

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

18 May 2000

B5-0438/2000 }
B5-0443/2000 }
B5-0452/2000 }
B5-0463/2000 }
B5-0471/2000 }

RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

Salafranca, Liese and Garcia Margallo on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
Schori and Seguro on behalf of the PSE Group
Gasoliba, Sanchez and Beysen on behalf of the ELDR Group
Kreissl-Dörfler and Knorr on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
Marset, Gonzalez-Alvarez, Di Lello and Manisco on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- ELDR (B5-0438/2000)
- Verts/ALE (B5-0443/2000)
- PSE (B5-0452/2000)
- PPE-DE (B5-0463/2000)
- GUE/NGL (B5-0471/2000)

on Guatemala

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PE 291.834}
PE 291.839}
PE 291.848}
PE 291.859}
PE 291.867} RC1

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European Parliament resolution on Guatemala

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Guatemala and, in particular, that of 14 May 1998 (B4-493/98),
 - having regard to its resolution of 16 March 2000 in support of the Geneva Conventions and International Humanitarian Law,
 - having regard to the Declaration on human rights in Guatemala which was made on 26 April 2000 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union,
 - having regard to its profound and lasting commitment to the peace process in Guatemala;
- A. whereas the State of Guatemala has ratified both the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;
- B. whereas the Commission on Historical Clarification for Guatemala has recommended that, in particular, those responsible for instigating or promoting crimes against humanity, including genocide, be brought to justice by the Guatemalan authorities;
- C. whereas President Portillo of Guatemala has declared that the recommendations of the Commission on Historical Clarification be converted into undertakings of Government and State;
- D. whereas the implementation of the peace agreements requires the joint efforts of all sectors of the Guatemalan authorities in order to turn agreed measures and objectives into lasting reality, including full respect for human rights, equal opportunities for the indigenous population and reform of the judicial system;
- E. whereas the institution of ad hoc tribunals in relation to the Yugoslavian and Rwandan conflicts and the signing of the Rome Statute in July 1998 for the establishment of an International Criminal Court emphasise a trend in international law and politics favouring the view that a major antidote to human rights abuses is prosecution;
- F. whereas the obligation of the fifteen Member States of the European Union is to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in ratifying the relevant Conventions;

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1. Invites the Member States to support President Portillo in his undertaking to carry out the recommendations of the Commission on Historical Clarification;
2. Calls on the Guatemalan authorities to carry out a full investigation into the crimes against humanity which were committed in Guatemala during the civil war and to bring those responsible for such crimes to justice;
3. Asks the Commission and the Member States to support the initiatives currently in progress with a view to bringing those responsible for crimes against humanity to justice in Guatemala and expects the Guatemalan authorities to guarantee full independence and liberty in the work of the Guatemalan judicial powers responsible for investigating those crimes;
4. Asks the Commission and the Member States to support the Guatemalan State in protecting witnesses, lawyers and other protectors of human rights who participate in the bringing of legal actions against those allegedly responsible for crimes against humanity;
5. Emphasises the special importance of ending the existing atmosphere of impunity for crimes with political implications and therefore urges that the cases of murder of Ms Gerardi and the massacre of Xaman be solved and the intellectual authors thereof be brought to trial;
6. Assures the Guatemalan State of its continued interest and support in its transition to peace and democracy;
7. Calls upon all Guatemalans, and particularly their authorities, to make determined efforts to continue implementing the peace agreements in order to create a freer, more democratic and socially just society;
8. Calls on the Commission to strengthen EU programmes intended to help eradicate human rights abuses and implement the peace agreements;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the President and Government of the Republic of Guatemala, the Secretary-General of the Organisation of American States and Central American Parliament.