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## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

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

by Pernille Frahm, Pedro Marset Campos and Esko Olavi Seppänen

on behalf of the GUE/NGL 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 its previous resolutions on relations between the EU and Iran,
- having regard to Rule 37(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. deeply shocked by the earthquake which devastated the Bam region in Iran on 26 December 2003,
- B. whereas this violent earthquake, which registered 6.8 on the Richter scale, claimed 30,000 lives, injured more than 20,000 people, made thousands of people homeless and caused a great deal of material damage,
- C. whereas the damage in the city of Bam is all the more serious because the buildings do not meet earthquake standards, mainly because of the cost,
- D. whereas more than 20 countries responded to the appeal for aid launched by the Iranian authorities by sending rescuers and supplying equipment, food products and medicines,
- E. whereas the European Union immediately brought emergency aid to the stricken population,
- F. whereas the earthquake has aggravated the problems faced by a population already suffering from unemployment, which affects an estimated 15% of the workforce,
- G. whereas 20% of Iranians live below the poverty line, whilst the oil and gas riches ensure an annual revenue of 20 billion dollars,
- H. whereas the United States has decided to partially suspend the sanctions imposed on Iran for the last twenty years,
- 1. Offers its condolences to the families of the victims and its support to the stricken population;
- 2. Admires the wave of solidarity in the country, the speed of the rescue operations and the scale of the international mobilisation, which enabled the population to be helped;
- 3. Welcomes the emergency aid brought in by the EU and hopes that it will be supplemented by long-term aid for the reconstruction of the areas hit by the disaster;
- 4. Calls on the Iranian authorities to take account of the wishes of the population and to apply earthquake standards in the reconstruction work;
- 5. Calls on the Iranian authorities to use the oil revenue for the benefit of the most

disadvantaged sections of the population;

6. Considers that the implementation of the reforms required for the respect of fundamental freedoms and the democratisation of institutions should help to improve the economic and social situation;
7. Instructs its delegation for relations with the Mashreq countries to tackle all these issues, including cooperation between Iran and the EU, at its next meeting with Iranian members of parliament;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the present and future Member States and the Iranian Government.