

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2004

Session document

17 November 2003

B5-0490/2003

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled for the debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by John Cushnahan, Geoffrey Van Orden, Thomas Mann, Philip Bradbourn and Bernd Posselt

on behalf of the EPP-ED Group

on Sri Lanka

PE 338.614

B5-0490/2003

European Parliament resolution on Sri Lanka

The European parliament,

- Having regard to its previous resolutions of 18 May 2000 and 14 March 2002 on Sri Lanka
 - Having regard to the cease-fire agreement signed between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tamil Tigers of Eelam (LTTE) which entered into force on 23 February 2002
 - Having regard to the peaceful atmosphere thus created, for a period of over 21 months, in which a negotiated long term settlement to the conflict is possible
 - Having regard to the Oslo Declaration of December 2002 where the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE agreed to explore a solution based on a federal structure within a united Sri Lanka
 - Having regard to the support given by the EU and the wider international community for the peace process as reflected at the Tokyo Conference on Reconstruction and Development of Sri Lanka on 9 and 10 June 2003 which pledged 4.5 billion US dollars over the next four years to underpin it,
 - Having regard to increased investor confidence in the success of the ongoing peace talks causing the Sri Lankan economy to flourish, with exports beginning to accelerate and incoming tourism increasing significantly
1. Acknowledges the bold steps taken by the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE to create the conditions in which negotiations may lead to a political solution and a lasting peace;
 2. Welcomes therefore the publication of the proposals by the Government of Sri Lanka for a provisional administrative structure and also by the LTTE for an interim self-governing authority;
 3. Urges both parties to commence direct negotiations in January 2004;
 4. Acknowledges the contribution of the Government of Norway in facilitating the ongoing negotiations between the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE and deeply regrets that the current political crisis and lack of clarity as to who has political authority has obliged the Government of Norway to suspend its mediation role;
 5. Expresses therefore its deep concern at the recent decision of President Chandrika Kumaratunga to sack the Ministers for Defence, Interior and Information, and to prorogue the Parliament of Sri Lanka;
 6. Regrets that the comments made by President Kumaratunga cast doubts on the validity of the cease-fire agreement signed by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe with the LTTE;
 7. Is deeply worried at the impact that the current crisis will have on the peace process itself;

8. Calls for every effort to be made to resolve the current political impasse so as to ensure the resumption of the peace process without any hindrance and believes that this can be achieved best by the full and immediate restoration of Parliamentary and Governmental functions;

9. Urges the President, in the national interest, to work together with the democratically elected Government and its Prime Minister

10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the President and Government of the Republic of Sri Lanka.