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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 Joseph Daul, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Elmar Brok, Antonio Tajani, Simon Coveney, Piia-Noora Kauppi

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the initiative in favour of a universal moratorium on the death penalty

European Parliament resolution on the initiative in favour of a universal moratorium on the death penalty

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on a universal moratorium on the death penalty and most particularly that of 23 October 2003¹,
 - having regard to resolutions on the moratorium on capital punishment adopted by various UN bodies including the Commission on Human Rights,
 - having regard to the EU's statements in support of a universal moratorium on capital punishment,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the European Union decided, in the guidelines on the death penalty adopted by the European Council in Luxembourg on 6 June 1998, to work within international bodies towards a universal moratorium on the death penalty and its abolition in due course,
- B. deeply concerned by the threat of execution that hangs over thousands of people in the world, but encouraged by the fact that the number of abolitionist countries has continued to rise in recent years,
- C. whereas on 27 July 2006 the Italian Chamber of Deputies unanimously approved a motion which committed the Italian government to present to the next UN General Assembly, after consulting the EU partners, but without being subject to the unanimous approval of all EU Member States, a motion for a resolution for the universal moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to completely abolishing the death penalty throughout the world,
- D. whereas on 9 January 2007 the Italian government and the Council of Europe decided to work together to gather as much support as possible for a United Nations General Assembly-based initiative for a worldwide moratorium on executions with view to full abolition of the death penalty,
1. Strongly supports the initiative of the Italian Chamber of Deputies backed by the Council of Europe;
 2. Reiterates its request to the Council Presidency to take swift action to ensure that a resolution calling for a universal moratorium on capital punishment is submitted to the UN General Assembly;
 3. Urges the EU institutions and the Member States to make every endeavour in the political and diplomatic spheres to ensure the most appropriate support for this resolution within

¹ OJ C 82 E, 1.4.2004, p. 609.

the UN General Assembly;

4. Asks the Council Presidency and the Commission to inform the European Parliament of the results achieved in the UN General Assembly at the first possible plenary sitting after the conclusion of the deliberations;
5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council Presidency, the Commission, the parliaments of the Member States, the UN Secretary-General and all the member countries of the UN General Assembly.