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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Daniel Marc Cohn-Bendit, Monica Frassoni, Nelly Maes, Per Gahrton,
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on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on EU aid to Iran following the earthquake

European Parliament resolution on EU aid to Iran following the earthquake

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 37(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the earthquake which hit the ancient city of Bam on 26 December 2003 killed at least 30 000 people, injured many thousands more and left an estimated 40 000 homeless,
- B. whereas this disaster represents not only a tragic loss of human lives but also the destruction of a rich 2000-year-old cultural heritage of Iran,
- C. whereas the impact of large earthquakes in the developed world is never as severe as in poor countries, and the almost entire destruction of the city of Bam was mainly due to the fact that most structures were unreinforced,
- D. whereas the European Union Humanitarian Aid Office has allocated EUR 2.3 m to address the most urgent humanitarian needs in Bam and is prepared to examine further requests,
- E. whereas the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, arrived in Tehran on 11 January 2004 in order to transmit the European Union's solidarity with the Iranian nation over the earthquake and pay a visit to Bam,
- F. whereas the Guardian Council has barred about half of the 8 200 candidates from standing for the 20 February 2004 parliamentary elections, including 80 present members of parliament and two deputy speakers of the assembly,
- 1. Expresses its solidarity with the victims of the earthquake disaster in Bam;
- 2. Calls on the Commission to continue to respond to the needs of the surviving population after the catastrophe has dropped out of the newspaper headlines;
- 3. Calls on the Iranian government to consider methods in order to improve the earthquake security of buildings in Iran, and calls on the Commission to offer its support if requested;
- 4. Welcomes strongly Iran's signature of the additional protocol to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty on 18 December 2003, and urges the Iranian government to reconsider its investments in nuclear power in favour of more modern, environmentally friendly and earthquake-safe technology;
- 5. Welcomes the recent regional efforts to improve diplomatic ties between various countries in the Middle East, notably the resumption of Iran-Egypt relations and the tripartite talks between Turkey, Syria and Iran, as a step forward towards peaceful coexistence in this conflict-ridden part of the world;

6. Expresses its strong concern over the decision of the Guardian Council to eliminate half of the candidates for the parliamentary elections;
7. Believes that this unprecedented censorship could lead to a complete disengagement of the Iranian public from the elections and would compromise the legitimacy of their results;
8. Calls on the Guardian Council President, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, to revise this decision, in order not to jeopardise the democratic development of Iran and the future of the country, and to establish the necessary conditions for elections in Iran to be free and fair;
9. Welcomes Mr Solana's critical stand on the disqualifications, and believes that the Guardian Council's verdict seriously calls in question the new EU-Iran rapprochement;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Government and Parliament of Iran.