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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on statements by the Council and Commission

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

by João de Deus Pinheiro, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Camiel Eurlings, Boguslaw Sonik, Elmar Brok and Armin Laschet

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the situation in Lebanon

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European Parliament resolution on the situation in Lebanon

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 16 January 2003 on the conclusion of an Association Agreement with the Republic of Lebanon,
 - having regard to UN Security Council Resolution 1559 of 2 September 2004,
 - having regard to the statement by the UN Security Council President of 15 February 2005,
 - having regard to the Council conclusions of 21 February 2005,
 - 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. having regard to the deplorable attack in Beirut on 14 February 2005 which cost the lives of Mr Rafic Hariri, the former Lebanese Prime Minister, and 14 other innocent civilians,
 - B. whereas this tragedy represents an attack on the democratic principles dear to both Lebanon and the EU,
 - C. whereas the entire Lebanese opposition has issued a communiqué calling for an international inquiry into the circumstances of the assassination of Mr Hariri; whereas the same call has been made by several members of the international community,
 - D. whereas the UN Secretary-General, Mr Kofi Annan, has decided to set up a committee of inquiry into the 'circumstances, causes and effects' of the death of Mr Rafic Hariri, the former Lebanese Prime Minister,
 - E. whereas on 28 February 2005 Mr Omar Karami, the Lebanese Prime Minister, resigned as a motion of no confidence tabled by the opposition was being debated in the parliament while public pressure was being exerted through demonstrations organised by the opposition calling for the withdrawal of the Syrian troops,
 - F. welcoming the recent peaceful and democratic mobilisation of Lebanese society in favour of democracy, respect for national sovereignty and human rights.
1. Condemns unequivocally the deplorable bomb attack in Beirut on 14 February 2005 which killed Mr Rafic Hariri, the former Lebanese Prime Minister, and other innocent civilians;
 2. Expresses its horror and indignation at this barbarous act, and transmits its sincerest condolences to the families of Mr Hariri and the other victims;

3. Calls, pursuant to the statement made by the UN Security Council President on 15 February 2005, for every effort to be made to ascertain the causes, circumstances and consequences of this attack; calls on the Lebanese authorities to cooperate with the UN's committee of inquiry;
4. Believes that this crime must not thwart the electoral process in Lebanon, and stresses the importance of democracy and transparent national elections;
5. Repeats its call for consideration to be given to sending an EU observer delegation to the legislative elections in Lebanon;
6. Calls on the Council to take the initiative of holding an international peace conference on Lebanon, to move forward from the present peace-friendly climate across the region;
7. Strongly welcomes the positive developments of the last month in the Middle East, notably the relaunch of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, and calls on Syria not to destabilise matters by supporting terrorist groups on its territory;
8. Calls on Syria to cooperate fully with the EU in the context of the European neighbourhood policy, so as to ensure peace and stability in the region; recalls the great importance of implementing Resolution 1559 affirming the international community's support for Lebanon's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence; calls on Syria not to tolerate terrorism in any form and to refrain from all interference in Lebanon's internal affairs; calls for the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon, pursuant to the UN Security Council resolutions and as a precondition for the conclusion of an association agreement and for the future evolution of the European neighbourhood policy with regard to Syria;
9. Condemns the terrorist activities of the Hezbollah movement, based in Lebanon and supported by Iran and Syria, which has recently claimed responsibility for terrorist attacks in Israel and the areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority; makes it clear that Hezbollah is working to undermine the Middle East peace process;
10. Believes that there are irrefutable proofs of Hezbollah's terrorist actions and that the Council must therefore strictly monitor all of that movement's activities and take the measures needed to put an end to its terrorist activities, in particular by adding it to the EU's list of terrorist organisations;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Government and Parliament of Lebanon.