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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

- José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Charles Tannock, Michael Gahler and Ioannis Kasoulides, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group,
- Pasqualina Napoletano, Hannes Swoboda and Véronique De Keyser, on behalf of the PSE Group,
- Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, on behalf of the ALDE Group,
- Daniel Cohn-Bendit and Monica Frassoni, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group,
- Brian Crowley, Adam Bielan, Roberta Angelilli, Ryszard Czarnecki, Inese Vaidere, Hanna Foltyn-Kubicka and Ģirts Valdis Kristovskis, on behalf of the UEN Group,
- André Brie, Kyriacos Triantaphyllides, Luisa Morgantini and Miguel Portas, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group,

on humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip

European Parliament resolution on humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions, in particular those of 16 November 2006 on the situation in the Gaza Strip, 11 October 2007 on the humanitarian situation in Gaza, 21 February 2008 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and 15 January 2009 on the situation in the Gaza Strip,
 - having regard to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 1860 of 8 January 2009,
 - having regard to the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949),
 - having regard to UNRWA's Quick Response Plan to restore critical services to refugees in Gaza (January-September 2009),
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the conflict in the Gaza Strip has further aggravated the humanitarian crisis in the area, which has reached an inhuman level; whereas 88% of the Gaza population is dependent on food aid,
- B. whereas the border crossings in and out of the Gaza Strip have been closed for 18 months, whereas the embargo on the movement of people and goods obstructs the delivery of humanitarian aid to the population and whereas the quantity of goods allowed into the Gaza Strip is insufficient to meet basic humanitarian needs,
- C. whereas key public services in the Gaza Strip are facing serious shortcomings owing to a lack of basic materials required for their functioning; whereas the lack of medicines and fuel at hospitals continues to endanger Palestinian lives,
- D. whereas UNRWA and WFP are playing a crucial role in providing basic goods for the population in the Gaza Strip with the full support of the international community; whereas part of the humanitarian aid aimed at improving living conditions in the area has perished as a result of obstacles to the delivery chain; whereas on 3 and 5 February Hamas confiscated hundreds of food parcels and thousands of blankets destined for Gaza civilians, which have been returned following the suspension of all imports of aid by UNRWA into the Gaza Strip,
- E. whereas the considerable European Union financial support to the Palestinians has played an important role in the attempt to prevent a humanitarian disaster in the Gaza Strip; whereas the European Union, in spite of all obstacles, continues to provide humanitarian aid,
- F. whereas an international donors' conference for the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip will

take place on 2 March 2009 in Cairo,

1. Recognises the sufferings of the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip and calls for increased immediate and unhindered humanitarian aid to them, which it is a moral duty to provide and which must be delivered without any conditions and restrictions; calls on the Israeli authorities to allow a continuous and adequate flow of humanitarian aid, including all the necessary materials for UNRWA and other UN agencies to perform their duties, which meets the needs of the population;
2. Calls once again for an end to the blockade of the Gaza Strip, in compliance with the Agreement on Movement and Access of November 2005, the immediate and sustainable reopening of the crossing points, and the prevention of smuggling of and illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition;
3. Calls for a detailed damage assessment in the Gaza Strip and an in-depth evaluation of the needs of the Gaza population which can serve as a basis for reconstruction plans;
4. Calls for the financial, economic and social rehabilitation of the Gaza Strip, which is an essential element of security in the region; recalls that, in line with the commitments of the international community and the European Union, aid should include payments in cash to pay salaries, pensions and allowances for the most vulnerable people and families;
5. Believes, also with a view to the international donors' conference to be held on 2 March in Cairo, that any sustainable reconstruction and development policy in the Gaza Strip needs a durable cease-fire supported by the resumption of serious peace negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians together with a Palestinian national reconciliation process;
6. Stresses again that the European Union's financial support to the Palestinians should not be undermined by continuous destruction, which is diminishing support for reconstruction projects in European public opinion;
7. Calls on the Commission to draw up a comprehensive overview and evaluation of the medium- and long-term prospects for reconstruction projects in the Gaza Strip financed by the European Union within the framework of PEGASE and ECHO and their budgetary implications;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Quartet Envoy to the Middle East, the President of the Palestinian Authority, the Palestinian Legislative Council, the Israeli Government and the Knesset.