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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on statements by the High Representative for the CFSP and the Commission

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

by Elmar Brok, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Jana Hybášková and Patrick Gaubert

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the situation in the Middle East

B6-0303/2006

European Parliament resolution on the situation in the Middle East

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in the Middle East and in particular those of 23 October 2003¹ on peace and dignity in the Middle East of 27 January 2005² on the situation following the Palestinian presidential election and of 2 February 2006³ on the result of the Palestinian legislative elections,
 - having regard to UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 242, 338, 1373 and 1397,
 - having regard to the Quartet's 'Roadmap for Peace', of 30 April 2003,
 - having regard to the results of the 25 January 2006 elections to the Palestine Legislative Council (PLC),
 - having regard to the results of the 28 March 2006 Israeli national elections,
 - having regard to the EU Presidency statement on the PLC elections,
 - having regard to the declaration on the PLC elections of 28 December 2005,
 - having regard to the Neighbourhood Agreements between the EU and Israel and the EU and Palestine,
 - having regard to the statement of the Quartet Principals on 9 May in New York,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Middle East Quartet for peace has expressed its willingness to establish a temporary international financial mechanism, without going through the Palestinian Government, the objective of which is direct delivery and supervision of assistance to the Palestinian people,
- B. whereas the EU is working urgently to develop such a mechanism, which as a matter of priority will be aimed at contributing to meeting basic needs, including health services, and includes consultation of international financial institutions and other key partners, and invites other donors to actively join in the effort to establish the mechanism as soon as possible,
- C. whereas the Hamas government's accession to power led to the suspension by Israel of the payment of money in taxes and other customs duties it collected on behalf of the Palestinian Authority,

¹ OJ C 82E, 1.4.2004, p. 610.

² OJ C 253E, 13.10.2005, p. 35.

³ P6_TA-PROV(2006)0041

1. Expresses its serious concern about the deterioration in the humanitarian, economic and financial situation in the West Bank and Gaza;
2. Endorses the Council decision to develop such a mechanism in order to avoid a major humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian territories; asks all the institutions involved in establishing such a temporary international financial mechanism to be as transparent as possible in order to prevent any fraud or deviation of the funds;
3. Welcomes the Israeli Government's decision to re-start payment of some of the taxes and other customs duties it collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority, as agreed in the 1994 Paris protocol, through the provisional international mechanism that the Quartet charged the European Union with devising;
4. Fully supports the role of the Quartet in efforts to resolve the humanitarian situation in the Palestinian territories; stresses the constructive attitude the Commission and the Council have played within the Quartet in setting the conditions for a future engagement with the Palestinian Authority;
5. Welcomes the first meeting since the Israeli elections between the President of Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas and the Israeli Deputy Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, and the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Tsipi Livni, on 20 May 2006 in Sharm-el-Sheikh, which constitutes an encouraging sign paving the way for the planned meeting between Mr Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, and hopes that these contacts will eventually lead to the resumption of peace negotiations, pushing forward the long stalled peace process;
6. Reaffirms that its commitment to remain an important aid donor to the Palestinian National Authority and to continue assisting Palestinian economic development and Palestine's democratic process will be pending on the government's clarification on denouncing violence and recognising Israel; also reaffirms its determination to work for peace and to cooperate with any government which is ready to work by peaceful means;
7. Reiterates that all future assistance will be reviewed in the light of the Palestinian Government's respect for these principles;
8. Insists on its call on the Hamas-led government to publicly renounce violence, recognise Israel's right to exist in peace and security and fully respect international law, in order to maintain ties with Europe; reiterates its conviction that there is no place in politics for groups or individuals who advocate violence, and urges all factions to disarm;
9. Considers that any contact with the newly appointed Palestinian Government should aim to achieve the recognition of the final peace agreement based on a solution involving two viable states, and the renouncement of violence by the government itself and the groups supporting it;
10. Declares once again, at this particular stage, that the solution to the Middle East conflict is only possible through the negotiation of a firm and final peace agreement as set out in the Roadmap, without prior conditions, based on the existence of two democratic, sovereign and viable states, living peacefully side by side within secure and recognised borders;

11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Legislative Council, the new Israeli Government and the Knesset, the US Government, the Government of the Russian Federation and the UN Secretary-General.