

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

15 March 2000

B5-0245/2000}
B5-0256/2000}
B5-0261/2000}
B5-0265/2000}
B5-0271/2000}RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members:

Posselt and Carlsson, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

Sakellariou and Krehl, on behalf of the PSE Group

Haarder and Väyrynen, on behalf of the ELDR Group

Schröder, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Markov, Manisco, Herman Schmid, Vinci and Papayannakis, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing motions by :

- the GUE/NGL Group (B5-0245/2000)
- the ELDR Group (B5-0256/2000)
- the PPE-DE Group (B5-0261/2000)
- the PSE Group (B5-0265/2000)
- the Verts/ALE Group (B5-0271/2000)

on violations of human rights and humanitarian law in Chechnya

The European Parliament,

- recalling its urgency resolutions of 7 October 1999, 18 November 1999, 20 January 2000 and 17 February 2000,
- having regard to Recommendation 1444 (2000) of the Council of Europe on restoration of the rule of law, respect for human rights and democracy in Chechnya,

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PE 288.736}
PE 288.747}
PE 289.369}
PE 289.373}
PE 289.379}RC1
Or. en

- recalling the results of the European Union's Troika meeting with Foreign Affairs Minister Ivanov of the Russian Federation on 4 March 2000,
- A. deeply concerned about the continued armed conflict in Chechnya, resulting in an ever growing number of refugees and displaced persons, with Chechnya and the neighbouring regions totally lacking the infrastructure necessary to receive them,
- B. worried about the increasing probability of a spill-over effect of the Chechen crisis to neighbouring Caucasian countries, in particular to Georgia, as fighting between Russian and Chechen troops is approaching Georgian borders,
- C. alarmed by allegations, on the basis of testimonies taken by international non-governmental organisations, concerning serious violations of the European Convention on Human Rights and international humanitarian law, such as arbitrary detention of civilians, torture, summary executions and looting,
- D. deeply concerned about the inadequate efforts made by the Russian authorities to investigate continuing reports of widespread violations of human rights and humanitarian law committed by Russian forces in Chechnya and to prevent similar acts from being committed in the future,
- E. considering the recent declaration of the observer delegation of the Council of Europe after their visit to Russia and Chechnya on the serious violations of human rights and war crimes committed by all combatants,
- F. worried by the fact that international monitors are currently denied permission to enter the region and to investigate alleged human rights abuses, especially in so-called "filtration camps", where there are reports of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, in particular during interrogation,
- G. deploring the fact that assistance urgently needed by international humanitarian organisations is still not possible, as they are denied full and unhindered access to the region,
- H. taking into account the denial of full and unhindered access to the region for journalists; concerned about the charges brought against Radio Liberty reporter Andrei Babitsky, alleged to have been involved with armed groups and facing a prison sentence of up to five years if found guilty,
- I. welcoming acting President Putin's commitment on 11 March 2000 to take steps to increase access to the war zone for international organisations and Russia's commitment during the visit of the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights to accept the deployment of a permanent international monitoring mission in the region, although regretting that acting President Putin, did not, however, give any ground on the issue of holding peace talks with the Chechen side,

1. Reiterates its call for a rapid end to the war by political means;
2. Calls on the Russian authorities to carry out full investigations of allegations of executions, arbitrary detentions and torture in Chechnya by Russian troops, to make sure that those who are responsible for ordering and carrying out human rights violations are brought to justice and to ensure that the right to life and the right to physical and mental integrity of the Chechen people are protected; in this respect the Russian authorities are urged to cooperate with the Council of Europe and the OSCE;
3. Calls on the Council and the Member States to monitor closely the implementation of the agreement reached between the Russian Federation and the Council of Europe and, if it is not complied with, calls on the Council of Europe to consider further legal action;
4. Calls on the Russian and Chechen authorities to take into account the report presented by Lord Judd, head of a Council of Europe delegation, following his recent visit to Chechnya, and to allow the establishment in Chechnya of a permanent presence of international human right monitors from the Council of Europe and the OSCE who should be allowed to move freely, and welcomes as a first step in this direction the agreement reached between Vladimir Kalamonov, Russia's newly appointed human rights commissioner on Chechnya, and Álvaro Gil-Robles, the Council of Europe's human rights commissioner, on opening a human rights office in Chechnya, staffed by 20 workers, including two envoys from the Council of Europe;
5. Urges that full access and appropriate conditions be ensured to enable international humanitarian assistance to be delivered and that access to detainees and internally displaced persons be granted; considers as a positive sign the arrival in Grozny of a first "trial-run" convoy of 10 trucks with food supplies from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
6. Calls upon the Russian authorities to grant the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights, the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Executions, and the UN Special Rapporteur on Children in Armed Conflict permission to visit Chechnya and neighbouring provinces and to report to the next session of the UN Commission on Human Rights;
7. Calls on the Commission to undertake all preparations necessary for a prompt and efficient deployment of humanitarian aid in the region as soon as full access to humanitarian organisations is granted and to keep the Parliament duly informed;
8. Proposes to create an ad hoc delegation of five members to visit the North Caucasus region, to discuss with the Russian authorities and Chechen representatives all issues related to the current conflict as contained in this and previous resolutions;
9. Welcomes the recent visit by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to Chechnya and invites the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe and the

OSCE to undertake, together with the European Parliament, a troika initiative along the lines of the Belarus troika, in order to (i) contribute to the alleviation of the humanitarian crisis linked to the Chechen crisis; (ii) make clear that our humanitarian standards are shared ones, to be respected by members of any of the three organisations; (iii) contribute to the clarification of allegations over war crimes committed in Chechnya;

10. Recalls that only a political solution to the conflict and the urgent reconstruction of the destroyed region, for which Russia is primarily responsible, can avoid a further escalation of the brutalities and confrontations;
11. Calls on the Chechen authorities to take all measures in their power to locate and release all civilian hostages kidnapped before and during the current conflict in Chechnya and to launch a special investigation into the case of Russian news agency ITAR-TASS photo journalist Vladimir Yatsina, kidnapped in Ingushetia by a Chechen group on 19 July 1999 and missing since then;
12. Urges the Russian authorities to ensure that Russian and international journalists in the region can work without constraint, as well as to provide a full account of what happened to Russian journalist Andrei Babitsky and why he has been forbidden to leave Russia and to attend a working group meeting of the PPE-DE Group during the European Parliament's March part-session in Strasbourg;
13. Invites Mr Kalamonov, as Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation in charge of Human Rights in Chechnya, and the respective representative of the Duma to report to Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the parliaments of the Member States, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Russian State Duma and Federal Council, the Government of the Russian Federation and the Chechen authorities.