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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 Per Gahrton, Marianne Isler-Beguin and Miquel Mayol

on behalf of the Green/EFA Group

on Georgia

PE 340.627

B5-0560/2003

European parliament resolution on Georgia

The European parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on South Caucasus and Georgia,
 - having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation agreement between the EU and Georgia,
 - having regard to its resolution on the Wider Europe-New Neighbourhood policy of 20 November 2003,
- A. Pointing out that the general elections of 2 November were marked by widespread irregularities whereby gross manipulations and frauds added to technical and administrative problems,
 - B. Stressing that the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the EP ad hoc delegation stated that the elections fell short of international standards,
 - C. Highlighting the deep economic crisis which Georgia is passing through at present and the necessity for a short and medium term international aid plan,
 - D. Underlining the peaceful way through which the Georgian people were capable of bringing about the recent deep political and institutional changes,
 - E. Whereas the recent events proved once more the fragility of Georgian institutions and the urgency of a plan for the consolidation of democracy and for the beginning of a process of reconciliation between all the parties of the Georgian society,
 - F. Having regard to the role played by Russia, notably its Foreign Minister Ivanov, as to the resolution of the recent political crisis,
 - G. Pointing out the deadlock of the two peace processes in Abkhazia and South Ossetia and the tension arising between the autonomous Republic of Adzhara and the new Tbilisi authorities which contribute further to weaken the Georgian state structures,
 - H. Whereas at the recent OSCE Ministerial Summit, the EU reaffirmed the need to reach an early agreement between the parties on the duration and modalities of the functioning of the Russian military bases within the territory of Georgia;
 - I. Whereas Georgia has stressed on many occasions its European vocation showing a deep interest in getting closer to the EU with a view to making an application for membership in the long term,

1. Welcomes the “velvet” revolution which took place in Tbilisi, congratulates with the new authorities and calls on them to create the conditions for a full return to democracy and the setting up of credible and reliable institutions;
2. Welcomes the appointment of an EU Council Special Representative for the South Caucasus, as called by the European Parliament, who should contribute to the implementation of the EU's policy objectives in the region; regrets, nevertheless, his limited mandate and urges the Council to provide him with all the necessary resources to make his action effective and visible; urges Member States which are involved in conflicts resolution in the region to actively cooperate with him;
3. Calls on the Council and the Commission to find ways and means to support the new Georgian authorities providing the necessary political, financial and technical assistance to stabilise the situation, define a strategy for reforms and prepare for the general elections; welcomes, in this respect the grant agreed by the Presidency in office for the organisation of Presidential elections which will take place on 4 January 2004;
4. Souligne la correspondance entre progrès des réformes socio-économiques et politiques - qui conditionnent la stabilité d'un Etat - et investissements budgétaires communautaires; insiste en ce sens pour le déblocage d'une enveloppe budgétaire prioritaire et d'urgence, en rapport aux besoins et déficits de cette petite République, et en rapport aux ressources et moyens de l'UE, pour stabiliser préventivement une Géorgie en mutation;
5. Urges the Council and the Commission to include the question of the three peace processes in South Caucasus in the development of the EU-Russia partnership to create the necessary momentum to overcome the present deadlock; deplores the meeting held in Moscow between the leaders of the three breakaway regions of Georgia and calls on the Russian authorities to play a constructive aimed at defusing tension in Tbilisi, facilitating dialogue and supporting Georgia integrity and sovereignty;
6. Regrets, in this regard, the recent decision of the Russian Federation to introduce the facilitated visa regime for the citizens of Adzharia, without consulting Georgian authorities, as well as the recent arrangements to speed up the process of provision of Russian citizenship to the citizens of Abkhazia and Adzharia
7. Rejects the statements by the Russian President Putin and Foreign Minister Ivanov stating that Russia retains the option to make use of preemptive strikes on bordering countries in case of danger;
8. Convoque toute la vigilance de la Commission sur les projets de regroupement des effectifs militaires de certains Etats de la CEI avec les contingents russes qui y stationnent, et notamment dans l'Arménie voisine, et appelle à une réponse de l'UE pour prévenir toute escalade ou exacerbation des tensions ou menaces dans cette sous-région sud-caucasienne déjà par trop traumatisée et fragilisée;

9. Calls on the Council and the Commission to increase TACIS-democracy programmes for Georgia with regard, in particular, to the consolidation of democratic institutions, the development and strengthening of civil society and the support for independent media;
10. Instructs its President to forward the present resolution to the Council and the Commission, the interim President and the Government of Georgia, the President of Russia and the OSCE.