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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

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

by Alexander Stubb

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on homophobia in the European Union

European Parliament resolution on homophobia in the European Union

The European Parliament,

- having regard to international and European human rights obligations, such as those contained in the UN conventions on human rights and the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,
 - having regard to European Union provisions on human rights, and notably to the European Charter of Fundamental Rights, as well as to Articles 6 and 7 of the Treaty on European Union,
 - having regard to Article 13 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, which invests the European Union with the power to adopt measures to combat discrimination based, inter alia, on sexual orientation, and to promote the principle of equality,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas homophobia can be defined as an irrational fear of, and aversion to, homosexuality and GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender) people, which is based on prejudice and comparable to racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism etc.,
- B. whereas homophobia manifests itself in the private and public spheres in different forms, such as hate speech and incitement to discrimination, ridicule, verbal, psychological and physical violence, persecution and murder, discrimination in violation of the principle of equality, and unjustified and unreasonable limitations of rights, which are often hidden behind reasons of public order and religious freedom,
- C. whereas recently a series of worrying events have taken place in a number of EU Member States, as widely reported by the press and NGOs, ranging from the banning of gay pride or equality marches to the use by leading politicians of inflammatory, hate, or threatening language, police failing to provide adequate protection or even breaking up peaceful demonstrations, violent demonstrations by homophobic groups and the introduction of changes to Constitutions to impede same-sex marriage or union,
- D. whereas at the same time a positive, democratic and tolerant reaction has been shown in some cases by the public demonstrating against homophobia, as well as by justice systems redressing the most striking and illegal forms of discrimination,
- E. whereas a number of EU Member States have introduced legislative measures to protect the rights of GLBT people, to fight discrimination based on sexual orientation and to promote equality,
- F. whereas further action is needed at EU level and in the Member States to eradicate homophobia and promote a culture of freedom, tolerance and equality among citizens and in legislation,

1. Calls on the Member States and the Commission to step up the fight against homophobia, either by educational means – such as campaigns against homophobia in schools, universities and the media – or by administrative, judicial or legislative means;
2. Calls on the Member States to ensure that homophobic hate speech or incitement to discrimination is condemned in the most effective way and that freedom of demonstration – as guaranteed by all human rights treaties – is genuinely respected;
3. Asks the Commission to ensure that discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation is prohibited in all sectors by completing the anti-discrimination package based on Article 13 either by proposing new directives or by proposing a general one covering all grounds for discrimination and all sectors;
4. Calls on the Member States to include the fight against homophobia when allocating the ‘Year 2007 – Equality for All’ funds, and to involve GLBT NGOs, and calls on the Commission to monitor this process closely and to report immediately to Parliament any failure by Member States to do so;
5. Asks the Member States to take any other action they deem appropriate to combat homophobia and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and to make the principle of equality an integral part of their society and legal order;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and candidate countries, and the Council of Europe.