

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

16 February 2000

B5-0149/2000 }
B5-0159/2000 }
B5-0162/2000 }
B5-0169/2000 }
B5-0175/2000 }

}RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 50(5) of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members:

Galeote Quecedo, Hernández Mollar, Ojeda Sanz and van Velzen, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

Gasòliba I Böhm and Sánchez García, on behalf of the ELDR Group

Díez González, Terrón y Cusí, Obiols i Germà, Nair, Dührkop Dührkop and Aparicio Sánchez, on behalf of the PSE Group

Puerta, Jové Pérez, González Álvarez, Marset Campos, Sylla, Di Lello Finuoli and Eriksson, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

Bautista Ojeda, Knörr Borrás, Boumediene-Thiery and Ceyhun, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PPE-DE (B5-0149/2000)
- ELDR (B5-0159/2000)
- PSE (B5-0162/2000)
- GUE/NGL (B5-0169/2000)
- Verts/ALE (B5-0175/2000)

on the outbreak of racism and xenophobia in El Ejido (Almería)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 13 of the EC Treaty,
- having regard to the conclusions of the Tampere European Council,

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- having regard to its resolution of 17 September 1992 on the riots in Rostock-Lichtenhagen and other cities of the new Länder¹,
 - having regard to its resolution of 20 February 1997 on racism, xenophobia and the extreme right²,
 - having regard to its resolution of 8 October 1998 on cooperation with the Mediterranean countries on matters of migration³,
- A. having regard to the establishment of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism, Xenophobia and Anti-Semitism,
 - B. having regard to the outbreak of racism and xenophobia in El Ejido (Andalusia, Spain) following the tragic death on 5 February 2000 of Encarnación López, the third crime to have occurred in the town within the short space of a fortnight and, like the other two, said to have been committed by immigrants, and having regard to the wave of indiscriminate violence, persecution of the immigrant population, physical aggression and burning of dwellings and possessions,
 - C. whereas such violence has affected the headquarters of the NGOs involved in assisting and finding accommodation for immigrants, and in recognition of the work of such bodies in the area,
 - D. having regard to the appalling living conditions of the group of immigrant workers and their precarious employment situation,
 - E. having regard to the European Union's obligation to guard against racism and xenophobia, as laid down in its Treaties,
 - F. whereas upholding the principles of tolerance, non-discrimination and social, economic and cultural integration with due regard to human diversity and dignity is the most effective guarantee upon which to establish and consolidate peaceful co-existence between local and immigrant populations,
 - G. having regard to the importance of relations between Europe and the Maghreb countries,
1. Expresses its strongest possible condemnation of the crimes perpetrated and calls for the full weight of the law to be brought down upon the authors thereof, and at the same time shares the profound grief and immense sadness of the victims' families and close associates, to whom it expresses those same feelings;

¹ OJ C 284, 2.11.1992, p. 99.

² OJ C 85, 17.3.1997, p. 150.

³ OJ C 328, 26.10.1998, p. 184.

2. Expresses its support and respect for the group of immigrants who have been the victims of aggression and vandalism;
3. Condemns the acts of violence which have occurred over the last few days in El Ejido and firmly rejects any racist or xenophobic attitude;
4. Expresses its support for the NGOs working in the area and its acknowledgement of the task they undertake in order to improve the living conditions of immigrants;
5. Calls for greater cooperation amongst the various levels of government (local, regional, national and European) so that the issue can be tackled on all fronts, and also for speedier identification of conflicts so as to prevent pockets of poverty and discrimination from developing;
6. Welcomes the agreement reached by the immigrants, the institutions and the business and trade-union associations as a starting point for resolving the immigrants' employment situation, housing problems and social problems; hopes that all parties will adopt a positive approach and calls for the agreed measures to be implemented to the letter;
7. Calls for implementation of the Tampere European Council conclusions on the need for a common immigration strategy and on the decision taken at that meeting to guarantee fair treatment for third-country nationals who are legally resident within the EU Member States, and calls for a firmer integration policy which should lead to such nationals being granted rights and obligations comparable to those of EU citizens;
8. Recommends that immediate action should be taken against clandestine illegal immigration networks and calls for application of the rules intended to prevent the illegal recruitment and the exploitation of workers;
9. Notes that the initiatives launched in connection with the 1997 European Year Against Racism should be continued, for which reason it calls on the Commission, on the basis of Article 13 of the EC Treaty, to put forward innovative Community initiatives designed to lay the foundations for suitable forms of co-existence and social cohesion between immigrants and the local population;
10. Calls on the Council to act upon its own decisions and to make greater funding available during the forthcoming budgetary year so that compliance with Article 13 of the EC Treaty can be monitored on a permanent basis;
11. Calls on the Member States, when drawing up their proposals for application of the Structural Funds, to take into account the fight against exclusion and action to support social integration, particularly in the case of immigrants;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Member States, the El Ejido local authorities, the Andalusia regional government and the governments of Spain and Morocco.

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