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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 Pasqualina Napoletano, Véronique De Keyser, Hannes Swoboda, Carlos Carnero González and Béatrice Patrie

on behalf of the PSE 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 UN Security Council Resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1559 (2004), 1701 (2006) and 1757 (2007),
  - 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 Gaza Strip, the West Bank and the Golan Heights,
- B. whereas the lack of results in the efforts aimed at finding a just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians, and between Israel and the Arab countries, has led to deadlock in the peace process in the Middle East,
- C. whereas the dramatically deteriorating economic and social situation in the Palestinian Occupied Territories has resulted in a deep humanitarian crisis in Gaza and increased political tensions,
- D. whereas the outbreak of violence between the Palestinian factions is 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,
- E. whereas the restrictions on the movement of goods and people, the construction of the separation wall and the withholding of tax and customs revenues are considerable obstacles in finding a solution to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians,
- F. 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) and the increased project aid provided by the EU; whereas the present international aid and assistance is insufficient to cope with the current crisis,
- G. whereas the Palestinian National Unity Government, which was formed after the Mecca agreement of 8 February 2007, following the demand of the international community, is based on a platform which calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state within the

1967 borders, the refusal of violence and the honouring of the agreements signed by the PLO, and therefore reflects the Quartet's requirements; whereas this government's commitment to act on this platform was confirmed by Foreign Minister Ziad Abu Amr during his recent visit to the European Parliament,

- H. whereas rockets fired by Palestinian radicals at the Sderot area killed and injured civilians; whereas the recent Israeli military operations and targeted assassinations killed dozens of Palestinian civilians,
- I. 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 peace settlement in the region after decades of wars and conflicts between Israelis and Palestinians, and Israel and the Arab countries,
- J. 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 persons,
- K. whereas this emergency situation highlights once again the plight of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon,
- L. whereas on 30 May 2007 the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1757 which, under Chapter VII, sets up an international tribunal responsible for judging the murderers of Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in 2005 and other victims of a series of other political assassinations in Lebanon,
- M. whereas its Delegation for relations with the Palestinian Legislative Council visited Gaza and the West Bank from 30 April to 3 May 2007,
  - 1. Expresses its deep concern about the possible grave consequences of the current crisis in the Middle East, including further military and terrorist attacks and increased radicalisation, undermining the fragile political situation in the region;
  - 2. Expresses its deep concern over the new cycle of violence, and the deteriorating economic, political and social conditions in Palestine; calls on all Palestinians factions to stop the internal clashes and respect the existing cease-fire agreement;
  - 3. Calls on the government to respect all agreements and commitments, including agreements signed by the PLO, on the basis of which the Palestinian National Unity Government was formed, and to make every possible effort to implement them;
  - 4. Considers that the political programme which forms the basis of the Palestinian National Unity Government reflects the Quartet's requirements; urges the Council and the Commission to cooperate comprehensively with this government, evaluate regularly its policy and actions, and provide the necessary political and financial support in order to implement its political programme;
  - 5. Welcomes the Quartet's decision to extend the Temporary International Mechanism until

the end of September 2007; calls nevertheless for the resumption of direct EU financial assistance to the Palestinian National Authority in order to prevent the risk of its collapse and to ensure a minimum standard of living for Palestinians; calls for increased international and regional support;

6. Calls on the Israeli Government to restart transferring the withheld tax and customs revenues, which represent around 60% of the budget of the Palestinian Authority;
7. Calls on the Israeli authorities to release immediately all the imprisoned Palestinian ministers, Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council and mayors; calls for the immediate release of Corporal Gilad Shalit and BBC journalist Alan Johnston;
8. Invites the Council to take concrete steps within the Quartet to promote the initiative to dispatch, with the agreement of all parties concerned, an international military force aimed at securing the frontier zone between the Gaza Strip, Israel and Egypt with a view to reducing violence, protecting the civilian population and restoring the conditions of a constructive dialogue;
9. 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 that further substantial steps need to be taken 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 the existence of two, democratic, sovereign and viable states, living peacefully side by side within secure and internationally recognised borders according to the relevant UN Security Council resolutions;
10. Calls on the Council and the Commission to provide all the necessary means to enable the international tribunal responsible for judging the murderers of Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and victims of a series of other political assassinations in Lebanon to work effectively and carry out its mandate; urges all the Lebanese parties to support this tribunal, and Syria to fully cooperate in its work;
11. Appreciates the fact that, despite the recent surge in violence provoked by external terrorist networks, the Lebanese Government and political parties have managed to avoid a further aggravation and escalation in the country's internal political crisis; stresses the important role of UNIFIL in this regard; calls again for the relaunch of the national unity dialogue in order to smoothen differences and prevent a governmental vacuum in the run-up to the presidential elections scheduled for autumn of this year; welcomes all the initiatives aimed at facilitating this dialogue;
12. Urges the Lebanese Government to make every effort to put an end to all forms of discrimination against the Palestinian refugees; urges, in this regard, the Council and the Commission to provide the necessary assistance within the framework of the Action Plan;
13. Calls for the immediate release of the two abducted Israeli soldiers, Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser;

14. Reaffirms its hope that the various efforts aimed at restoring the dialogue between Syria, its neighbouring countries and the international community will result in a positive outcome;
15. Calls on the Council to make every effort to convene an international peace conference – along the lines of the 1991 Madrid Conference – in order to find a comprehensive, lasting and viable solution to the problems in the area, based on the relevant UN Security Council resolutions;
16. 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 the Israeli Government, the Parliament and Government of Lebanon, the Parliament and Government of Syria, and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States.