

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

14 March 2001

B5-0184/2001 }
B5-0196/2001 }
B5-0203/2001 }
B5-0213/2001 }
B5-0219/2001 }
B5-0222/2001 }
RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Doris Pack, Philippe Morillon, Ria G.H.C. Oomen-Ruijten, Christine de Veyrac, Struan Stevenson, Thomas Mann and Roy Perry on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Margrietus J. van den Berg, Myrsini Zorba, Barbara O'Toole and Lissy Gröner on behalf of the PSE Group
- Cecilia Malmström and Antonio Di Pietro on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Luckas Vander Taelen, Terence Wynn, Raina A. Mercedes Echerer and Marie Anne Isler Béguin on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Geneviève Fraisse, Marianne Eriksson, Laura González Álvarez, Feleknas Uca and Luisa Morgantini on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Cristiana Muscardini on behalf of the UEN Group
and Olivier Dupuis, Emma Bonino, Marco Pannella, Maurizio Turco, Benedetto Della Vedova, Gianfranco Dell'Alba and Marco Cappato

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PSE (B5-0184/2001),
- ELDR (B5-0196/2001),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0203/2001),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0213/2001),
- UEN (B5-0219/2001),
- PPE-DE (B5-0222/2001),

on Afghanistan

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European Parliament resolution on Afghanistan

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions, including that of 30 November 2000,
 - having regard to the UNESCO resolution on assistance to Afghanistan, adopted on 29 April 1999,
 - having regard to UN Security Council Resolution 1333/2000 of 19 December 2000,
 - having regard to the Council common positions of 22 January 2001 and 21 February 2001,
 - having regard to the Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict,
- A. whereas the establishment of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan has led to systematic discrimination and constant repression, in particular against women, and extremely serious health problems,
- B. whereas Afghan women of all ages are being subjected to a system of segregation and oppression sanctioned by the law in all areas, whether private, economic or political,
- C. whereas a decree issued by the Taliban fundamentalist authorities has stated that the presence of statues in the country is contrary to Islam and has ordered the destruction of those statues, which are symbolic of several cultures and religions,
- D. whereas this decree represents an irreparable attack on the world historic and cultural heritage and on the Afghan identity,
- E. whereas there has been widespread condemnation from the international community, and in particular the Muslim world,
- F. noting with interest the criticism of these measures made by the Pakistani authorities,
- G. shocked at the continued forced displacements and massacres perpetrated against non-Pashtoon populations, in particular the Hazaras,
- H. having regard to the expansionist aspirations of the Taliban regime and, as a result, the exporting of terrorism beyond Afghanistan's borders, threatening peace and stability in Central Asia,
- I. whereas Afghanistan is faced with a tragic humanitarian situation, resulting from the combined effects of the war which is tearing the country apart and the drought affecting it,

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- J. whereas Afghanistan is facing the threat of famine from droughts, and whereas it is one of the countries which will be most heavily affected by climate change,
- K. whereas, under the new Council common position, the Member States have undertaken:
- to take the necessary measures to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1333/2000,
 - to help find a political solution to the conflict in Afghanistan, guaranteeing peace, stability and respect for human rights,
 - to supply effective humanitarian aid to the civilian population,
1. Strongly condemns and expresses its deep indignation at the Taliban's decision to destroy the Bamyian and the National Museum statues, this being an unprecedented offence against human civilisation and the feelings of Buddhists;
 2. Welcomes the strong reactions of the international community, including those of the Islamic Organisation for Education, Science and Culture and the Arab Group in UNESCO;
 3. Believes that this decision adds a further, shocking element to the appalling record of human rights abuses of the Taliban regime, well known for its politics of gender apartheid and systematic oppression of virtually every single individual liberty;
 4. Recognises again that Afghan women are the first victims of the regime imposed by the Taliban, recalls that women's rights form an integral and indivisible part of the universal rights of all human beings, and calls on the Council and the Commission to put forward proposals at the meeting of the UN Commission on Human Rights, due to be held in Geneva in 2001;
 5. Condemns the physical and psychological violence suffered by Afghan women and young girls, who are subjected to a system of segregation laid down by Taliban law, whose prohibitions are neither based on religion nor the result of local cultural traditions, but are part of a system of gender-based discrimination;
 6. Condemns the continued displacement and massacre of certain minority groups and, in particular, the murder of more than 300 Hazaras in the province of Bamiyan in January 2001;
 7. Is convinced that only stronger international pressure on the Taliban and the countries which support them – Pakistan and Saudi Arabia – can bring the Taliban regime to alter its policy, in particular vis-à-vis women;
 8. Calls, in particular, on Pakistan to close down the Taliban recruitment centres and their Islamic schools in Pakistan immediately;
 9. Welcomes the Council's new common position, calls on the Member States and the Council to ensure that it is applied in a consistent manner and reiterates its request to the Council to make a political contribution to restoring peace to Afghanistan inter alia by coordinating its initiatives with the neighbouring countries, especially Russia, India and Iran;

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10. Warmly welcomes the UN Security Council resolution and welcomes the entry into force of sanctions, given that the Taliban authorities have failed to respond to the demands made in that resolution;
11. Calls on the Taliban authorities to apply immediately and unconditionally UN Security Council Resolutions 1333/2000 and 1267/1999;
12. Calls on the United Nations to undertake adequate investigations into the killing of civilians, and urges the UN to promptly establish an independent commission of enquiry into human rights violations in Afghanistan, as requested by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson;
13. Calls on Afghanistan's neighbours to keep their borders open to refugees and calls on the Commission and the Member States to provide host countries with support as a matter of urgency;
14. Calls on the Commission to spare no effort to assist the population and insists again on the need to consider rapidly how an emergency food depot could be set up in Dushanbe for people in northern Afghanistan;
15. Calls on the Commission to do everything within its power to ensure that NGOs can provide humanitarian aid to people in Afghanistan and that this aid is made available without discrimination to Afghan women;
16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Taliban authorities, the Northern Alliance, and the governments of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, India, China, Russia, Iran, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, UNESCO and the Arab Group in UNESCO, the Islamic Organisation for Education and the United Nations Security Council.