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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up debate on statements by the Council and Commission
pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure
by Jan Marinus Wiersma and Justas Vincas Paleckis
on behalf of the PSE Group
on Ukraine

B6-0102/04

European Parliament resolution on Ukraine

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Ukraine,
 - having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between the European Union and Ukraine, which entered into force on 1 March 1998,
 - having regard to the Communication from the Commission of 11 May 2004 on the European Neighbourhood Policy - COM(2004) 373 final,
 - having regard to the Final Statement and Recommendations of the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee of 16-17 February 2004,
 - having regard to the Joint Statement of the Ukraine-European Union Summit of 8 July 2004 in The Hague,
 - having regard to the declaration of the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the forthcoming elections and media freedom in Ukraine,
 - having regard to the interim statements of the long-term international election observer mission in Ukraine,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the European Neighbourhood policy recognises Ukraine's European aspirations and the importance of Ukraine as a country with deep historical, cultural and economic links to the Member States of the EU,
- B. whereas within the framework of this European Neighbourhood policy an Action Plan is being prepared, which should include proposals aimed at encouraging the political and institutional reforms which will enable Ukraine to integrate progressively in EU policies and programmes,
- C. whereas a genuine and balanced partnership can only be developed on the basis of shared common values with regard, in particular, to democracy, the rule of law and respect for human and civil rights,
- D. whereas elections for the Presidency of Ukraine will take place on 31 October 2004 with a possible second round taking place on 21 November 2004,

- E. whereas the conditions under which these elections and the pre-electoral campaign are taking place will provide a serious proof for the state of democracy in Ukraine and for the authorities' adherence to these shared common values,
 - F. whereas the Ukraine authorities must therefore ensure all necessary conditions for holding free and fair elections, in particular, by guaranteeing equal and impartial access to the media and by refraining from abusing any administrative resources of the state to influence the outcome of the elections,
 - G. whereas as election day draws closer the climate surrounding the electoral campaign is becoming more tense by the day and the campaign itself is increasingly polarised,
 - H. whereas national and international observers have noted many cases of involvement of the State administration in favour of the incumbent Prime Minister, Mr Yukanovich, and against his main challenger, Mr Yushchenko,
 - I. whereas media monitoring has shown that most media outlets have failed to provide impartial and fair coverage of the main candidates' campaigns,
 - J. whereas the Ukrainian secret service has launched a terrorism investigation against the pro-opposition student group Pora and has raided the organisation's Kiev offices and arrested several of its members; whereas Pora activists in other Ukrainian cities have repeatedly complained of harassment and beatings by the police,
1. Underlines the importance of a further reinforced relationship between the EU and Ukraine and confirms the need to work together to contribute to increased stability, security and prosperity on the European continent, and to avoid the emergence of new dividing lines;
 2. Expresses its strong and continuing support for the efforts of the Ukrainian people to establish a fully functioning democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights in Ukraine;
 3. Stresses that the forthcoming elections, and in particular the respect of international standards for democratic rules during the electoral process, are of the greatest importance for the further development of relations between Ukraine and the European Union;
 4. Urges the Ukraine authorities to ensure all necessary conditions for the presidential elections to be free and fair both during the day of the elections and during the pre-electoral campaign and thus to ensure that its international commitments as enshrined by the Council of Europe and the OSCE are respected;
 5. Urges the Ukraine authorities to stop immediately all attempts to abuse administrative resources of the state to influence the outcome of the elections;
 6. Urges the Ukraine authorities to ensure that during the last phase of the election campaign all main candidates will be provided with impartial and fair coverage of their campaigns;

7. Strongly condemns the violent and discriminatory attacks of the secret service and other police units against the student group Pora and its members;
8. Insists on the importance of the presence of the many national and international observers and urges the Ukraine authorities to guarantee that they can carry out their mission freely and unobstructed;
9. Urges the Ukraine authorities to guarantee that the proceedings of the voting, the counting of the votes and the publication of the results will be transparent and according to international standards and that the whole of the elections will be conducted in a serious and dignified way;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to Council, the Commission, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the Secretary General of the OSCE/ODHIR and the Government and Parliament of Ukraine.