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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 Ilkka Suominen, Michael Gahler, Arie M. Oostlander, Bernd Posselt, and Lennart Sacrédeus

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on parliamentary elections in Iran

PE 342.362

B5-0094/04

European parliament resolution on parliamentary elections in Iran

The European parliament,

- A Recognising the sovereign right of the Iranian people to choose its constitutional framework
- B Committed to universal values such as the rule of law, respect for human rights and democracy
- C Underlining that the right to stand for Parliament is an essential element of democratic life and that exceptions thereof should be clearly defined under the law
- D Following with interest the political debate in Iran on the procedures governing the establishment of the lists of candidates for the next Parliament
- E Noting the widespread indifference and political apathy of the wider Iranian public with regard to this key question of inner state democracy
- E Noting that President Khatami together with Madjlis speaker Karrubi in a letter to Ayatollah Khamenei finally agreed to hold the elections, but warned that “the actions of the Guardian Council had diminished competition and would lead to reduced public enthusiasm for voting”
- F Noting with respect and understanding the reactions of banned parliamentarians in submitting their resignations
- 1 Regrets that the progress made so far in Iran towards the establishment of democratic structures has suffered a severe setback as unelected structures have shown to be stronger than those institutions directly legitimated by the people of Iran
- 2 Shares the view of the Iranian president and a majority of Madjlis members that the upcoming elections cannot be described as free and fair, primarily due to the exclusion of many candidates including acting parliamentarians
- 3 Encourages the Iranian people not to stand aside at this crucial moment, but to make every use of their constitutional rights and obligations
- 4 regrets that an election that could not be described as free and fair would not be a good example for the already fragile region of the Middle East and would not leave EU-Iran relations unaffected,
- 5 is therefore even more convinced that this situation makes a continued and intensified dialogue of all relevant European institutions with Iranian decision-makers and civil society more important than ever, including EP - Majlis relations, and welcomes the setting up of a separate EP delegation for relations with Iran
- 6 strongly favours the active inclusion of the Iranian judiciary and the Guardian Council in the EU-Iran human rights dialogue

7 also favours a parallel approach to identify areas of common interest and take concrete operational steps, e.g. with regard to a final solution for the nuclear issue, where the EU has already played a constructive role

8 calls on Council and Commission to work on joint activities with Iran to combat drugs production in Afghanistan and their illegal transit through Iran on their way to Europe and especially to supply Iran with the necessary technical equipment to enable the competent authorities to be more effective and welcomes in this respect Irans preparedness to share sensitive information

4 Asks its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission, and the President and the Parliament of Iran