

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Session document

15 November 2000

B5-0872/2000 }
B5-0874/2000 }
B5-0876/2000 }
B5-0877/2000 }
B5-0879/2000 }
B5-0882/2000 } RCI

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Georg Jarzembowski, Hartmut Nassauer, W.G. van Velzen, Jas Gawronski, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Mario Mantovani, The Lord Inglewood, Jacques Santer, Brigitte Langenhagen, Struan Stevenson and Hanja Maij-Weggen, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Christa Randzio-Plath, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Jules Maaten, on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Patricia McKenna and Nelly Maes, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Roseline Vachetta, Philippe A.R. Herzog, Luisa Morgantini and Lucio Manisco, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Cristiana Muscardini, on behalf of the UEN Group
- Olivier Dupuis, Marco Pannella, Emma Bonino, Maurizio Turco, Benedetto Della Vedova, Gianfranco Dell'Alba and Marco Cappato

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- ELDR (B5-0872/2000),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0874/2000),
- PPE-DE (B5-0876/2000),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0877/2000),
- UEN (B5-0879/2000),
- PSE (B5-0882/2000),

on ASEM

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European Parliament resolution on ASEM

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Chairman's Statement, the Asia-Europe Cooperation Framework (AECF) 2000 and the Seoul Declaration for Peace on the Korean Peninsula which were adopted by the 25 ASEM governments and the European Commission at the Third Asia-Europe Meeting in Seoul on 20-21 October 2000, and having regard to the 16 draft texts adopted by the Heads of State and Government,
 - having regard to the ASEM 2000 People's Forum bringing together representatives of social movements, trade unions, NGOs and parliamentarians from Asia and Europe, which was held at the same time,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on ASEM, and, in particular, the most recent one of 4 October 2000 on ASEM III,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the Asia-Europe Trade-Union Conference held in Seoul by the ICFTU calling for ratification of the Declaration on fundamental principles and rights at work and its follow-up, adopted in 1999 by the ILO,
- A. whereas the third ASEM Heads of State meeting has been seen as a milestone in the process of moving EU–Asia relations away from an agenda dominated by economic concerns towards a political agenda, in particular by tackling the topic of respect for human rights, through the discussions on regional and global security issues, the protection of children and the impact of globalisation, and through the undertakings given on conflict prevention and compliance with disarmament treaties,
- B. whereas discussions at the meeting were greatly influenced by the encouraging developments in relations between the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK),
- C. whereas, without any concertation at EU level 10 EU Member States have now announced their decision to take steps to normalise diplomatic relations with North Korea,
- D. whereas the ASEM process is still profoundly undemocratic, to the point where even the elected assemblies were only imperfectly and belatedly informed of the arrangements for and the issues to be dealt with at the Seoul summit,
- E. whereas, before the Seoul summit, Parliament expressed its determination to resume the ASEP process (Asia-Europe parliamentary meetings),
1. Calls on ASEM III members to respect the principles of human rights, democracy and good governance and the inclusion of the 'democratic clause' in all political negotiations;

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2. Welcomes the efforts made by the various ASEM governments to support the process of dialogue and confidence-building between the two Korean states and supports all initiatives which might contribute to a peaceful resolution of one of the last conflicts left over from the Cold War and encourage the reunification of the two countries in the interests of their peoples, and also welcomes the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Korean President Kim Dae Jung;
3. Regrets that, in the Seoul Declaration for Peace on the Korean Peninsula, the Heads of State once again confirmed their unquestioning support for the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation (KEDO), in spite of the long-standing doubts concerning the economic and environmental feasibility of supplying nuclear reactors to the DPRK;
4. Welcomes the spirit of equal partnership and strengthened political dialogue as guiding principles of the Asia-Europe Cooperation Framework; considers, however, that this ever widening agenda is still not reflected in the management of ASEM activities, which remain in the hands of the foreign, economics and finance ministers, who are supposed to carry forward the ASEM work programme;
5. Strongly supports interparliamentary dialogue as a clear basis for mutual political understanding and, in that connection, calls for a prompt relaunching of the ASEP forum (Asia-Europe Parliamentary meeting) bringing together the EP and the national parliaments of the Asian countries involved in the ASEM process;
6. Considers that the main aim to be pursued under the political 'pillar' must be to invest the ASEM with the democratic character that is missing at present, by ensuring that the process is transparent, by opening it up to participation by elected assemblies and by taking full account of the demands of civil society; calls, in particular, for a social forum to be set up in which such demands can be freely expressed;
7. Welcomes the fact that respect for 'democracy, the rule of law, equality, justice and human rights, concern for the environment, and other global issues, eradication of poverty, protection of cultural heritage and the promotion of intellectual endeavours, economic and social development, knowledge and educational resources, science and technology, commerce, investment and enterprise' has been enshrined in the Asia Europe Cooperation Framework as an expression of the common interests shared by Asia and Europe; calls, therefore, on ASEM members to implement promptly all the key priorities as laid out in this agreement;
8. Welcomes, in this respect, the new ASEM initiatives endorsed in the Chairman's Statement on Human Resources Development, Environment and Health; believes, however, that the cooperation efforts between the EU and Asia, and on an international level, in the areas of human rights, democracy, the rule of law, the environment and social issues still remain rather timid and should in future become much more specific and concrete;
9. Emphasises nonetheless that greater attention must be paid to the problem of the exploitation of child labour and abuses against minors, equal opportunities and the social rights of

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workers;

10. Welcomes the commitments given with regard to migratory flows and the fight against organised crime, but considers that closer cooperation is required to step up the fight against drug trafficking, terrorism and sexual tourism;
11. Reaffirms the importance of EU-ASEAN cooperation and partnership, but calls for action to exclude Myanmar from all ASEAN-EU programmes unless fundamental freedom, human rights and the freedom of speech and movement are respected; in this context, supports the decision taken by the EU foreign ministers in Luxembourg on 10 October 2000 to extend the common position on Myanmar until April 2001;
12. Calls on the Commission, the Council and the Member States to invite India, one of the most important democracies in the world, to participate in the ASEM process within a reasonable time-frame;
13. Welcomes the undertakings given by the Heads of State regarding the early entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol;
14. Reiterates, further, its call for enhanced cooperation in the areas of analysis, planning and training in relation to conflict prevention and peacekeeping, and regrets that no concrete measures have been envisaged, such as the creation of a multilateral Forum for conflict resolution;
15. Welcomes the reference by the AECF to dialogue on the international financial framework and calls on the ASEM heads of state and government to join forces in a vigorous reform efforts, taking into account the discussions on ways to combat financial speculation;
16. Welcomes the commitment of the Heads of State to UN reform with the goal of strengthening and enhancing the representativeness, transparency and effectiveness of the UN system, including the Security Council, and calls on the ASEM members to give a lead in this direction by speedily ratifying the protocol on the creation of the International Criminal Court;
17. Welcomes the resolve to tackle jointly the 'digital divide' between rich and poor countries;
18. Welcomes the decision taken at the ASEM III meeting to set up a Trans-Eurasia Information Network: since this will strengthen cooperation in the sphere of the information and communications society, by using IT highways regions within ASEM countries will be able to enhance their participation in globalisation, step up R&D programmes and boost social and cultural interaction;
19. Considers that the launching of the 'DUO ASEM Fellowship Program' is a first step towards boosting exchanges of students and educators between the two regions; in this context, calls on the European Commission to play its role in fostering Community action programmes,

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creating, if necessary, new budget headings which focus on promoting and encouraging cultural, intellectual and people-to-people exchanges;

20. Calls on the European Commission to present to ASEM IV, to be held in Copenhagen in 2002, an enhanced proposal as a follow-up to its document entitled 'Perspectives and Priorities for the ASEM process into the new decade' (COM(2000) 241 final);
21. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments of the Member States and the governments and parliaments of the ASEM countries.