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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 Charles Pasqua, Cristiana Muscardini, Gerard Collins and Luís Queiró

on behalf of the UEN Group

on the Brussels European Council of 16 and 17 October 2003

**European Parliament resolution on the Brussels European Council of 16 and 17 October 2003**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the conclusions of the Brussels European Council of 16 and 17 October 2003,

**I. IGC**

- A. whereas work at the Intergovernmental Conference is now under way,
- B. whereas the draft treaty not only fails to include separate, specific provisions for the common fisheries and aquaculture policy (CFP) – even though the CFP is now a sectoral Community policy in its own right and has specific aims – but has also demoted it to the rank of adjunct of the common agricultural policy,

**II. THE EUROPEAN ECONOMY**

- C. whereas it is vital that a favourable environment be created for enterprise and entrepreneurship; whereas the development of public and private-sector investment should make for greater competitiveness and a better employment situation, whilst at the same time ensuring that this does not interfere with the restructuring of macroeconomic policies and structural reforms,
- D. whereas innovation, research and development and skills are crucial for Europe's growth potential; whereas, therefore, the pursuit of the goals of the Lisbon Strategy must be an absolute priority,
- E. whereas in this regard specific attention must be devoted to the needs of innovative SMEs operating on the technological boundary and to technology transfer to peripheral and outermost regions,
- F. whereas the principles set out in the Growth Initiative put forward at the Brussels European Council of 16 and 17 October 2003 are consistent with the Stability and Growth Pact and the current Financial Perspective ceilings and are in line with the commitments in the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines,
- G. whereas the building of new trans-European transport networks and its knock-on benefits will act as a catalyst for economic development and cohesion in an enlarged Europe that is consistent with balanced spatial planning,
- H. whereas for these projects to be organised there must be adequate coordination of all available financial resources, public and private alike, quite apart from the commitments to be provided from the Community budget for the cross-border sections of the new trans-European networks, which fall far short of meeting needs,

### **III. FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE**

- I. whereas the expansion of the Union's borders resulting from the forthcoming enlargement will require greater management of borders with a view to developing an area of freedom, security and justice,
- J. whereas illegal immigration and the criminal trafficking in asylum seekers are matters of great concern in the EU and call for closer cooperation with those third countries which are the main sources of immigration, the implementation of a return programme and the development of an Visa Information System,
- K. whereas common rules on immigration and the management of external borders are an important step in the follow-up to the conclusions of the Thessaloniki, Seville, Laeken and Tampere councils,
- L. whereas the new Commission proposals, biometric identifiers and visas make policy in this area more effective,
- M. whereas there must be closer judicial and police cooperation in the operational fight against terrorism and drug trafficking,

### **IV. EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

#### **Middle East**

- N. whereas, in spite of the continuing terrorist attacks and violence, the Road Map remains the only peace accord proposed by the international community that both parties have accepted,
- O. whereas the political reforms promised by the Palestinian authorities must yield concrete results,

#### **I. IGC**

- 1. Welcomes the opening of the Intergovernmental Conference in Rome on 4 October and notes the Italian Presidency's intention to adhere to the timetable in line with the conclusions of the European Council meeting in Thessaloniki;
- 2. Calls on the Italian Presidency actively to pursue political discussions, including consultations with all government representatives, with a view to finding common ground;
- 3. Calls on the governments of the Member States to ensure that at the IGC the common fisheries and aquaculture policy (CFP) is fully recognised as a policy in its own right and to include the aims of the CFP in the final text of the future treaty;
- 4. Expects that, once it has completed its work, the IGC will present national parliaments and the citizens of the Member States with a revamped treaty whose fundamental provisions uphold the principle of institutional balance which has consistently made it possible to reconcile the interests and equality of the Member States with the demands of European integration;

## II. EUROPEAN ECONOMY

5. Endorses wholeheartedly the principle of a strategy for European competitiveness;
6. Stresses that the key areas of this strategy will be the internal market and action in support of industry and of research and technology, and that the strategy will seek to facilitate public and private-sector initiatives and ease the administrative, tax and regulatory burdens on businesses;
7. Considers it essential to increase private-sector involvement in financing projects, including the use of the EIB's Structured Finance Facility;
8. Believes that integrated and stable financial markets will help channel savings into productive investment and enhance economic growth;
9. Draws attention to the crucial importance of SMEs to the economic fabric of the Member States, and thus encourages any initiative likely to foster entrepreneurship in the European Union, including moves to ease the administrative burden on businesses by reducing the tax take and improving the quality of services rendered by public administrations;
10. In this regard welcomes the efforts by some Member States to improve services to users in public administrations and the public services by introducing and developing information and communication technologies;
11. Calls on Member States to implement measures to reduce the obstacles to business start-ups by simplifying administrative procedures, improving access to capital, encouraging the creation of networks, fostering skill levels, raising the profile of work in small businesses and promoting entrepreneurship;
12. Welcomes the decision to hold an extraordinary Social Summit in December on the follow-up to the report of the European Employment Task Force headed by Wim Kok, and trusts that the Commission will take account of the task force's findings in drawing up its employment guidelines;
13. Welcomes the willingness on the part of the Council of Ministers to study the recent Commission proposal on new trans-European networks, which could serve to kick-start economic growth in Europe; reserves the right to give its opinion on the projects outlined in the Commission communication, whilst holding to the view that they are a satisfactory starting point for providing the new, enlarged Europe with sound and effective communication networks;
14. Believes that the pledge to give due consideration to railway and maritime projects, including the development of the new motorways of the sea, if consistent with the strategy in the White Paper on transport, may go some way towards restoring the transport balance by promoting less polluting sectors and thus, hopefully, relieving road congestion;
15. Is aware of the difficulties and challenges involved in seeking and obtaining the funds required to carry out these projects; in this regard, welcomes the Commission proposal to increase the share of Community funding for cross-border sections to 30%; considers

private-sector involvement in these projects and the role of the European Investment Bank to be essential;

### **III. FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE**

16. Welcomes the Commission's intention to look into the allocation of EUR 140 million to support for the management of external borders, the implementation of a return programme and the Visa Information System;
17. Notes the creation of an air border centre and two maritime border centres, which highlights the need to tighten maritime borders, which have been widely breached in recent months, especially in Italy;
18. Endorses the Council's commitment to a balanced approach between, on the one hand, the need to stop illegal immigration and to fight against the trafficking in human beings and, on the other hand, the reception and integration of legal immigrants;
19. Attaches great importance to the conclusion by the Community of readmission agreements and the implementation of the action plan adopted in November 2002 on immigration policy, which fully complies with humanitarian principles and respect for the dignity of the person;
20. Notes that most of the deadlines that emerged from the European Council meetings in Seville and Thessaloniki have passed and that the proposals on asylum and procedures have yet to be adopted by the Council;
21. Welcomes the intention to step up police, judicial and customs cooperation in the fight against serious crime, terrorism and drug trafficking according to the proposed timetable; notes the approval of the Council regulation on parental responsibility and matrimonial matters;

### **IV. EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

#### **Middle East**

22. Appeals once again to both parties to ensure that the measures already taken or pending are effective and lead to the conclusion of a peace agreement that follows the recommendations of the Road Map;
23. Strenuously condemns the terrorist attacks that have ravaged Israel and all other acts of violence; calls on the Palestinian Authority and its President to take decisive measures to place all Palestinian security services under the clear control of the Prime Minister and Interior Minister and confront groups conducting and planning terrorist attacks;
24. Whilst recognising its right to protect its citizens from terrorist attacks, urges the Israeli Government to exert maximum effort to avoid civilian casualties and to refrain from extra-judicial killings;
25. Believes that a peace agreement will benefit both parties, the Middle East as a whole and the international community;

## **Iraq**

26. Welcomes the unanimous adoption of the United Nations Security Council resolution on Iraq and the EU's commitment to play an important role in political and economic reconstruction;

## **Iran**

27. Reiterates its grave concern with regard to Iran's nuclear programme and gives its full support to the IAEA Board of Governors resolution of 12 September;
28. Expects Iran to cooperate fully with the IAEA in implementing that resolution; renews its call on Iran promptly and unconditionally to sign, ratify and implement the IAEA Additional Protocol on Safeguards and to act immediately in accordance with it;
29. Calls further on Iran to suspend all uranium enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, and rejects the prospect of nuclear proliferation in the region, which is already far from stable;

## **Euro-Mediterranean relations**

30. Firmly believes in the need to continue supporting the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership through concrete initiatives in the political, economic and cultural spheres; looks forward to a successful outcome of the forthcoming Ministerial Meeting in Naples;
31. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and applicant countries.