovernmental Conference

European Parliament resolution on the Brussels European Council of 16-17 October 2003, including a progress report on the work of the Intergovernmental Conference

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the statements by the Council Presidency and the Commission on the outcome of the Brussels European Council, including a progress report on the work of the Intergovernmental Conference,

I. IGC

- I.1 Draws attention to the important work carried out by the Convention, in particular its proposal for a Constitution for the European Union;
- I.2 Rejects the idea that the IGC should reopen the discussion on issues on which a consensus was reached in the Convention, in particular on the role of the Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- I.3 Expresses its concern at the disappearance of the lawmaking Council as a reliable and effective partner for Parliament in the ordinary legislative process and as a guarantee of transparency and openness;

II. Relaunching the European economy

- II.1 Shares the view that economic policies should continue to be aimed at producing job-creating and sustainable growth: to achieve this, the key priorities should be maintaining sound macroeconomic policies, accelerating structural reforms and the promotion of investment in infrastructure and human capital;
- II.2 Welcomes the proposed boosting of investment in key projects (the Growth Initiative) and considers it to be essential to act within the framework provided by the Stability and Growth Pact as well as the current financial perspective ceilings;
- II.3 Expects concrete decisions to be taken at the European Council on 12-13 December 2003;
- II.4 Underlines that the credibility of this initiative is dependent on compliance with the Lisbon Agenda, especially as far as structural reforms are concerned, in particular efforts to increase flexibility on the product, capital and labour markets; special attention should be paid to increasing the competitiveness of European businesses, and, with a view to obtaining the greatest possible benefits from the Lisbon Agenda, the Growth Initiative should focus on those projects which increase potential economic output;

- II.5 Furthermore considers it to be essential to the success of this initiative that it should focus on projects that are economically and financially viable and that a maximum level of co-financing of these projects should be attained; thorough cost/benefit analyses should be conducted when establishing priorities and identifying a list of projects for the 'quick-start programme'; this initiative must complement the aims and resources of the internal market;

Trans-European transport networks

- II.6 Welcomes the fact that the European Council once again emphasised the vital role which the building of the trans-European transport networks (transport TENs) can play in stimulating and relaunching economic growth in an enlarged Union and in strengthening the competitiveness of the internal market;
- II.7 As regards the financing of the transport TENs, calls for additional efforts to be made to release resources from the Community and national, regional and local budgets, the EIB and the private sector with a view to implementing these ambitious projects which are fundamental to growth in the European Union;
- II.8 Calls on the Member States to act rapidly to eliminate technical, legal and administrative obstacles to the implementation of priority projects, in particular transfrontier transport projects;
- II.9 Notes that, otherwise, the Presidency conclusions contain little by way of new policy guidelines and decisions reached, but rather consist of summaries of previous conclusions and details of bureaucratic procedures in preparation for future European Councils, with no mention of the political and legislative role of the European Parliament;
- II.10 Expresses concern at the increasing signs that the EU's Lisbon strategy has lost its way, given the European Council's request to the Commission to produce yet another report, this time on avoiding 'de-industrialisation', the absence of any overall 'roadmap', and the demonstrable lack of commitment to the implementation by national governments of EC legislation often agreed on in codecision with the European Parliament;

Sustainable development

- II.11 Regrets the fact that the European Council underestimated the importance of environmental aspects and the incorporation of those aspects in other Community policies;
- II.12 Endorses and encourages the impetus lent by the Thessaloniki European Council, and built on by the Italian Presidency, to the process of establishing international environmental diplomacy; expresses its disappointment, however, at the lack of follow-up, action and tangible progress in this area;

III. Strengthening freedom, security and justice

Managing the Union's common borders

- III.1 Welcomes the European Council's determination to establish more effective management of borders, in the interests of the security of European citizens, and supports the proposed allocation of EUR 140 million over the period 2004-2006 to cover the most pressing needs in this area;
- III.2 Notes the European Council's call for the setting-up of a Border Management Agency, but would itself prefer to see an operational structure established as a precursor to a European Corps of Border Guards with responsibility for supporting their national counterparts;
- III.3 Welcomes the establishment of maritime and air centres to manage Mediterranean borders, the first steps towards the cooperation which is vital to combating illegal immigration and the trafficking of human beings in that region, the consequences of which can be tragic, as has recently been demonstrated on the Mediterranean coasts of Spain and Italy;

Controlling migratory flows

- III.4 Notes that the issue of migration and asylum remains a political priority for the European Council, but that, despite the repeated calls for the implementation of the Tampere programme, particularly in those made Thessaloniki in June 2003, very little progress has been made;
- III.5 Calls, therefore, on the Justice and Home Affairs Council to adopt quickly minimum measures on asylum and the basic features of a common immigration policy, including the proposals on long-stay residents, the status of refugees¹ and residence arrangements for third-country nationals²;
- III.6 Notes the Council's wish to strengthen the partnership with the third countries concerned, an essential corollary of the fight against illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings; notes, however, that no progress has been made here again, especially with regard to the negotiation of readmission agreements at EU level, which may result in the reappearance of bilateral readmission agreements, and hopes that the signing of such agreements will not stem solely from a wish to secure better visa facilities;
- III.7 Is in favour of a return policy showing due respect for humanitarian principles, but considers that this policy should be funded by a specific instrument with a new legal basis;

¹ COM(2001) 127, COM(2000) 578 and COM(2002) 71.

² COM(2002) 548 and COM(2001) 386.

- III.8 Expresses full support for action to ensure the security of travel and residence documents through the introduction of biometric data; recalls, however, that this should be done with the utmost respect for data protection standards;
- III.9 Welcomes the idea of a study initiated by the Commission on links between legal and illegal immigration; recalls, however, as stated by the European Council, that each Member State must have control over the number and qualification of persons admitted to its territory and that any use of quotas by the Union must be restricted to negotiations with third countries;

Judicial and police cooperation

- III.10 Welcomes the Council's wish to strengthen police and judicial cooperation, and calls once again for Europol's powers to be strengthened and for it to be communitised; calls also for the effective pooling of the Schengen (SIS II, VIS) and Europol information systems, with due respect for data protection standards;
- III.11 Approves the importance given by the European Council to combating drug trafficking and welcomes the deadline given to the Justice and Home Affairs Council for adopting the framework decision on the subject (end of 2003), and recalls that punitive action must focus primarily on traffickers and criminal or terrorist organisations which fund their illegal activities with the proceeds of drug trafficking;
- III.12 Warmly welcomes, as the European Council has done, the agreement reached by the JHA Council in October 2003, thanks to the diligent action of the Italian Presidency, on recognition and implementation of judgments in matrimonial matters and in matters of parental responsibility, and hopes that the Regulation will be adopted at the same time as the decision on ratification of the Hague Convention;

V. External relations

Euro-Mediterranean partnership

- V.1 Endorses the crucial importance attached to the Mediterranean countries and the European Council's determination to develop and deepen the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, and agrees on the need to actively enhance the economic development of that region through concrete action, promoting political dialogue and cultural cooperation;

Moldova

- V.2 Welcomes the Council's support for the OSCE's efforts to bring about a comprehensive political settlement of the Transdniestrian issue in the Republic of Moldova;
- V.3 Stresses the need for a constructive approach in order to bring the process to a

conclusion and, in this context, urges the Russian Federation and the Ukraine to discharge, together with the OSCE, their role as mediators; with regard to the completion of the withdrawal of Russian forces, joins the Council in calling on the Russian Federation to take all the necessary steps to comply with the Istanbul/Porto commitment by the end of 2003;

Relations with the Arab world

- V.4 Strongly supports the initiative launched at the last European Council to promote closer dialogue with the Arab countries using the instruments currently available and calls on the Council, the High Representative and the Commission to report to it on the progress made in that field;

Middle East

- V.5 Strongly condemns the increasing violence in the region and regrets the inadequate efforts and progress made by both parties concerned towards seizing the opportunity for peace offered by the Road Map, despite the support mobilised by the international community;
- V.6 Calls on the two parties, in view of the delicate situation, not to declare the peace process dead and immediately to resume and continue all the measures necessary to implement the Road Map for peace;
- V.7 Strongly condemns the intensification of terrorist attacks and all the instances of violence which have occurred in recent days, including the criminal act that led to the deaths of three US citizens in the Gaza Strip on 15 October 2003, and calls for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- V.8 Calls on the Palestinian National Authority to do everything in its power to firmly and effectively combat terrorism, showing clear determination, and to pursue the reforms needed to enable an empowered Prime Minister to perform his duties, including those of controlling and consolidating the Palestinian security services, in a determined effort to confront the terrorist threats;
- V.9 Recognises Israel's legitimate right to protect its citizens, but, when exercising this right, urges it to exert maximum effort in order to avoid civilian casualties, to avoid aggravating the humanitarian and economic situation of the Palestinian people, and to abstain from measures which are not in accordance with international law, such as extrajudicial killings;
- V.10 Is particularly concerned that the continuation of the settlement policy and the construction of the so-called security fence by Israel departing from the route of the 'green line' could prejudice future negotiations and make the two-State solution physically impossible to implement;
- V.11 Fully endorses the European Union's determination to put into practice the elements recognised by the Road Map and reiterates the importance and urgency of setting up a

credible and effective third-party monitoring mechanism;

Iraq

- V.12 Welcomes Resolution 1511 unanimously adopted by the United Nations Security Council and expresses the EU's commitment to playing a significant role in the political and economic reconstruction of Iraq within the framework of its humanitarian assistance and reconstruction programmes and in direct cooperation with the UN;
- V.13 Insists on the importance and the essential role of the UN in the political and economic transition process in Iraq, with the objective of promoting the development of democratic structures with full participation by democratic Iraqi forces from the very beginning of this transition process;
- V.14 Reaffirms the responsibility also borne by the international community to address the challenges of the post-war period in Iraq by supporting internal security and promoting political stability and progress in the country, with a view to achieving, as soon as possible, sovereignty for the Iraqi people whilst respecting Iraq's territorial integrity and within the framework of a democratic process;
- V.15 Recommends that the International Donors Conference to be held on 24 October 2003 in Madrid should be preceded by the establishment of a clear framework, agreed by the international community, and calls on the EU and its Member States to actively contribute to the positive outcome of that Donors Conference, through substantial contributions from the EU and national budgets;

Iran

- V.16 Shares the European Council's grave concern about Iran's nuclear programme and expects Iran to cooperate fully and unconditionally with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) by signing, ratifying and implementing the IAEA Additional Protocol on Safeguards and to act immediately in accordance with it;
- V.17 Joins the European Council in calling on Iran to suspend all uranium enrichment-related and reprocessing activities;
- V.18 Supports the European Council's position that wider cooperation with Iran can only be achieved through increased international confidence on the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme as well as improvements in the areas of human rights, fight against terrorism and Iran's position on the Middle East peace process;

Kosovo

- V.19 Welcomes the first direct dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina in the framework of the International Community Strategy based on UNSCR 1244, organised by UNMIK, sponsored by the EU, NATO and the OSCE and opened by Chancellor Schüssel in Vienna on 14 October 2003, with the participation of the High Representative for the

CFSP Javier Solana, NATO Secretary-General Lord Robertson, the Serbian delegation led by the Prime Minister Zoran Zivkovic and the Kosovar delegation led by President Ibrahim Rugova;

- V.20 Regrets that some of the key interlocutors did not take part in these discussions;
- V.21 Calls on the Council and all the parties involved in the dialogue to facilitate joint efforts towards achieving normalisation in Kosovo and to bring it up to EU standards, on the basis of the opportunities offered by the Stabilisation and Association Process, by making Belgrade and Pristina seriously and unconditionally committed to a constructive dialogue on practical issues of mutual interest, not least in order to reach better standards and a legal framework in Kosovo which does not create obstacles to investment and economic growth;
- V.22 Welcomes the European Council's decision to stress the importance of setting up working groups on Energy, Transport and Communication, Returnees and Missing Persons to focus on practical problems of daily life; in this framework, calls on the Council, and strongly supports UNSGSR Harri Holkeri's efforts to use all the necessary political influence, to obtain from the Kosovar and Serbian authorities a commitment to participate in this process on a multiethnic basis;
- V.23 Calls on the Council to insist on playing a more active role in establishing a road map and a time-frame with the aim of reaching, as soon as possible, a conclusion on the final status of Kosovo;

Guatemala

- V.24 Is following with the closest interest the serious incidents and acts of violence which have occurred in Guatemala, including within the Constitutional Court; expresses its concern at the impact these incidents may have on the forthcoming presidential elections and hopes that a free, transparent and democratic process will offer the best guarantees of leading the country out of the climate of violence, intimidation and serious unrest that affected the pre-electoral period;
- V.25 Firmly supports the European Union electoral observation mission and the European Parliament electoral observation mission and calls on the Guatemalan local authorities to lend their practical support to the work of both missions in order to facilitate and contribute to their tasks of monitoring the electoral process closely;
- VI. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Presidency of the European Council, the Council and the Commission.