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## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up the debate on the European Council report and Commission statement

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

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on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on the European Council meeting of 16 and 17 June 2005

**B6-0391/2005**

**European Parliament resolution on the European Council meeting of 16 and 17 June 2005**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the results of the French and Dutch referendums on the European Constitution,
  - having regard to the conclusions of the Brussels European Council of 16 and 17 June 2005,
  - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the deliberations of this European Council make it clear that to a large extent it was a failure,
- B. whereas the Heads of State and Government demonstrated once again to the European public that their short-term national interests prevail over the will to take decisions for the common good of Europe,
- C. whereas the current crisis clearly evidences the unspoken struggle between a vision of Europe as a mere internal market and a vision of Europe as a political body,

**I. The European Constitution**

1. Notes the decision taken on the Constitution; considers that this decision demonstrates a deep division between the Heads of State and Government on the direction of European integration; notes that although they saw the necessity for a broad debate, the Heads of State and Government failed to make concrete proposals for its structure, time-frame, main actors and goal;
2. Is convinced that the question of the final goal of European integration cannot be ignored any longer; agrees that a comprehensive debate on the direction of European integration is needed; reiterates that not only governments, representing national interests and aspirations to power, but parliaments, directly representing European citizens, together with the representatives of civil society, can be at the centre of such a debate;
3. Expresses in this context once again its willingness to play a prominent role and to help to sustain the forthcoming debate;
4. Calls on its Committee on Constitutional Affairs to draw up within three months a proposal for the structure, timetable and goals of such a debate;
5. Is convinced that the results of the French and Dutch referendums did not reflect a broad rejection of the constitutional process and of the deepening of the Union itself; is convinced that the limits of the Treaty of Nice will soon become apparent in the concrete

functioning of the European Union;

6. Appeals to all European Institutions, Parliaments and Governments not to renege on their promise to overcome the risks of a progressive nationalisation of EU policies and therefore allow the European project to be diluted in a mere internal market organisation; recalls that this ambition remains more relevant than ever;

## **II. The Financial Perspectives**

7. Regrets that, from the beginning of their deliberations on the Financial Perspective, Member States were not willing to concentrate discussions on the policy challenges that the EU faces and that are of direct concern to citizens, while facing up to them is in the latter's interest, such as sustainable development, employment, education and culture, rural development, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, Human Rights and conflict prevention; criticises those Member States that chose to continue to defend perceived national interests, such as the current CAP and their positions on the issue of net contributions, including the UK rebate, losing sight of the common good of Europe;
8. Praises the Luxembourg Presidency for its efforts to broker an agreement and those Member States that were willing to abandon their national demands in the spirit of European solidarity, in particular the 10 new Member States;
9. Nevertheless considers that no deal is better than a bad deal; warns the Council that there can be no agreement on the Financial Perspective without the consent of the European Parliament; recalls that Parliament has taken a strong stance on the policy priorities it wishes to pursue - many of which are shared by the Council - and the budgetary means it considers necessary to achieve its goals, although considering that Parliament's demands do not go far enough in budgetary terms; insists that all controversial issues should be on the table, including the British rebate and the first pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy;
10. In this respect advocates, inter alia, the introduction of a system of genuine own resources to break free from the paralysing net contributors debate, as well as a reorientation of agricultural policy towards an integrated and sustainable rural development policy as the only way to modernise rural economies while safeguarding and promoting employment and preserving the environment;

## **III. Economic, social and environmental issues (Lisbon Strategy, sustainable development)**

11. Welcomes the commitment of the EU to relaunch the Lisbon Strategy as being part of the EU's strategy for sustainable development; agrees that the Lisbon Strategy requires the mobilisation of all existing instruments, which must include in particular the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines (BEPGs) and the Seventh EU Framework Programme for Research (2007-2013); approves the idea of developing an integrated approach combining macroeconomic, microeconomic and employment policies, as a sign of the complementary nature of economic and social policy;

12. Regrets however that the environmental aspects of the Lisbon Strategy are once again insufficiently taken into account in the integrated Broad Economic Policy and Employment Guidelines; deplores their excessive emphasis on opening up markets as the main way to boost growth; recalls that a policy of purely quantitative economic growth is ecologically nonsensical; stresses once more the importance of developing non-material sectors (services, education, culture, etc.) and those based on high efficiency/renewable resources as a way to boost employment, which will help to establish a forward-looking, dynamic and efficient economy which offers citizens a high quality of life;
13. Welcomes the attention devoted by the Heads of State and Government to sustainable development and the reaffirmation by the European Council of a renewed EU sustainable development strategy, comprising targets, indicators and an effective monitoring procedure, to be adopted before the end of 2005; urges the Commission to make an ambitious proposal with timetables for future EU measures to achieve the objectives;
14. Considers that the EU needs to adopt good laws and policies that improve the quality of people's lives in areas where EU actions have clear value added such as in the field of the environment, which according to recent polls is one of the fields where support for EU action is strongest and which 63% of citizens put ahead of economic competitiveness when questioned about the Lisbon Strategy;

#### **IV. Area of Freedom, Security and Justice**

15. Notes that, in its conclusions, the European Council does not make any changes or add any new objectives in the JHA field, but focuses almost exclusively on the fight against terrorism;
16. Regrets that the European Council did not take account of the position of Parliament, in particular on sensitive questions such as exchange of information, retention of telecommunications data, the action plan on radicalisation, the dialogue with third countries, etc.;
17. Notes also that, contrary to previous announcements, the European Council has not set any deadline for the adoption of legislation, which demonstrates the incapacity of the EU to work in the JHA field within the current institutional framework;

#### **V. External affairs**

##### **Cyprus**

18. Regrets that no effort was made to overcome the deadlock on the economic package for Northern Cyprus; stresses that this is a further sign of the deep crisis of the EU, which is not able to deliver on the promises made to the Turkish Cypriot community;

##### **Western Balkans**

19. Takes the view that the prospects of the Western Balkan countries in relation to the European Union should be better defined; points out, in this regard, that the full implementation of the Thessaloniki agenda should lead to a genuine and effective pre-

accession strategy by means of which to measure the progress towards the EU of the countries concerned, provided that the necessary institutional conditions are in place on both sides;

20. Stresses that further efforts are needed in order to achieve stability in the region; regrets that the Council has once again missed the opportunity to reach an agreement on the controversy between Greece and Macedonia on the international name of the latter, which would have greatly improved the internal situation in that country, and calls on the Council to take the lead in the ongoing negotiations between the parties on the basis of the recent compromise proposed by the United Nations;
21. Is of the opinion that the forthcoming general elections in Albania are to be considered a fundamental test for the maturity of the Albanian democratic system; calls on the Council to make clear to the Albanian authorities that no further electoral shortfalls can be tolerated and calls on all parties to act in a responsible manner so as to avoid the harsh confrontations of the past and lay the foundations for stable and legitimate democratic institutions;
22. Expresses its full support for the valuable and difficult work of the ICTY and stresses once again that full cooperation with this body is a precondition for closer relations with the EU;

### **Kosovo**

23. Takes note of the will of the United Nations to downgrade its presence in Kosovo; points out, nevertheless, that the situation is still far from being normalised and calls on the Council to step up its assistance to the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government so as to enable them to be gradually empowered to govern the territory;
24. Takes the view that, overall, the strategy of 'standards before status' has failed with regard, in particular, to respect for the rights of minorities and the return of refugees; looks forward to the comprehensive review of the situation that the United Nations is due to carry out this summer and calls for a new strategy based on clear benchmarks so as to measure the progress of Kosovo with a view to opening the negotiations on its final status;
25. Calls, in this regard, on the Council to take the leading role in preparing these negotiations and welcomes the European Council proposal that any agreement on status must exclude in advance the partition of Kosovo or any union of Kosovo with another country or with part of another country;

### **European Neighbourhood Policy**

26. Welcomes the adoption of the first wave of action plans as well as the decision to start drafting the action plans for the countries of South Caucasus; takes the view that the evaluation of their implementation must be carried out in a transparent and open way with the involvement of the European Parliament and the civil societies of both sides; insists that the development of human rights, democracy and the rule of law be considered central priorities in all national action plans; stresses, in this respect, the importance of setting up subcommittees on human rights with all neighbourhood countries in order to

better monitor the implementation of these action plans;

27. Reiterates its opinion that the European Neighbourhood Policy is not to be regarded as an alternative to membership for the three European countries concerned; calls, in this respect, on the Kiev authorities to make all efforts to adopt all the necessary reforms which will pave the way for the integration of Ukraine into the policies of the Union and step up genuine cooperation in all fields;
28. Expresses its deep concern at the further deterioration of the situation in Belarus and expresses its full solidarity with the political dissidents recently condemned by the Lukashenko regime; calls on the Council, in the event of a democratic change in Belarus following free and fair elections, to prepare to develop contractual links quickly and to extend the full benefits of the European neighbourhood policy to that country; stresses that the EU should further strengthen support for civil society, as well as examine possibilities for further meeting the needs of the Belarus population, including addressing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, health, education, the environment, crossborder and regional cooperation, border management and independent media;

### **Barcelona Process**

29. Regrets that no agreement was reached in Luxembourg as regards the surveillance of electoral processes and monitoring of the media, which represent real obstacles to the development of genuine democracies in the partner countries; welcomes the establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean Non-Governmental Platform and calls on the Council and the Member States to find ways to strengthen and intensify contacts between the civil societies of the countries involved;

### **Middle East**

30. Takes the view that the forthcoming withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza represents a key test for the successful continuation of the peace process with a view to building a viable Palestinian state and creating better security conditions for Israel; stresses, in this regard, that the disengagement must be fully coordinated and take place with the full cooperation of the Israeli and Palestinian authorities;
31. Calls on both parties to adhere to the commitments of the Road Map with regard, in particular, to reining in all the Palestinian militias and bringing them under the full control of the Palestinian Authority and to putting an end to the incentives for settlers and the expansion of all the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories;
32. Deplores the decision of the Palestinian Authority to reintroduce capital punishment and calls on President Abbas to make every effort to reverse that decision;

### **Iraq**

33. Calls on the Council and the Commission to include the following issues in the debate at the International Conference on Iraq on 22 June in Brussels:
  - (a) a clear date and timetable for the withdrawal of the coalition troops from Iraq in order for

them to be replaced by multinational troops under a UN mandate;

- (b) lessons to be learnt from the Iraq war which can lead to a more multilateral, democratic and result-oriented conflict management worldwide in the future;
- (c) an initiative for independent monitors, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and UN experts, to be granted access to all detainees in Iraqi prisons and an independent committee of inquiry into alleged practices of torture and ill-treatment;
- (d) special measures to promote the equality of women in Iraq;
- (e) support for the creation of a UN-led independent Commission to develop a comprehensive programme to ensure justice in Iraq;
- (f) an independent public audit to investigate the \$ 8.8 billion of funds administered by the Development Fund for Iraq which are unaccounted for;

### **Iran**

- 34. Supports the negotiating line pursued by the Council to prevent nuclear proliferation; underlines however the utmost importance which the European Parliament attributes to a continuous improvement of democracy and human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran and expresses its concern that the results of the presidential elections could endanger the recent modest improvements in the rule of law;

### **Lebanon**

- 35. Welcomes the conduct of all the phases of the general elections, which pave the way for legitimate democratic institutions in a fully sovereign and independent Lebanon;
- 36. Expresses, nevertheless, its concern about the recent assassinations and calls on the Lebanese authorities to take the necessary measures to guarantee effective and transparent investigations;
- 37. Calls on the Council and the Member States to take the initiative to envisage the possibility of deploying a UN mission in the country in the event of a further deterioration in security conditions;

### **Transatlantic relations**

- 38. Takes the view that the recent improvement in transatlantic relations should be followed by concrete acts with regard, in particular, to global cooperation and the support for an effective multilateral framework; regrets, in this regard, that the US Government has greatly contributed to the failure of the NPT Review Conference by resisting the agreement on an agenda that made any reference to past commitments under the Treaty, including the obligations for the declared nuclear weapon states to dismantle their own nuclear arms; calls on the Council to include on the agenda of the forthcoming EU-US summit the questions of the Kyoto Protocol and the International Criminal Court;

## **Russia**

39. Takes the view that the further development and deepening of relations with Russia should not be limited to the adoption of the road maps for the creation of four common spaces; points out that a real strategic partnership should be based on shared values with regard, in particular, to democracy and human rights; expresses its concern at the deterioration of Russia's democracy and calls on the Council to make every effort to prioritise these questions in future relations with Moscow; stresses, in this regard, the importance of holding regular EU-Russia consultations on human rights and fundamental freedoms including the rights of persons belonging to minorities, involving the EP and non-governmental organisations in compliance with the EU guidelines on human rights dialogues;
40. Warmly welcomes the agreement reached between Russia and Georgia on the withdrawal of Russian forces from military bases; calls on the Council to provide the Tbilisi authorities with any assistance necessary to overcome present and future problems concerning the dismantling of these bases;

## **Relations with Asia**

41. Takes note of the decision of the European Council to ask the Council and the Commission to speed up the proceedings on a new framework agreement with China; believes, nevertheless, that evident obstacles remain to the development of a genuine strategic partnership, notably the lack of any substantial progress in the field of democracy and human rights; points out, in this regard, that the conditions for the lifting of the EU embargo on arms sales are not met;
42. Welcomes the recognition by the European Council of the need to integrate sustainable development and environmental protection to a greater extent into national and international development programmes and strategies and to support the establishment of a UN agency for the environment which would operate on an equal footing with other UN specialised agencies;

## **Enlargement**

43. Welcomes the European Council's intention to fully implement the decisions taken in 2004 to start accession negotiations with Croatia and Turkey and to welcome Romania and Bulgaria as new Member States in 2007, and calls upon the European Council not to let the present crisis in the European integration process withhold the Union from adhering firmly to its commitments with regard to present and future candidate countries;
44. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.