

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

30 March 2004

B5-0180/04

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

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

by Francis Wurtz

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the conclusions of the European Council held on 25 and 26 March 2004

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European Parliament resolution on the conclusions of the European Council held on 25 and 26 March 2004

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the European Council Presidency Conclusions,
- having regard to Rule 37(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

IGC

1. Notes the avowed wish of the Council that agreement on the Treaty should be reached no later than the June European Council;
2. Regrets the fact that the European Council did not announce any changes to the articles in the draft Treaty relating to economic and monetary policy, to social policy and to competition policy, since those policies are based exclusively on the principle of the open market economy where competition is free and do not meet citizens' expectations;
3. Deplores the concept of a European security policy based on the military dimension in close cooperation with NATO and on an increase in the Member States' military budgets; rejects war as an instrument for resolving international differences and takes the view that the EU's security policy must be founded on conflict-prevention and the peaceful settlement of differences in compliance with international law and the principles laid down in the UN Charter;
4. Calls for the following changes to be made to the draft 'Constitution':
 - review of the objectives and missions of the ECB, which must be made subject to democratic scrutiny, with account being taken of the objectives of sustainable development and employment,
 - review of the Stability Pact, with account being taken of social, employment and training criteria,
 - improvement of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, with workers' rights (in particular, acknowledgement of the right to work) being enhanced, women's rights guaranteed, equal rights for third-country nationals recognised and the clause establishing a distinction between rights and principles withdrawn,
 - full and complete recognition of the public services, which must be made subject to the rules on competition and be based on the principles of continuity, solidarity and equality of access and treatment for all users,
 - the Commission to consist of one Member per Member State and no longer to have the exclusive right to propose legislation or the exclusive right to take decisions relating to competition,

- appropriations from the Cohesion Fund to be granted on the same terms as those from the other Structural Funds and to be subject to phasing-out;
5. Calls for referendums to be organised in all the Member States for the ratification of the future 'European Constitution',

Fight against terrorism

6. Expresses its sympathy and solidarity with the victims of the terrorist attacks in Madrid and with their families and the Spanish people and welcomes the Council's adoption of the proposal that 11 March be celebrated every year as a day of commemoration for the victims of terrorism;
7. Notes the decisions taken by the European Council as part of the 'anti-terrorist plan' which seek essentially to revive and make more efficient the possibilities for coordination between the police and justice services in the Member States which were adopted after the 11 September 2001 attacks;
8. Notes that the European Council did not approve the establishment of a European agency, along the lines of the CIA but preferred to rely on the coordination of national services;
9. Notes the application of the 'solidarity clause', which provides for mutual assistance in the event of a terrorist attack on a Member State, and condemns terrorism in any form, including state terrorism;
10. Reaffirms its concern at the serious threat to fundamental rights implied by the inclusion of biometric data (fingerprints, retinal pattern) in identity documents and calls for total compliance with the provisions of Directive 95/46/EC;
11. Renews its opposition to the agreement concluded between the United States and the Commission concerning the transmission of personal data relating to airline passengers; takes the view that this jeopardises the protection of personal data, which is a fundamental right of every citizen; calls explicitly on the Council to reject that agreement;
12. Notes the appointment of a 'Terrorism Czar', under the authority of the High Representative for the CFSP, but calls for him to be given the role solely of a European Controller in the fight against terrorism, without any decision-making powers, which must remain the province of governments;
13. Takes the view that all these measures are inspired by the US Patriot Act which strengthens the powers of the police and justice systems, creates a register of information on all citizens and may well jeopardise fundamental freedoms;
14. Deems it necessary to provide all European citizens with a high level of protection, security and transparency in respect for their rights; calls, none the less, for the war on terrorism to be waged with due respect for fundamental freedoms and individual guarantees, international law and the spirit and letter of the UN Charter;

15. Takes the view that, by coordinating a war unilaterally, the United States and its allies must bear a large share of the responsibility for the increase in acts of terrorism;
16. Takes the view that there will never be security in the world unless account is taken of the specific nature of terrorism, which feeds on all world crises, injustices and frustrations; calls on the European Union to take action with a view to the implementation of wide-ranging measures on a global scale so that political solutions may be found to those crises;
17. Takes the view that, if those objectives are to be attained, priority must be given, as a matter of urgency, to an end to the occupation of Iraq, to a call on the Israeli Government to apply in full and completely the relevant UN resolutions and to the recognition of a sovereign and viable Palestinian State; calls on the EU to take the requisite measures to achieve these demands;
18. Approves the convening of a World Conference Against Terrorism, under the aegis of the United Nations, so that every dimension of the phenomenon may be reviewed and decisions taken: cooperation between police forces, structural problems (poverty, debt, inequalities), the role of international financial and commercial institutions, and the campaign against tax havens and money-laundering;

Lisbon Strategy

19. Regrets the fact that the Council confirmed the Stability Pact and the Lisbon process and objectives, although it did acknowledge that the goals established in March 2002 have not been attained and that unemployment is now at an unacceptably high level; deplores the fact that, since the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy, economic aspects have held sway over social and environmental aspects;
20. Regrets the fact that the European Council did no more than encourage the implementation of commitments already made and the stepping up of the pace of reform, without seeking to learn lessons from the failures recorded since 2000, in particular in the social field;
21. Criticises the avowed wish to accentuate reforms in the fields of employment, health-care and pensions, since those reforms involve calling into question acquired welfare entitlements in a large number of Member States and are resulting in increasing public opposition; is in favour of the maintenance of a high level of welfare protection, based on solidarity as part of an allocation system;
22. Deplores the fact that the Council is emphasising exclusively 'competitiveness and the promotion of an entrepreneurial culture', without giving any thought to employees' living and working conditions;

23. Notes that the European Council is concerned by the threat of de-industrialisation; expects the forthcoming Commission report on de-industrialisation to include proposals for measures to curb restructuring and relocation, combat social and fiscal dumping, promote investment and employment and support economic and social cohesion; calls, in particular, for the rights and powers of employees and of their trade union organisations to be strengthened, even as far as granting them the right of a suspensory veto, particularly in the event of mergers and restructuring;
24. Criticises the Council's avowed wish to pursue the liberalisation process, without learning any lessons from experience acquired, and to accelerate the opening up of the services sector to competition;
25. Notes the Council's avowed intentions to strengthen social cohesion and to fight social exclusion; takes the view, however, that the economic policies hitherto implemented run counter to the established objectives, since they result in inequalities being exacerbated and in a rise in unemployment and poverty;
26. Deplores the fact that, once again, the Council has emphasised a reduction in wage costs, moderation in wage claims, worker mobility and flexible forms of work, measures which have already proved to be ineffective for the achievement of a reduction in the level of unemployment;
27. Believes that a different economic and social policy must be implemented, one based on quality jobs, improvements in employees' living and working conditions (including a reduction in working time), sustainable development, greater economic and social cohesion, and a return to public and social investment;
28. Notes the Council's avowed wish to accelerate progress towards the creation of a European area of knowledge and to increase investment in research and development; expects the Member States to honour their commitments, with particular regard to public investment, with a view to attaining the objective of 3% of GNP by 2010;
29. Welcomes the confirmation of support for the European offer for the ITER project and supports all its efforts to have the European site selected by the international community;
30. Notes the commitments given with regard to the increased use of renewable energy sources but expects more effective measures, in particular vis-à-vis industrialists who are challenging the objectives laid down with a view to meeting the Kyoto objectives; expects other parties, especially the United States and Russia, to take fresh decisions so that the Kyoto Protocol may finally enter into force;

Cyprus

31. Reaffirms its support for the accession of a unified Cyprus to the EU; calls on the Turkish authorities not to challenge the *acquis communautaire* with regard to Cyprus, to withdraw its troops from northern Cyprus and to participate in the negotiations with a view to the finding of a fair, viable and operational settlement, one which is in line with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions;

International situation

32. Is deeply concerned at the deterioration of the situation in the Middle East; deplores the fact that the Council seems to be treating as equal the responsibilities of the Israeli Government and of the Palestinian Authority for the 'present cycle of [retaliatory] violence';
33. Confirms its condemnation of acts of terrorism carried out against civilians, which nothing can justify; takes the view that the occupation by the Israeli army of Palestinian lands, with the subsequent acts of violence and humiliation and constant human rights violations, is exacerbating terrorism;
34. Condemns the assassination of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and all extra-judicial executions, which are contrary to international law; calls on the Israeli Government to put an end to such extra-judicial assassinations, and to dismantle its settlements and the Security Fence, since they all constitute obstacles to the implementation of any peace plans;
35. Takes the view that the European Council cannot be satisfied simply with giving its support to the Road Map; calls on the Council and the Member States to play a more active role in its effective application, in particular by exerting pressure on the Israeli Government so that it honours its commitments, where necessary by suspending the EU-Israel Association Agreement, as it has already called for;
36. Notes the interim report entitled: 'Strategic Partnership with the Mediterranean and the Middle East' but takes the view that it forms part of the logic behind the conclusion of the Euro-Mediterranean association agreements based on free trade; asks to be consulted before the adoption of the final report in June 2004, which should promote genuine cooperation free from any taint of domination, so that an area of peace and stability may be created, one in which inequalities are reduced;
37. Notes that the EU has expressed its willingness to collaborate with the United States as regards cooperation with the region without any assessment of the George Bush plan for the 'Greater Middle East', which plan is based on an alleged 'war of civilisations' and may well exacerbate conflict and promote terrorism;
38. Cannot accept that the European Council can assess as 'positive' the way in which the political situation in Iraq is developing, when that situation is marked by the continued American occupation of that country and persistent attacks;
39. Calls on the Member States concerned to withdraw their troops from Iraq and on the Council to take measures with a view to bringing to an end the occupation of Iraq and the presence of foreign troops there and to enabling the Iraqi people to affirm their sovereign right to exploit the country's natural resources and to determine its future by the holding of democratic elections;
40. Expects the International Conference on Afghanistan to contribute towards the restoration of fundamental freedoms, justice, democracy and respect for human rights, especially women's rights, by the creation of a constitutional state;

41. Is amazed at the unreserved congratulations addressed to President Putin on his re-election; calls for the forthcoming EU-Russia Summit, to be held on 21 May 2004, to concentrate on the situation in Chechnya in order to bring to an end the acts of violence perpetrated against the civilian population and to contribute to the peaceful resolution of the conflict;
42. Deplores the recurrence of violence in Côte d'Ivoire; calls on all the parties to put an end to acts of violence and to engage in dialogue and reconciliation, within the spirit of the Marcoussis agreement;
43. Regrets the fact that the European Council did not address the issue of Western Sahara; calls on the Irish Presidency to exert pressure on Morocco so that it, like the Polisario Front, may accept the application in full of the most recent version of the UN peace plan, until such time as a referendum may be held on self-determination;
44. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission and to the governments and parliaments of the current and future Member States.