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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on statements by the European Council and Commission
pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by André Brie

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the situation in Lebanon

European Parliament resolution on the situation in Lebanon

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the EU-Lebanon Association Agreement, which entered into force on 1 April 2006, and the EU-Lebanon Action Plan from 19 January 2007, as well as the macrofinancial assistance of the EU amounting to EUR 80 million,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on Lebanon,
 - having regards to its previous resolutions on the Middle East,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. preoccupied by the long-lasting political deadlock and internal tensions in Lebanon which threaten the fragile unity of the country and peace in the region as a whole,
- B. aware of the financial and economic challenges resulting from Israel's July-August 2006 invasion of Lebanon; concerned that social conflicts resulting from uneven distribution of wealth and high youth unemployment in Lebanon are fuelling the internal political conflict,
- C. whereas more than 300 000 Palestinian refugees are still living in poor conditions in Lebanon; whereas the outbreaks of violence and the fights with the army in some Palestinian refugee camps have contributed to increasing tension in the country,
- D. stressing that the unresolved Middle East conflict, the deteriorating situation in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, and the failure to create a Palestinian state have contributed to the tensions in Lebanon and the explosive situation in the region as a whole,
1. Condemns the use of armed force to achieve political goals, resulting in further destabilisation and the killing of dozens of civilians and the injuring of hundreds more;
 2. Welcomes the return to the state of things prevailing before the 5 May events, as a condition for relaunching dialogue between the political forces in Lebanon;
 3. Supports the terms of the conclusions of the mission sent by the Arab League with a view to resolving the political and institutional crisis, with especial regard to the agenda for the Doha negotiations;
 4. Stresses that the negotiations under way represent a window of opportunity for Lebanon, not to be discarded for reasons of internal rivalries or external interference; calls for all the countries concerned to give active support to this initiative of the Arab League in the interests of stability in the region;

5. Stresses the importance of Lebanon's sovereignty, stability, independence, unity and territorial integrity, and points out that political stability in Lebanon can be built neither with violence nor by external interference;
6. Welcomes the agreement reached by the parties on 15 May 2008; encourages all Lebanese political forces to fully implement this agreement, with special regard to the pledge to refrain from using arms or violence with the aim of achieving political gains;
7. Underlines that there is no solution to the present crisis other than dialogue; calls on all the Lebanese parties to adopt a constructive attitude and to help reach an agreement on the presidential election and on the composition of a government of national unity;
8. Urges the President of the Lebanese Parliament to restore the functioning of that institution, as a basic requirement of democracy, in order to contribute to the success of the national dialogue and find a compromise solution to the current political deadlock;
9. Highlights the responsibility of the international community for the solution of the Lebanese crisis; emphasis that only political dialogue which does not exclude any of the Lebanese parties and a solution which is acceptable to all will bring stability to the country;
10. Welcomes Lebanon's efforts regarding the temporary hosting of Palestinian refugees; nevertheless urges the Lebanese government to make every effort to end all discrimination against them; reiterates its call on the international community to increase its assistance in order to find a solution to the problem of Palestinian refugees in the region;
11. Emphasises that the failure to find a solution for the Middle East conflict is at the heart of the crisis, and underlines the importance of a solution to that conflict and the creation of a Palestinian state by the end of 2008; calls on the EU to play a more active political role in order to achieve progress in the Middle East; takes the view that the conclusion of a peace treaty between Israel and Syria would contribute to the stabilisation of the region, and calls on both sides to start negotiations;
12. Reiterates its support for the EU's activities assisting Lebanon in its economic restructuring; calls on the Council and Commission to continue to support reconstruction and economic recovery in Lebanon;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States, the UN Secretary-General, the Secretary-General of the Arab League, the Quartet Envoy to the Middle East, the President of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, the Government and Parliament of Lebanon, and the Government and Parliament of Syria.