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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 Margrietus J. van den Berg and Jannis Sakellariou

on behalf of the PSE Group

on the lifting of the EU embargo on arms sales to China

European Parliament resolution on the lifting of the EU embargo on arms sales to China

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the conclusions of the European Council of 12 and 13 December 2003 in Brussels,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the 6th Summit meeting between China and the European Union held in Beijing on 30 October 2003,
 - having regard to the recent release of both EU and China policy papers on EU-China relations, which pave the way for the development of relations in the years to come,
 - having regard to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas policy towards China must necessarily take the following three key factors into account: economic and trade considerations, China's role in world politics and regional order and security issues, and the development of human rights and the rule of law,
- B. whereas the EU reaffirms that it continues to adhere to the 'one China' policy principle,
- C. whereas China and the EU have reaffirmed their commitment to promoting peace, security and sustainable development throughout the world,
- D. whereas China and the EU attach great importance to multilateral non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament,
1. Recognises that the political situation in China has moved on since the events of June 1989 (Tiananmen Square incident) and that significant changes have also occurred in relations between the EU and China, including the quality of the political dialogue;
 2. Calls on the Chinese Government to ratify the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which it signed in 1998;
 3. Expresses its hope for a peaceful resolution of the Taiwan question through constructive dialogue, notably through support for efforts to counter proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; calls on the Beijing authorities to continue the dialogue which has been initiated with the representatives of the Dalai Lama with the aim of finally arriving at an acceptable solution for the autonomous region of Tibet;
 4. Considers the conclusions of the Brussels European Council of 12 and 13 December 2003 to be helpful and calls on the General Affairs and External Relations Council and the Commission to reconsider the issue of the embargo on arms sales to China;
 5. Notes that progress has been made in the field of respect for human rights since the institution of the new partnership between the EU and China; considers, nevertheless, that

it is not yet sufficient and that the Chinese Government should display greater courage in this field;

6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the EU Member States and applicant countries and the Government of China.