

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

18 January 2000

B5-0024/2000 }
B5-0025/2000 }
B5-0027/2000 }
B5-0033/2000 }
B5-0035/2000 }
B5-0075/2000 }

}RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 37(4) of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members:

Mr Galeote and Mr Salafranca, on behalf of the PPE Group
Báron, Schori, Napolitano and Sakellariou, on behalf of the PSE Group
Mr De Clercq and Mrs Ries, on behalf of the ELDR Group
Gahrton, Jonckheer, Schroeder and Knörr, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
Wurtz, Morgantini, Marset, Brie, Alavanos, Cosutta and Miranda, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
Muscardini, Ribeiro y Castro and Collins, on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- UEN (B5-0024/2000)
- PSE (B5-0025/2000)
- ELDR (B5-0027/2000)
- GUE/NGL (B5-0033/2000)
- Green/ALE (B5-0035/2000)
- PPE/DE (B5-0075/2000)

on the Middle East peace process

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Middle East peace process,

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PE 284.570/
PE 284.572/
PE 284.574/
PE 284.581/
PE 284.583/
PE 284.625/ RC1
Or. EN/FR

- having regard to its resolution of the 6 October 1999 on the Sharm-el-Sheikh agreement,
- having regard to the Syrian-Israeli peace talks held in Sheperdstown, USA, from 3 to 10 January, 2000,
- having regard to the UN Security Council resolutions 242, 338, 425 and 520,

- A. whereas the peace process has been given fresh impetus by the decision of the Israeli and Syrian Governments to resume the negotiations interrupted in March 1996,
 - B. whereas these negotiations are dealing with the key issues, such as the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, security arrangements, water, the normalisation of relations between the two countries and the timetable for the implementation of any agreement,
 - C. considering the positive impact of the Sharm-el-Sheikh agreements on the peace-process,
 - D. whereas the European Union fully supports these talks and is ready to help the negotiators should they so wish,
 - E. considering the forthcoming visit of the President of the European Parliament to the region,
1. Welcomes the Sharm el-Sheikh agreements; requests that the negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians move forward in accordance with the deadlines laid down in the agreements;
 2. Praises the major boost in favour of peace given by all the parties; reaffirms the necessity of achieving a fair, global and lasting peace in the area which guarantees the legitimate security aspirations of all the countries of the region, especially Israel, derlining that a future Palestinian State must be feasible to completely ensure its security;
 3. Recalls that many difficult issues still stand in the way of a permanent peace, such as the creation of the Palestinian State, the final drawing of borders, the Jerusalem status, the return of Palestinian refugees, the distribution of water, the Israeli settlements; and hopes that the political will expressed up to now by both parties will overcome these obstacles and that the international community will give its full support to help and assist both parties; undertakes for its part to give every support to both parties in the peace process;
 4. Believes that the negotiations initiated in Sheperdstown between Prime Minister Barak and Foreign Affairs Minister Faruk al-Shará hosted by President Clinton could be a fundamental step towards achieving definitive peace in the Middle East and also hopes to see progress on the humanitarian issues that stand between the two countries;

5. Welcomes the fact that Israel and Syria are endeavouring to agree a peace treaty in the near future and to resolve their disputes in order to establish normal peaceful relations between the two countries, and hopes that the Lebanese government will shortly join the negotiating table; believes that Israel must withdraw from Lebanon as demanded by the UN resolutions 425 and 520, so as to ensure the region's stability;
6. Calls on all countries of the region to support the peace process and to fight against any violence, most specially terrorism, which might undermine these efforts;
7. Welcomes the forthcoming Conference of the Multilateral Peace Progress Steering Committee, which is expected to take place in Moscow on 1 February 2000, and hopes that it will serve as a powerful tool to achieve sustainable peace in the Middle East;
8. Notes that the commitments of the European Union in the region in financial terms must be balanced with a clear presence in the political field, without detriment to the discreet and efficient participation of the EU representative Ambassador Moratinos; in this sense, believes that the European Union should be involved in all the negotiations of the peace process;
9. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to actively promote every project which might help to build understanding and partnership between the peoples of the region;
10. Stresses the importance of democratisation, respect for human rights and the rule of law as well as the importance of regional cooperation and integration in accordance with the spirit of the Barcelona process, in which Mediterranean and European countries cooperate in regional projects in order to promote long-term peace and stability in the Mediterranean basin;
11. Points out, finally, that any definitive peace agreement must be guaranteed not only by the parties involved, but also by the international community;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Israeli Government, the Knesset, the Syrian Government, the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Legislative Council, the Lebanese Government, the Jordanian Government and the Egyptian Government.