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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the High Representative for the
Common Foreign and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Joost Lagendijk, David Hammerstein Mintz, Margrete Auken and
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on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on the situation in the Middle East

European Parliament resolution on the situation in the Middle East

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Middle East and, in particular, that of 23 October 2003,
 - having regard to the Roadmap containing the peace plan for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, drawn up on 20 December 2002 by the Quartet and submitted on 30 April 2003,
 - having regard to UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 425, 1373 and 1397,
 - having regard to its resolution of 20 November 2003 on ‘Wider Europe - Neighbourhood: A New Framework for Relations with our Eastern and Southern Neighbours’,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. pointing out that the presidential elections of the Palestinian National Authority held on 9 January 2005 showed the maturity of the Palestinian people and their commitment to democracy and pluralism,
- B. deeply shocked at the attack by Palestinian militants which killed six Israelis at a checkpoint on the Gaza border on 13 January and the persisting and reiterated incursions of the Israeli army in the Occupied Territories, with the related daily killings of unarmed Palestinians,
- C. stressing that all efforts should be aimed at taking advantage of the new situation, resuming dialogue and stopping the spiral of violence,
- D. whereas the Action Plan with Israel and the Palestinian National Authority recently adopted by the Council gives the European Union an opportunity further to strengthen the partnership with the two governments, thus increasing its responsibility and leverage as regards the resolution of the conflict,
- E. pointing out that the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership can only move forward substantially and achieve its goals when a comprehensive and lasting settlement is reached in the Middle East,
1. Warmly congratulates the new President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, and welcomes the extraordinary exercise of democracy of the Palestinian people in spite of the roadblocks and the checkpoints of the Israeli Occupation forces, which were only

partially removed; regrets, in this regard, the restrictions on voting rights of East Jerusalem residents;

2. Calls on him to distance himself from his predecessor's ambiguous attitude towards the use of violence and to put into practice his electoral commitment to renew negotiations with Israel based on the Roadmap;
3. Calls also on the new Israeli Government not to miss the window of opportunity opened by the election of Abu Mazen, to engage promptly in negotiations with its Palestinian counterpart and to stop its policy of targeted assassinations and extrajudicial killings in spite of the attacks of those who want to derail any resumption of dialogue between the parties;
4. Calls on the Israeli Government to make the withdrawal from Gaza a credible first step in the Roadmap leading to a lasting peace by involving and negotiating it with the Palestinian authorities under the verification of an international observing mission; calls on the Council to exert pressure on both sides and find ways to provide the necessary assistance to make the withdrawal from Gaza successful;
5. Urges the Israeli authorities to halt the settlements and, as a sign of good will, immediately to stop the construction of the separation wall with a view to achieving a two-state solution which acknowledges the right of Israeli citizens to live in a state with secure and recognised borders and of the Palestinian people to live in a sovereign and viable state in the Occupied Territories;
6. Urges President Abu Mazen quickly to undertake his programme of domestic reforms with regard, in particular, to the long-awaited reform of the Palestinian security forces and the fight against corruption;
7. Urges the Quartet to take the initiative to convene all the parties concerned to a second Madrid Conference in order to accelerate progress toward a final peace agreement;
8. Believes that a lasting peace can only be sustainable with a genuine bottom-up approach involving the civil societies of the two sides striving for dialogue; calls, in this regard, on the Quartet to make full use of the Geneva Accord, which is complementary to the Roadmap and to facilitate the continuation of the negotiations between the civil societies in this framework;
9. Welcomes the decision of the Commission to allocate another € 7 million to humanitarian assistance for Palestinians, but calls on the Council and the Commission further to increase their aid and relief assistance to the Palestinian population in the Occupied Territories so as to alleviate its sufferings and provide the conditions for a strong economic recovery;
10. Calls on the Quartet to find ways to involve Syria and Lebanon constructively in future negotiations so as to reach a lasting global settlement;

11. Believes that a final and comprehensive settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is crucial for the whole of the Middle East and the Arab world and that the successful conduct of the elections in the Occupied Territories should be used as a model for the promotion of democracy in the area with regard, in particular, to Iraq;
12. Welcomes the effectiveness of the EU observation mission, and calls on the Council and the Commission to prepare another mission for the July general elections with the aim of supporting pluralism and balanced access to the media for all candidates and finding ways, with the Israeli authorities, of overcoming the problems which made it very difficult for Palestinians living in East Jerusalem to vote;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, and the governments and parliaments of Israel and the Palestinian National Authority.