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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 Anne André Leonard

on behalf of the ELDR Group

on Georgia: presidential and parliamentary elections

PE 339.896

B5-0547/2003

European parliament resolution on Georgia: presidential and parliamentary elections

The European parliament,

- having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and Georgia;
 - having regard to its Resolution, 20 November 2003, on the Wider Europe-New Neighbourhood Policy;
 - having regard to the parliamentary elections, 2 November 2003, in Georgia;
 - having regard to the resignation of President Edvard Shevardnadze, 23 November 2003;
 - having regard to the annulment of the elections by the Supreme Court of Georgia;
- A. whereas a new presidential election is anticipated, 4 January 2004, and the scheduling of parliamentary elections is not yet decided;
- B. whereas the people of Georgia have brought about peaceful change in the presidency of their nation;
- C. whereas the people of Georgia have shown their attachment to democratic change and their abhorrence of distrust, corruption and lack of transparency in the previous government;
- D. whereas a peaceful and prosperous Georgia is vital to the stability of the region in particular and to Europe in general, human rights, pluralism and parliamentary democracy being cornerstones of that stability;
- E. deeply concerned for viability of the economy and the extent of foreign indebtedness of Georgia of 1.8 billion dollars;
- F. considering that Georgia lies at the gateway for people and trade between the European Union and Asia, and as such is vital to economic growth for people in both regions;
1. Congratulates the people of Georgia on the political change that they have recently set in hand;

2. Demands determined leadership by the European Union in promoting peace, stability and economic development in Georgia, as well as in Azerbaijan and Armenia;
3. Insists that the Special Representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus should be empowered to implement the policy objectives of the European Union in the region, one of which is ensuring the integrity and sovereignty of Georgia;
4. Maintains that the forthcoming elections in Georgia must be free, fair and transparent, including the peoples of the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, who were denied freedom and the freedom of political choice that participation in previous elections would have offered;
5. "Demande aux autorités d'Abkhasie et d'Ossétie du Sud d'une part et d'Adjarie d'autre part, de prendre la juste mesure des changements intervenus à Tbilissi et de saisir cette occasion pour entamer des négociations qui permettent de résoudre les contentieux entre ces régions et Tbilissi de façon durable et satisfaisante pour les deux parties".
6. Welcomes the grant agreed by the by the Italian Presidency for the organisation of the Presidential elections, 4 January 2004, and calls on the European Union to provide technical and financial support for the conduct and observation of this elections, and for the foreseen parliamentary election throughout Georgia, ensuring the democratic rights of its people;
7. In order to free these elections from external influences, requests the Russian authorities to fulfil transparently their undertaking, given the OSCE Summit, 1999, in Istanbul, to close immediately their military bases and withdraw forthwith from Georgia;
8. Invites the Council and Commission to propose to the central authorities in Georgia, and to the regional authorities in Abkhazia and in South Ossetia, the despatch of a mission for the maintenance of peace in these regions and as a measure to relaunch the process for resolving differences between these regions and the central authorities;
9. In view of the economic collapse of Georgia, expresses its grave concern for the health and wellbeing of the people of Georgia ahead of winter, and calls on the Commission to submit proposals for emergency aid for heating, for electrical auxiliary power supplies and for supplies of food and medicine;
10. Requests its President to transmit this resolution to the Council, to the Commission, to the Acting President of Georgia, to the OSCE, and to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and to the Government of the Russian Federation.