

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

6 October 1999

B5-0142/99 }
B5-0149/99 }
B5-0158/99 }
B5-0168/99 }
B5-0177/99 }RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members:

Lehne and Grossetête, on behalf of the Group of the European People's Party (Christian-Democrats) and European Democrats

Krehl, Passilina, Schori and Volvic, on behalf of the Group of the Party of European Socialists

Maaten and Väyrynen, on behalf of the Group of the European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party

Schröder, Voggenhuber, Lambert, Isler Beguin, Lagendijk and Ortuondo, on behalf of the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

Markov, Alavanos, Marset and Eriksson, on behalf of the Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left

replacing the motions by the following political groups:

- Group of the European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party (B5-0142/99)
- Group of the Party of European Socialists (B5-0149/99)
- Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left (B5-0158/99)
- Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance (B5-0168/99)
- Group of the European People's Party (Christian-Democrats) and European Democrats (B5-0177/99)

on war in Chechnya

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 16 September 1999 on the situation in the Dagestan Republic, in the Russian Federation,

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PE 281.616/
PE 281.623/
PE 281.632/
PE 281.642/
PE 281.651/ RC1
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- having regard to its assent, on 30 November 1995, to the conclusion of an Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Russian Federation, of the other part, and its assent, on 11 June 1997, to the conclusion of the Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States and the Russian Federation and to the Common Strategy of the European Union on Russia, adopted by the Council in June 1999,
 - desiring to deepen cooperation through the Black Sea Cooperation Council,
 - having regard to the Council's diplomatic démarche undertaken on 30 September 1999 in Moscow on the situation in Chechnya,
- A. whereas the European Union is committed to strengthening the strategic partnership with Russia in terms of economic integration and cooperation while maintaining stability and security in Europe and beyond,
 - B. stressing the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation and anxious that there should be no delay in the planned democratic elections to the Duma on 19 December 1999,
 - C. deeply concerned by the escalation of the conflict in Dagestan and Chechnya, in particular following the decision by the Russian military authorities to start armed action in the autonomous territory of these regions which could be used for political ends; alarmed also by the proliferation of military action by fundamentalist Islamic movements in the Caucasus region and in Central Asia,
 - D. concerned by the worsening situation of at least 100 000 displaced persons seeking sanctuary in neighbouring Russian republics, especially in the Russian republic of Ingushetia after the airstrikes in Chechnya,
 - E. considering that regional ethnic difficulties in the Caucasus result from the divide and rule policies of the Soviet era and remain unresolved,
 - F. having regard to the growing geo-strategic dimension to the conflict in the Caucasus, in particular because of the presence of oil pipelines and significant oil interests,
1. Regrets deeply the renewed loss of life, human injuries and the damage to family, social and economic life as a consequence of violence in Chechnya and Dagestan and calls on the Russian authorities to undertake legal operations in order to reestablish internal security throughout the territory of the Russian Federation, ensuring equality of treatment for all citizens, respect for international principles of human rights and safeguarding the civilian population;
 2. Strongly condemns all acts of terrorism perpetrated in Russian cities and atrocities committed against non-Chechen civilians, expresses its condolences to those who are bereaved and the suffering, urges the conflicting parties to act responsibly, refraining from

the disproportionate use of force and from the targeting of civilians who are unwittingly part of the conflict, and calls for urgent political dialogue between the conflicting parties;

3. Renews its call for reports by the OSCE on the implementation of the agreement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Chechnya, and on the social, economic and political situation in Dagestan, calls for similar situation reports on Chechnya and Ingushetia, and calls on the OSCE to make recommendations at the forthcoming Summit Meeting in Istanbul;
4. Calls on the Russian government and the international community, including the European Commission, to make available comprehensive humanitarian aid for civilians who have been bombed out, are refugees or have been expelled and reminds the Russian government of its continuing obligation under the 1996 ceasefire agreement to provide reconstruction aid to Chechnya; insists that the Russian Government must bear full responsibility for the reconstruction of the populated areas and infrastructures destroyed in the past and in the ongoing conflict, and calls upon the European Humanitarian Aid Office to assess the humanitarian situation in Chechnya and neighbouring regions affected by the influx of refugees, and to present to Parliament a proposal for short term humanitarian aid, drawing on its cumulative experience of the region;
5. Invites the European Commission to put in place immediately a humanitarian assistance programme for the displaced population of Chechnya and neighbouring republics, and to this end calls upon Russian and UNHCR officials, in view of the onset of winter, to submit proposals to the European Humanitarian Aid Office for humanitarian aid, its transport and distribution in the republics of Chechnya, Dagestan and Ingushetia;
6. Calls upon the Russian and Chechen authorities to facilitate the work of humanitarian NGOs in the region of the North Caucasus and in particular in Chechnya;
7. Calls for a New Millennium Conference on the Caucasus to be convened within the framework of the Black Sea Cooperation Council, in cooperation with the OSCE, constituting a regional round table bringing together the governments of the Russian Federation, the governments of the neighbouring republics as well as the governments of states which are members of the Black Sea Cooperation Council, with the aim of stabilising and further developing the region, and, as a first priority establishing a forum for cooperation on the return of displaced persons, the promotion of security and regional economic integration;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the OSCE, the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers, the Russian State Duma and Federal Council, the authorities in Chechnya, Dagestan and Ingushetia, to the member states of the Black Sea Cooperation Council and the governments of Afghanistan and Iran.