

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

13 December 2000

B5-0901/2000 }
B5-0908/2000 }
B5-0913/2000 }
B5-0921/2000 }
B5-0922/2000 }
B5-0928/2000 }
RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Hanja Maij-Weggen and Bernd Posselt on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- José María Mendiluce Pereiro, Margrietus J. van den Berg and Anna Terrón i Cusí on behalf of the PSE Group
- Graham R. Watson on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Matti Wuori and Jean Lambert on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Fodé Sylla, Pernille Frahm, Giuseppe Di Lello Finuoli, Lucio Manisco, Geneviève Fraisse, Esko Olavi Seppänen and Mihail Papayannakis on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Cristiana Muscardini and Gerard Collins on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- GUE/NGL (B5-0901/2000),
- PPE-DE (B5-0908/2000),
- PSE (B5-0913/2000),
- UEN (B5-0921/2000),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0922/2000),
- ELDR (B5-0928/2000),

on the 50th anniversary of the UNHCR

RC\428309EN.doc

PE 298.933}
PE 298.940}
PE 298.945}
PE 298.953}
PE 298.954}
PE 298.960} RC1

European Parliament resolution on the 50th anniversary of the UNHCR

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on asylum policy in Europe, Europe's contribution to refugee protection and assistance in the world at large and the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR),
- A. recalling that the UNHCR has a unique mandate, as adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, in responding to the protection and assistance needs of refugees and in promoting durable solutions to their plight,
- B. noting that since the founding of the UNHCR in December 1950, it has become one of the world's principal humanitarian agencies, there being nearly 22 million people who are its concern in more than 140 countries,
- C. noting the significant role of the UNHCR as the guardian of international protection principles in the construction of a common European asylum system,
- D. recalling that the UNHCR has twice been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its services to humanity,
- E. deeply disturbed by increasingly violent attacks on humanitarian aid workers, most recently culminating in the brutal killing of UNHCR staff in West Timor (Indonesia) and Guinea,
- F. recalling that 14 December 2000 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the UNHCR and a half century of humanitarian work carried out since its establishment,
- 1. Recognises, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, the unique mandate of the UNHCR and the importance of its efforts to protect and promote durable solutions for refugees and other uprooted people who are its concern, and expresses its continuing support for the UNHCR's work;
- 2. Reminds the European governments of their solemn declarations made at the Tampere Summit referring to absolute respect of the right to seek asylum and the Union's commitment to the development of a common European asylum system based on the full and inclusive application of the 1951 Convention as the cornerstone of that system, and encourages the Commission and Member States to prepare and adopt future EU asylum instruments based on high protection standards;
- 3. Expects from the Member States that all people making an application for asylum at the borders of or within the EU are guaranteed safety and a fair procedure in accordance with international Conventions and accepted principles of international refugee law;

RC\428309EN.doc

PE 298.933}
PE 298.940}
PE 298.945}
PE 298.953}
PE 298.954}
PE 298.960} RC1

4. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to establish a true partnership with the UNHCR by offering both political and financial support, and calls for EU funding to ensure predictability, flexibility and geographical balance, including for non-emergency situations, as well as a smooth transition from emergency relief to reconstruction and development;
5. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to support the UNHCR in ensuring a coherent co-ordination framework for the provision of refugee assistance and protection, and calls on the Commission to give due recognition to the UNHCR's co-ordinating role in its contractual arrangements with its partners; therefore asks the Commission to make available additional financial means to the UNHCR;
6. Calls upon States and all concerned parties to urgently take all possible measures to safeguard the physical security and property of UNHCR staff and all other humanitarian aid workers, to investigate fully any crime committed against them, and to bring to justice those responsible;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Member States and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.