

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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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 Charles Pasqua, Cristiana Muscardini, Gerard Collins and Luís Queiró

on behalf of the UEN Group

on the Brussels European Council of 12 and 13 December 2003

0582

**European Parliament resolution on the Brussels European Council of 12 and 13 December 2003**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the conclusions of the Brussels European Council of 12 and 13 December 2003,
- having regard to the Council's decision on 6 March 2003 to establish the Tripartite Social Summit and to formalise the role of the social partners in the implementation of the EU's Social Agenda and the achievement of the objectives set by the European Council,
- having regard to the extraordinary Tripartite Social Summit on 11 December to discuss the Commission's growth initiative and the report of the Employment Task Force,
- having regard to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure,

**I. ECONOMIC GROWTH**

1. Welcomes the approval by the European Council of the European Action for Growth on the basis of the reports presented by the ECOFIN Council, the Commission and the EIB;
2. Supports the establishment of a 'quick-start programme' and the identification, according to a strict set of criteria, of a provisional list of projects for immediate action;
3. Considers it essential that if the Action for Growth is to be successful, all the actors concerned should play their role, in particular by taking the necessary steps to ensure implementation of the 'quick-start programme' so that the EIB and other relevant actors can provide appropriate financing;
4. Calls on the EIB to implement the financial instruments aiming at leveraging private capital, develop securitisation trusts and work with the Member States as they seek to mobilise resources by bringing infrastructure assets to markets;
5. Invites the Member States to complement the Action for Growth by national measures and programmes and to act rapidly to eliminate technical, legal, administrative and accounting obstacles to the implementation of public-private partnerships;
6. Welcomes the European Council's decision to officially launch the guidelines for the trans-European transport network with the approval of thirty specific transfrontier projects, which could lead to genuinely sustainable European growth in line with the strategy to restore a balance between different transport systems;
7. Is aware of the fact that, so as not to delay the start of the plan, the Member States will be able to give priority to the construction of sections which have already been the subject of a feasibility study and already have the agreement of the Member States concerned; draws

attention, however, to its prerogatives and competences in this area, as laid down by the Treaty;

8. Welcomes the holding of the Extraordinary Tripartite Summit and the results of the Kok Task Force on Employment and endorses the view that the ultimate objective of the employment reforms must be to boost employment and productivity levels in order to increase Europe's economic growth potential;
9. Considers that stronger implementation of labour market reforms which take into account the need for greater competitiveness, flexibility and security are possible and necessary and need to be urgently introduced if the Lisbon targets are to be achieved ;
10. Stresses the importance of fully respecting the new Employment Guidelines adopted earlier this year in the overall strategy of speeding up the implementation of the Lisbon agenda ;
11. Highlights the importance of better dissemination of innovation, more R&D, making work pay, developing a positive employment policy for active ageing, putting in place preventive unemployment policies, investing in training and life-long learning, introducing family-friendly employment policies and providing more affordable and accessible child-care ;
12. Believes that the social partners have a key role to play in implementing the four areas for action identified by the Employment Task Force and in helping to meet the targets set by the Lisbon process ;
13. Calls on the Commission to take full account of the report and recommendations of the Employment Task Force when it is drafting the Joint Employment Report for presentation to the 2004 Spring Council and calls on the Commission to follow-up the experience of the European Year of People with Disabilities 2003 by making the labour market more accessible to people with disabilities across the enlarged Europe;

### **III. FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE**

14. Welcomes the agreements reached on managing the Union's common borders on:
  - establishment of a European Agency for the Management of operational cooperation at the common borders,
  - adoption of the programme of measures to combat illegal immigration across the maritime borders, and
  - the measures aimed at easing control procedures at the borders between Member States and acceding States;
15. Welcomes the Council's general approach on the issue of biometric identifiers and its endorsement of the creation of a financial instrument aimed at supporting a common approach in the area of return policy; supports the dialogue with third countries of origin and transit and their efforts to stem migratory flows as well as all their measures to prevent illegal immigration;

16. Welcomes the progress achieved by the Council in the area of police and judicial cooperation, in particular:

- the initiative enabling Europol to play a more important role in the action carried out by Member States in fighting organised crime and terrorism,
- the intensification of police cooperation with several third countries of strategic importance for the EU as far as the fight against organised crime is concerned,
- the political agreement reached by the Council on drugs;

17. Notes with satisfaction the Italian Presidency's initiative on interfaith dialogue;

### **III. ENLARGEMENT**

18. Invites the future new Member States to intensify and complete their preparations for membership of the European Union and calls on the Commission to take all the necessary steps to welcome the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia as full members of the Union on 1 May 2004; also underscores the continuity and irreversibility of the ongoing enlargement process, of which Bulgaria and Romania form an integral part;

### **IV. CYPRUS**

19. Reiterates it hopes to see a reunited Cyprus join the Union on 1 May 2004; draws attention in this context of the importance of the expression by Turkey of the political will to find a solution to the issue of Cyprus;

### **IV. EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

#### **Western Balkans**

20. Takes note of the positive developments in the Western Balkans and looks forward to the Commission's reports on the feasibility of Stabilisation and Association Agreements or developments in the current negotiations, and its opinion on Croatia's application for membership of the EU;

21. Is convinced that the countries in the region must step up their efforts to fight organised crime and corruption and to develop the judicial system and public administration;

#### **Euro-Mediterranean partnership**

22. Welcomes the success of the Euro-Mediterranean conferences in Naples, Palermo, Venice and Rome devoted to political relations, trade, agriculture and infrastructure;

23. Reaffirms the strategic importance of the Mediterranean for the European Union and supports the recent establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly and the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue of Cultures and the reinforcement of the Euro-Mediterranean Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership; hopes that this facility will soon be transformed into an EIB subsidiary;

## **Iraq**

24. Sees the capture of Saddam Hussein by the American forces as a significant new step towards peace, stability and democracy in Iraq and in the region and welcomes it; in this context, invites all countries, and especially those in the region, to contribute actively to the stability and economic reconstruction of Iraq;

## **Terrorism**

25. Condemns unequivocally all recent terrorist attacks, including those in Istanbul, which killed or injured many people of different nationalities and faiths, and those against Iraqis, the multinational forces and international organisations and their staff, seeking to jeopardise the process of political and economic reconstruction in Iraq;

## **Middle East Peace Process**

26. Reaffirms its support for the road map for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and the creation of two sovereign, democratic and viable States, Israel and the Palestinian State;
27. Reaffirms the Council's position urging the Palestinian Authority to concretely demonstrate its determination to combat terrorism and extremist violence and urging the Israeli government to dismantle settlements built after March 2001;
28. Opposes, in the context of the interfaith dialogue and while supporting initiatives by civil society, any form of extremism, intolerance and xenophobia and condemns all acts of anti-Semitism and incitement to racial or religious hatred;

## **Arab world**

29. Is convinced that relations with the Arab world should be stepped up on the basis of shared values and respect for mutual rights; welcomes the report by the High Representative and existing programmes, such as the Barcelona process and the New Neighbours Initiative;

## **Transatlantic relations**

30. Welcomes the European Council's adoption of the declaration on transatlantic relations, the first paragraph of which clearly recognises that these relations are irreplaceable; remains resolutely committed to a constructive, balanced and forward-looking partnership with our transatlantic partners;

## **Latin America the Caribbean**

31. Welcomes the impetus recently given to negotiations for a EU-Mercosur Association Agreement and calls for this to be finalised as soon as possible; stresses the importance of the conclusion of negotiations for the two agreements on political dialogue and cooperation with the Andean community and Central American countries which will be signed in Rome on 15 December 2003;

32. Regrets that the European Council did not discuss the situation in Cuba, particularly in the light of the Cuban authorities' refusal to grant Oswaldo Paya Sardinias, the 2002 Sakharov Prize laureate, a visa to visit Europe to explain his position on the current situation in Cuba;

#### **Africa**

33. Reaffirms the importance of the partnership with Africa and welcomes the strengthening of the EU-Africa dialogue as indicated by the positive and constructive outcome of the EU-Africa Ministerial Troika in Rome on 10 November 2003;

#### **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

34. Urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply fully with the NPT and completely, verifiably and irreversibly dismantle its nuclear programme, which poses a serious threat to regional and global security;

#### **VI. OTHER DECISIONS**

35. Welcomes the European Council's decision to determine the seats of the new European Union agencies, which will enable the new bodies to operate effectively;

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36. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the national parliaments of the Member States and the governments and parliaments of the acceding States and applicant countries.