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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 GUE/NGL Group

on the Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to be held in Naples on 2 and 3 December 2003

B5-0471

European Parliament resolution on the Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Foreign Ministers to be held in Naples on 2 and 3 December 2003

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Mediterranean countries' Ministerial Conference due to be held in Naples on 2 and 3 December 2003,
 - having regard to the Barcelona Declaration and the work programme adopted on 28 November 1995 at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference,
 - having regard its earlier resolutions on Mediterranean policy and on relations between the EU and Mediterranean countries,
 - having regard to the Commission communications to prepare the VIth Meeting of Euro-Mediterranean Ministers of Foreign Affairs to be held in Naples on 2 and 3 December 2003,
 - having regard to the Commission communication of 11 March 2003 on the new strategy as regards the enlarged EU's new borders,
 - having regard to the Commission communication of 15 October on strengthening Euro-Mediterranean relations,
- A. whereas over recent years the European Union has focused its attention on the enlargement process and left the Barcelona Process to its own devices,
- B. whereas the absence of any solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will continue to undermine the development of the Barcelona Process,
- C. whereas Euro-Mediterranean parliamentary dialogue initially took place within a parliamentary forum bringing together representatives of the peoples of the two shores of the Mediterranean and whereas the forum's conversion into a parliamentary assembly (EMPA) forms part of the action programme of the VIth Meeting of Euro-Mediterranean Ministers of Foreign Affairs,
- D. whereas the European Union's Mediterranean policy complements the new European neighbourhood policy,
- E. having regard to the serious economic and social problems facing the Mediterranean countries,
- F. having regard to the restrictive immigration and asylum policies conducted by many Member States,
- G. whereas further progress needs to be made as regards respect for democracy and human

rights,

- H. whereas in a number of partner countries women have unfortunately yet to be actively involved in social and political life,
1. Calls for EU relations with the Mediterranean countries to be stepped up on the basis of genuinely equitable cooperation free of any spirit of domination;
 2. Is in favour of closer parliamentary cooperation and calls for the Ministerial Conference in Naples to approve the conversion of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum into a parliamentary assembly with consultative powers;
 3. Believes that the EMPA's role will be to ensure the smooth functioning of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and proper implementation of the association agreements concluded between the European Union and Mediterranean partner countries;
 4. Calls for the Valencia Ministerial Conference decisions on the establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean Foundation to promote further dialogue between cultures and civilisations to be acted upon, for an operational decision to be taken thereon at the Naples Ministerial Conference and for the requisite financial resources to be allocated to the foundation;
 5. Calls for greater account to be taken of Mediterranean countries in the implementation of the enlarged EU's new neighbourhood policy;
 6. Reiterates its call for an assessment to be made of the economic, social and environmental impact of existing association agreements and for all the necessary conclusions to be drawn therefrom;
 7. Calls for association agreements between the EU and Mediterranean countries not to be based on free trade, which has serious economic and social consequences in industry and agriculture;
 8. Calls for measures to be taken to develop regional cooperation in all areas and to ensure that European exports, in particular in agricultural products, do not penalise local production;
 9. Calls for more effective coordination of agricultural policies and cooperation in this field with a view to establishing an 'agricultural policy for Euro-Mediterranean development' based on complementarity and taking into account social, environmental and regional development aspects;
 10. Calls on the Council to instigate an in-depth debate exploring the prospects for a multi-dimensional Euro-Mediterranean agricultural system geared to product complementarity, sustainable development and the environment;
 11. Regrets that the Commission and the Council have focused mainly on private investment; calls for the development of cooperation projects relating to public services (transport, energy, telecommunications, water, health and education) of benefit to the development of Mediterranean countries and meeting the needs of populations;

12. Deplores the continued human rights violations in many Mediterranean countries; calls for the establishment of specific mechanisms to ensure that the human rights clause in association agreements is fully and more effectively applied;
13. Calls for the introduction of specific lines for women's involvement in social and political life;
14. Notes the progress made in the management of the MEDA programmes; calls for further efforts to be made in this direction, giving priority to sustainable development and human rights projects;
15. Calls for the Ministerial Conference to address the debt issue; is in favour of reducing or even cancelling the debt; calls for a study to be carried out with a view to the establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean Development and Cooperation Fund enabling populations to define local projects and monitor their implementation;
16. Notes the holding in the second half of 2003 of a ministerial conference on migration and the social integration of migrants; recommends that partner countries and the institutions concerned open a wide-ranging debate, involving public authorities as well as trade unions and associations, with a view to introducing harmonised immigration and asylum legislation aimed at fostering the development of countries of origin and ensuring that the treatment afforded to migrants in host countries is respectful and fair, in keeping with human rights standards and based on the free movement of persons and equality of rights vis-à-vis nationals;
17. Deplores the guidelines laid down by the Thessaloniki European Council on Community aid, to be devoted essentially to the management of external borders, the 'return' programme and the development of the visa information system; calls instead for Community aid to continue to be geared to meeting people's needs;
18. Condemns the recent proposal of the Spanish Secretary of State for Immigration to introduce a clause in readmission agreements to make it possible to penalise third countries which fail to honour their commitments;
19. Calls for political and security cooperation not to be confined to fighting terrorism and other forms of organised crime; stresses that the fight against terrorism should be conducted with due respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
20. Considers that a fair and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict is a fundamental prerequisite for peace and stability in the region;
21. Emphasises the urgent need for the cycle of violence afflicting the Israeli and Palestinian peoples to be halted by bringing the Israeli military occupation to an end, destroying the 'wall', achieving the goal of 'two peoples, two states', supporting those Israelis and Palestinians who are working for a fair and equitable settlement to the conflict, especially the Palestinian and Israeli Peace Coalition that drew up the 'Geneva Agreement'; calls on the Quartet to commit itself to implementing this Agreement and thus making the road map effective; considers that the establishment of a climate of trust between Israelis, Palestinians and the Arab world would be of the utmost importance to Euro-

Mediterranean relations;

22. Calls on the Ministerial Conference to give its firm support to the 'Geneva plan' and make every effort to ensure that it is applied rapidly;
23. Calls on the Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers actively to work towards a settlement of the conflict in the Western Sahara through the implementation of the United Nations peace plan;
24. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the candidate countries and the Mediterranean countries.