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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 Caroline Lucas, Margrete Auken, Jill Evans, David Hammerstein, Johannes
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on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on the situation in the Middle East

European Parliament resolution on the situation in the Middle East

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Middle East, in particular those of 7 September 2006 on the situation in the Middle East and 16 November 2006 on the situation in the Gaza Strip,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the External Relations Council meetings of 23 April 2007 and 24 May 2007,
 - having regard to the Quartet statement of 30 May 2007,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the current period marks the 40th anniversary of the war which ended with the occupation by Israel of the West bank and the Gaza Strip,
- B. whereas the economic and social situation in the Palestinian Occupied Territories is further dramatically deteriorating and has resulted in a deep humanitarian crisis in Gaza and increased political tension,
- C. whereas this situation is mainly due to the restrictions on the movement of goods and people, which has led in practice to the isolation of the Gaza strip, and to the financial crisis of the Palestinian Authority due to the Israeli illegal refusal to transfer tax and customs revenues it withholds to the Palestinian authority,
- D. whereas the decision of the Quartet to suspend the direct aid to the Palestinian National Authority has contributed to the deepening of the crisis in spite of the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM), which was created to ensure the continued delivery of essential social public services to the Palestinian population, and of the increase in European funds,
- E. whereas the National Unity Government, which was formed after the Mecca agreement of 8 February 2007, is based on a platform which calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders, the consolidation and expansion of the ceasefire and the honouring of past agreements signed by the PLO; whereas it also includes support for an exchange of prisoners leading to the release of IDF Corporal Shalit,
- F. whereas there is no alternative to this government, which is the legitimate expression of the Palestinian people; whereas its collapse will have an extremely negative impact on peace and stability in the region; whereas the present international aid and assistance is insufficient to cope with the current crisis and undermines the powers and the effectiveness of the newly formed government,
- G. whereas, in addition to this, the outbreak of violence between the Palestinian factions,

which left dozens of victims on the ground in the Gaza strip, is further undermining the efforts made by President Abbas and the Palestinian National Unity Government to overcome the present crisis and has brought the situation to the brink of civil war,

- H. whereas rockets fired by Palestinian radicals at the Sderot area killed two persons and injured others; whereas the retaliation of the Israeli forces and the continuation of targeted assassinations have recently killed more than 100 persons, of whom the majority were bystanders who had nothing to do with violence,
 - I. whereas its Delegation for relations with the Palestinian Legislative Council visited Gaza and the West Bank from 30 April to 3 May 2007,
 - J. whereas the relaunching of the Arab Peace Initiative at the Riyadh summit of the Arab League of 29 March 2007 has given a new and credible opportunity for a comprehensive settlement in the region; whereas the prospect of a viable Palestinian state is constantly contradicted by the daily changes in the situation on the ground, as pointed out by the latest report of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA),
 - K. whereas fighting broke out on 20 May 2007 in the Nahr al Bared refugee camp in Northern Lebanon and later in the Ein al Hilweh refugee camp between infiltrated Al Qaeda-linked radical groups and the Lebanese Army, causing the death of more than 100 people,
 - L. whereas this emergency situation highlights once again the plight of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon,
 - M. whereas on 30 May 2007 the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1757 which, under Chapter VII, sets up a mixed Lebanese-international tribunal to try those suspects in the assassination of Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in 2005 and the subsequent string of political killings,
 - N. whereas the decision on the setting up of this tribunal follows a request from the Lebanese Government and the 2005 UNSC decision to set up an Independent Investigation Commission on Hariri's killing after it was found that Lebanon's inquiry was seriously flawed,
 - O. whereas over the last few days a series of bomb attacks have taken place in Lebanon, mainly in Beirut, aimed at destabilising the country that is still stuck in a deep institutional crisis and political deadlock,
1. Expresses its deep concern over the deteriorating economic, political and social conditions in Palestine and their possible grave consequences;
 2. Welcomes the decision to extend the Temporary International Mechanism until the end of September but believes that the time has come for all EU institutions to recognise and cooperate comprehensively with the Palestinian National Unity Government;
 3. Takes the view that the conditions laid down by the Quartet are reflected in the platform of the National Unity Government; urges the Council and the Commission to work

together with the Palestinian National Unity Government by evaluating its policy and actions and calls for the resumption of direct assistance to the Palestinian National Authority;

4. Calls on the Israeli Government to restart transferring to the Palestinian authorities tax and customs revenues it illegally withholds and which represent 60% of PA budget;
5. Takes the view that the ongoing clashes between the main Palestinian factions are seriously weakening the National Unity Government's legitimacy and power, and calls on all parties to stop all violence and respect the agreements and commitments on the basis of which this government was formed;
6. Calls on the Israeli authorities to release immediately all the Palestinian ministers and Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council imprisoned in Israeli detention centres; calls for the immediate release by Palestinian radical groups of Corporal Shalit and the BBC journalist Alan Johnston;
7. Urges the Council to include in the agenda for the next meeting of the Quartet the deployment of a UN international civilian and military peace-keeping force in the Gaza Strip in order to defuse tension, facilitate dialogue between all the parties, assist and protect the civilian population and closely monitor the situation;
8. Welcomes the fact that, following the renewal of the Arab Peace Initiative, some positive steps have taken place, notably the meeting between the EU Foreign Ministers and the Arab League on 14 May 2007 and the extraordinary meeting of the European Parliament Conference of Presidents on 15 May 2007; stresses, nevertheless, that further substantial steps need to be taken by the Council with a view to bringing the peace process back on track and taking advantage of this new chance for a comprehensive and lasting settlement based on a two-viable-state solution living side by side in secure and recognised borders;
9. Regrets, in this regard, the refusal of the Israeli authorities to ease the restrictions on the Palestinian population as proposed by the US administration and supported by the Quartet; regrets the cancellation of the meeting between Olmert and Abbas scheduled to take place in Gaza and calls on both parties to stick to the engagement to meet on a bi-weekly basis with a view to restarting substantial negotiations;
10. Calls on the Council and the Commission to provide all the necessary means to enable the International Tribunal for Lebanon to work effectively and carry out its mandate;
11. Urges all the Lebanese parties to support the Tribunal, and calls on Syria to fully cooperate in its work;
12. Calls on all the Lebanese parties and factions to refrain from acts that could further endanger the stability of the country and that are still currently blocking the functioning of the fragile Lebanese institutions; calls, in this regard, for the relaunch of the dialogue for national unity in order to smoothen differences and prevent a governmental vacuum in the run-up to the presidential elections scheduled for the autumn of this year;
13. Urges the Lebanese Government to make every effort to put an end to all forms of

discrimination against the Palestinian refugees and facilitate their integration in Lebanese society if they wish to do so; urges the Council and the Commission, in this regard, to provide the necessary assistance within the framework of the Action Plan;

14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the High Representative for the CFSP, the President of the Palestinian Authority, the Palestinian Legislative Council, the Knesset and Israeli Government, and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States.