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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 Jan Marinus Wiersma, Hannes Swoboda, Pierre Moscovici and Alexandra Dobolyi

on behalf of the PSE Group

on the accession process of Bulgaria and Romania

European Parliament resolution on the accession process of Bulgaria and Romania

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the applications for accession to the European Union submitted by Bulgaria and Romania on 22 June 1995,
 - having regard to the Commission's opinion of 1997 on the applications for accession to the European Union submitted by Bulgaria and Romania,
 - having regard to the Commission's regular reports on Romania's progress towards accession covering the period 1998-2004 and its Strategy Paper on progress in the enlargement process (COM(2004)0657–C6-0150/2004),
 - having regard to the conclusions of the Brussels European Council of 16 and 17 December 2004,
 - having regard to all its previous resolutions and reports since the beginning of the enlargement process, and in particular to the resolutions adopted on 13 April 2005 on the applications of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union and to the reports by Mr Moscovici and Mr Van Orden,
 - having regard to the treaties for the accession to the European Union of Bulgaria and Romania, which were signed on 25 April 2005,
 - having regard to the exchange of letters between the President of the European Parliament and the President of the Commission on the full association of the European Parliament with any consideration of activation of one of the safeguard clauses in the Treaty of Accession,
 - having regard to the decision by the Conference of Presidents on the invitation of observers from the Parliaments of Bulgaria and Romania and the implementation of this decision by the President of the European Parliament,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas our common objective is to make the best possible preparations for the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the Union,
- B. whereas the progress achieved by Bulgaria and Romania made it possible to conclude the accession negotiations, but the efforts to remedy the shortcomings identified in the Commission's 2004 progress report and in Parliament's most recent resolutions should be continued both before and after accession,

- C. whereas, if these efforts are made, Bulgaria and Romania should be in a position to meet the commitments given during the negotiations and to assume the obligations arising from accession so as to become members of the Union, in accordance with the envisaged timeframe, in 2007,
- D. whereas the arrival of the observers from the Bulgarian and Romanian Parliaments as decided by the Conference of Presidents may contribute to the further preparation of a successful accession to the European Union, and in particular to ensuring that the commitments made during the negotiations are being met,
1. Notes that Parliament gave its assent to the accession of Bulgaria and Romania on 13 April 2005 and that the accession treaties were signed on 25 April 2005;
 2. Points out that, in order to meet the commitments given during the accession negotiations and to meet the accession criteria in such a way as to enable them to become members of the Union in accordance with the envisaged timeframe, in 2007, Bulgaria and Romania will have to do their utmost to tackle the shortcomings identified in the Commission's latest progress report and in the resolution adopted by Parliament on 13 April 2004;
 3. Stresses once again that Parliament will continue to follow closely the process which will lead to Bulgaria's and Romania's accession, and calls on the Commission to keep Parliament regularly informed of the extent to which the Bulgarian and Romanian authorities honour the commitments made in the accession treaty; stresses that the approval of the accession treaties was given on condition that the Council and Commission will fully involve Parliament in any decision-making should the safeguard clauses contained in the accession treaty be invoked in the context of Bulgaria's and Romania's accession;
 4. Stresses that the arrival of the observers from the Bulgarian and Romanian Parliaments, as decided by the Conference of Presidents, will contribute to the further preparation of a successful accession to the European Union, and in particular to ensuring that the commitments given during the negotiations are being met;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, and the Governments and Parliaments of Bulgaria and Romania.