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B5-0474/2001 }
B5-0475/2001 }
B5-0476/2001 }
B5-0477/2001 }
RC1/COR1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Hans-Gert Poettering, Arie M. Oostlander, Ilkka Suominen, Iñigo Méndez de Vigo, Giorgos Dimitrakopoulos, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Jorge Moreira da Silva and Georg Jarzembowski on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Enrique Barón Crespo, Jan Andersson, Margrietus J. van den Berg and Jannis Sakellariou on behalf of the PSE Group
- Patrick Cox, Jules Maaten, Andrew Nicholas Duff and Francesco Rutelli on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Heidi Anneli Hautala, Nelly Maes, Inger Schörling and Alexander de Roo on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- ELDR (B5-0474/2001),
- PPE-DE (B5-0475/2001),
- PSE (B5-0476/2001),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0477/2001),

on the European Council meeting of 15-16 June 2001 in Göteborg (Gothenburg)

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PE 307.293 }
PE 307.294 }
PE 307.295 }
PE 307.298 } RC1/COR1

European Parliament resolution on the European Council meeting of 15-16 June 2001 in Göteborg (Gothenburg)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the European Council report and Commission statement on the outcome of the European Council meeting on 15-16 June 2001 in Göteborg,
- having regard to its resolution of 13 June 2001 on the preparation of the European Council on 15-16 June 2001 in Göteborg,
- having regard to the conclusions of the European Council meetings in Cardiff (June 1998), Helsinki (December 1999), Lisbon (March 2000) and Stockholm (March 2001),
- having regard to its resolution of 31 May 2001 on the Treaty of Nice and the future of the European Union¹,
- having regard to its resolution of 17 May 2001 on the situation in the Middle East²,
- having regard to its resolution of 15 March 2001 on conflict prevention and civil crisis management³,
- having regard to its resolution of 17 May 2001 on the Transatlantic Dialogue⁴,

I. THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

Enlargement

1. Welcomes the new commitment given to the negotiations by the Council's statement that the enlargement process is irreversible; calls on the Commission and the governments of the Member States and the applicant countries to do everything in their power to ensure that the prospect of citizens of the applicant countries participating in the 2004 European elections becomes a reality;
2. Asks the Commission and the Council to examine every possible option in order not to endanger the timetable for enlargement;

¹ Texts Adopted, Item 4.

² Texts Adopted, Item 6.

³ Texts Adopted, Item 4.

⁴ Texts Adopted, Item 7.

Ireland

3. With regard to the Irish referendum, reiterates its view that the European Council must accept full responsibility not only for the drafting of the Treaty but also for its ratification; welcomes the European Council's willingness to contribute in every way possible to helping the Irish government find a way forward and meet the concerns of the Irish people;
4. Urges the European Council to concede that the exclusively intergovernmental and closed method of treaty reform contributed directly to the negative verdict of the Irish people;
5. Hopes the Irish government will meet the deadline for ratification of the Treaty by the end of 2002;

The future of the Union

6. Regrets the European Council's proposal for 'the possible creation of an open forum' in order to prepare the next IGC, and demands that a properly constituted Convention representing Member States' governments and parliaments, the European Parliament and the Commission is established by the Laeken European Council in December;
7. Expects the Belgian Presidency to make an ambitious and detailed proposal along these lines, which should be adopted at the Laeken Summit in order for the Convention to start its work, and to make constitutional proposals to serve as the basis for the work of the IGC;
8. Expresses its concern at the fact that the Council was not able to agree on and adopt draft rules on the statute of the European political parties;

Circumstances of the Summit

9. Deeply deplores the acts of violence and provocation committed at the Göteborg Summit by organised groups and even specialised commandos representing a marginal percentage of the demonstrators present; considers this behaviour totally unacceptable in a democratic society which attaches great importance to the maintenance of the principle of freedom of expression and the right to demonstrate publicly and peacefully; expresses its solidarity with all citizens affected by the violence, as well as with the Swedish authorities;

II. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

10. Welcomes the importance given by the Swedish Presidency to the issue of sustainable development; emphasises that no sustainable development strategy will be effective and efficient without full information and participation of all citizens; notes with regret that the European Council has managed to agree on general principles for a sustainable development strategy but has failed to take decisions on concrete actions;

11. Reiterates that the Prodi document on sustainable development contained a series of

interesting ideas and measures; welcomes statements by the Commission that these proposals will continue to be its basis for further work; urges the Belgian Presidency to further specify, at Laeken, concrete actions and quantified targets for sustainable development in time for the 2002 European Council in Barcelona;

12. Urges the Council to implement fully the decisions taken in Göteborg, particularly as regards the addition of a third, environmental dimension to the Lisbon strategy, and the implementation of headline objectives and measures in the 6th Environmental Action Programme, which must be the environmental cornerstone of the EU's sustainable development strategy;
13. Calls for the European Parliament to be fully involved in the preparation of, and the follow-up to, this process, together with the different stakeholders in the European Union and in the applicant countries.
14. Stresses that sustainable development is a matter of solidarity between the regions and populations of Europe and the world; calls therefore on the Council and the Commission to prepare fully the EU strategy for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg in 2002, in which the European Union should develop real political leadership;
15. Welcomes the confirmation of the EU commitments to the Kyoto process and urges the Council and the Commission to take all necessary steps to prepare for rapid ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by the Union and its Member States and to take the concrete measures necessary for its implementation;
16. Welcomes the commitment contained in the Summit Conclusions to addressing threats to public health and believes that, in terms of winning public confidence and support, the issue of food safety is of particular importance; in that context, agrees that it is essential that the Council and Parliament rapidly agree on the final adoption of the European Food Safety Authority and food law regulation;
17. Emphasises that there is an urgent need for a revision of the common agricultural policy and the common fisheries policy with a view to sustainable development, and demands a clear timetable for these reforms;
18. Welcomes the support given to measures to ensure sustainable transport and to improved transparency in prices, and calls for the priorities identified for the revision of the guidelines for the trans-European transport networks to be integrated into all EU proposals on transport;
19. Welcomes, with respect to development, the renewed commitment to reaching the UN target for official development assistance of 0.7% of GDP, an objective which Member States have not met in the past;

III. FOLLOW-UP TO THE STOCKHOLM EUROPEAN COUNCIL

20. Welcomes the integration of elements of the Union's sustainable development policy into the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines; stresses that further efforts should be made to incorporate in this policy field a few additional policy targets which are not covered by the guidelines and the proposed policy recommendations;
21. Considers that implementation of these recommendations is an essential element in enabling the euro to establish itself as a stable currency, and in improving competitive pressures in the European economy;
22. Underlines the challenges posed by recent developments in the economic outlook for the European economy, with the emergence of inflationary pressures and the downgrading of earlier growth forecasts; stresses in consequence the need for further, innovative measures, on both the supply and the demand fronts, to remove bottlenecks in labour and product markets and develop investment in education, quality of life, social inclusion and environmental protection;
23. Considers that the economic and social dimensions of the Lisbon strategy must include the sustainable development strategy ('mainstreaming') and calls for the development of a strong analytical basis which will allow for future actions;
24. Welcomes the fact that the European Council has adopted the three basic framework principles of the European Parliament for securing the long-term sustainability of pension systems: safeguarding the capacity of systems to meet their social objectives, maintaining their financial sustainability and meeting the changing needs of society; expects that the European Parliament will be involved in the process and points out that creating more and better jobs will reinforce the sustainability of social protection systems;
25. Welcomes the further negotiations on the tax package; stresses the importance of fixing a deadline for a final agreement on the tax package as a whole; insists therefore on the further acceleration of the negotiations with third countries;
26. Calls on the Council to speed up the formal adoption of the common position on the directive on informing and consulting employees in the EU; stresses the need for a set of effective sanctions for non-compliance;
27. Regrets that the European Council once more failed in its intention to record progress on the Single European Sky;

IV. TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

28. Applauds the renewed commitment to ratifying the Kyoto Protocol in spite of the US withdrawal, but remains severely disappointed by the unilateral, non-cooperative position adopted by the United States on such a global issue; calls for continued diplomatic efforts to ensure that the USA plays a full part in international efforts to combat climate change

and that all the parties to the Protocol honour their undertakings on this subject;

29. Is hopeful that the identification of five strategic themes ranging from addressing security challenges to promoting economic development and a multilateral trading system will make transatlantic relations more coherent and focused over the next few years; emphasises the need for the USA and EU to work together towards a common definition of their roles and responsibilities in their strategic global partnership;
30. Welcomes the successful conclusion of the long-standing banana dispute between the USA and the EU, and hopes that other outstanding trade disputes can be resolved in a similar manner;
31. Notes the preliminary WTO ruling that the FSC Act violates world trade rules, and hopes that the US will prove its commitment to international trade arbitration by modifying the relevant legislation in order to avoid a transatlantic trade dispute before the definitive ruling is handed down;
32. Regrets that the death penalty continues to be used in 38 jurisdictions in the United States, having a disproportionate effect on the poor and minority groups; notes that an alarming number of citizens have been erroneously incarcerated and sentenced to death and that the death sentence has also been imposed on juvenile and mentally retarded offenders; calls therefore upon the United States and its member states to comply with international standards and place a moratorium on all executions;

V. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

On European security and defence policy

33. Shares the Council's view that progress has been made in developing the EU's capabilities, structures and procedures in the field of conflict prevention and crisis management, especially with regard to the development of a permanent and effective relationship with NATO, but calls for more efforts to be made to reach an agreement permitting permanent EU access to NATO assets and capabilities; reminds the EU Member States of their commitment to restructuring their defence budgets to the level needed to reach the ambitious objectives of the ESDP and reaffirms its belief that a parliamentary dimension for the ESDP must be ensured;
34. Believes that the development of the European security and defence policy strengthens the Union's capacity to contribute to international peace and security in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter;
35. Welcomes the declaration of the European Council on the prevention of the proliferation of ballistic missiles and reiterates its grave concern about the US missile defence system initiative;

36. Stresses the need for the USA to consult its European partners and all countries concerned, as announced during the discussion with the US President in Göteborg; reaffirms, nevertheless, its position that multilateral negotiations and dialogue should precede any new developments regarding the ABM Treaty;

On the Middle East

37. Calls on the EU and its Member States to support the development of a parallel path to be pursued with all the relevant actors in the region in order to implement the recommendations and proposals of the Sharm el-Sheik fact-finding mission ('Mitchell Report');
38. Welcomes the report on the Middle East presented to the Council by EU High Representative Solana; is convinced that his recent efforts in cooperation with EU Special Envoy Moratinos have enhanced the visibility of the EU, and notes that these activities have given the role of the Union a higher profile;
39. Calls on the European Union's High Representative to prepare, in accordance with the orientations included in the conclusions of the Göteborg Summit, a general plan based on political perspectives and recommendations for the Middle East region in order to contribute, once the crisis is over, to rebuilding confidence in peace and cooperation between the parties;
40. Reiterates its call for the deployment of an international observer mission in the Occupied Territories and urges Member States to launch in this respect a relevant initiative within the UN;

On FYROM

41. Condemns any resorting to violence and emphasises its continuing strong support for the FYROM government for the process of inter-ethnic dialogue; calls on all democratic forces in FYROM, in neighbouring countries and in the international community to unite against extremism;
42. Calls on High Representative Solana and Representative Léotard to spearhead diplomatic action to reach an agreement between the FYROM government and its ethnic Albanian minority in order to end the crisis in FYROM and avert the risk of descent into civil war;
43. Underlines the need to maintain FYROM as a state in which all citizens enjoy equal rights and to prevent a regression towards division based upon ethnicity and is convinced that a solution to the crisis can only be built on the basis of a institutional reform programme agreed by all political parties democratically elected to the FYROM parliament;
44. Supports NATO's readiness to help facilitate the disarming of extremists of Albanian origin (UCK and others), in accordance with President Trajkovski's peace plan, and its intention not to allow itself to be drawn into a full-scale 'peace keeping' role, as it was in Bosnia and Kosovo;

On the European Conference

45. Welcomes the decision of the European Council to invite Moldova and Ukraine to the European Conference under the Belgian Presidency as a positive response to the European ambitions of both countries, and takes the view that these countries' participation in the structures of pan-European cooperation will contribute to the stability and peace of the continent; emphasises once again that full and complete respect for basic human rights and respect for the rule of law should be considered as a fundamental requirement for any country participating in the further process of European integration;

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46. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the European Council, the Council, the Commission and the parliaments of the Member States.