

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Session document

13 December 2000

B5-0938/2000 }
B5-0939/2000 }
B5-0942/2000 }

}RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Hans-Gert Poettering, W.G. van Velzen, Elmar Brok and Iñigo Méndez de Vigo, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Enrique Barón Crespo, Klaus Hänsch, Pervenche Berès, Richard Graham Corbett and Dimitrios Tsatsos, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Andrew Nicholas Duff, and Patrick Cox, on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Paul A.A.J.G. Lannoye, Heidi Anneli Hautala and Nelly Maes, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- ELDR (B5-0938/2000),
- PPE-DE (B5-0939/2000),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0942/2000),

on the outcome of the European Council on 7-11 December 2000 in Nice

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PE 298.974}
PE 298.975}
PE 299.375}RC1

**European Parliament resolution on the outcome of the European Council on
7-11 December 2000 in Nice**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the European Council report and Commission statement on the outcome of the European Council meeting on 7-11 December 2000 in Nice and in particular the outcome of the IGC negotiations,

Regarding the Nice Summit

1. Notes with satisfaction the agreement in the Presidency conclusions on issues such as the social agenda, common security and defence policy, food safety, public services, the statute for the European companies and environmental questions;
2. Welcomes the offer made to the applicant countries of a timetable consistent with Parliament's proposal;
3. Welcomes the proclamation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights;

Regarding the IGC

4. Notes, pending a detailed examination of the draft Treaty, that, yet again, an IGC results in some improvements to the Treaties, but which fall short of what Parliament considered necessary to strengthen the Union's capability for enlargement and its democratic legitimacy;
5. Considers that the way in which most Heads of State and Governments have led their final negotiations on the Treaty of Nice shows that they gave priority to their short term national interests rather than to EU interests;
6. Notes that progress has apparently been reached concerning the nomination, the composition and functioning of the Commission and particularly the increased powers of its President; Article 7 on establishing a warning system in case Member States contravene the basic principles upon which the Union is founded; and the statute of political parties;
7. Will also examine carefully apparent shortcomings such as Council decision making procedures, particularly regarding the raised thresholds for obtaining a qualified-majority, and its complexity; the insufficient extension of the scope of qualified-majority voting in matters important for enlargement; the fact that no automatic link was made between qualified-majority voting (both old and new cases) and legislative codecision by Parliament; the fact that, in enhanced cooperation, Parliament's assent is only occasionally required; and the fact that the Charter of Fundamental Rights has neither been incorporated nor even referred to in the new Treaty;

8. Calls on its Committee on Constitutional Affairs to make a detailed evaluation of the draft Treaty and make an assessment of whether an enlarged Union can function transparently, democratically and efficiently on the basis of the new Treaty, and to do so in time for Parliament to adopt a decision before national ratification procedures begin;
9. Considers that the Nice summit demonstrates that the traditional IGC method is unsuitable; considers therefore that work on the 'post-Nice' agenda is vital; to this end a Convention similar to the one which produced the Charter of Fundamental Rights should be convened, comprising representatives from the applicant countries as well as those of the Union in which no party has a right of veto; after a broad public debate it should produce a draft to reform, simplify and reorganise the Treaties into a single, clear and concise document ('Constitution');
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the European Council, the Council, the Commission and the Parliaments of the Member States.