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1999



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Session document

5 September 2001

B5-0558/2001 }
B5-0564/2001 }
B5-0572/2001 }
B5-0587/2001 }
B5-0596/2001 }
RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Hartmut Nassauer and Bernd Posselt, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Carlos Lage, Marie-Arlette Carlotti, Margrietus J. van den Berg, Richard Corbett and Luis Berenguer Fuster, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Jules Maaten, on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Patricia McKenna, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Pernille Frahm, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- ELDR (B5-0558/2001),
- PPE-DE (B5-0564/2001),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0572/2001),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0587/2001),
- PSE (B5-0596/2001),

on Cambodia

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European Parliament resolution on Cambodia

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Cambodia,
 - having regard to the Cambodian law of 16 August 2001 on the special Cambodian Tribunal of international character to prosecute members of the Khmer Rouge,
 - having regard to the Paris Accords of October 1993 and the commitment to democracy they enclose,
 - having regard to the UN Commission on Human Rights resolution on Cambodia adopted on 25 April 2001,
 - having regard to the EU Cambodia Cooperation Agreement of 1 November 1999,
 - having regard to the Commission communication on EU election assistance and observation (COM(2000)191),
- A. considering that the Khum Sangkat Councils elections taking place in February 2002 constitute a further step in strengthening the democratisation process in Cambodia and that since 1998 the country is enjoying its first period of peace in three decades,
- B. alarmed by the violent death of Toch Voeun, who was running for the Sam Rainsy Party at the local elections, following the death of two other members of opposition parties to the ruling Cambodia People's Party,
- C. concerned by the impact of the National Election Committee's amendment to its 'Rules and Regulations' in the midst of the commune election voter registration process and noting that on 19 August the National Election Committee (NEC) unilaterally decided to suspend voter registration quotas which led 30% of eligible voters not to register,
- D. considering the importance of a violence-free and intimidation-free environment before and during the elections and the need for an objective and impartial attitude on the part of the National Election Committee in the whole process,
- E. whereas the democratic opposition accuses the government of depriving thousands of citizens of their right to vote by implementing discriminatory measures against certain groups of people such as factory workers,
- F. considering the recent decision by the two houses of the Cambodian parliament and by King Norodom Sihanouk to adopt the Khmer Rouge Tribunal Bill;
- G. recalling that the democratic process in Cambodia, the stability of the new institutions and

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the rehabilitation of civil society can only become reality if those responsible for the genocide face a fair trial conducted by a tribunal according to international standards,

- H. considering that the special Tribunal will be set up under Cambodian domestic jurisdiction and with a majority of Cambodian judges,
- I. considering that a number of issues concerning the criminal procedure and the number of Khmer Rouge to go on trial remain unsolved,
- J. concerned, however, about the deteriorating situation of the environment in Cambodia, especially the over-logging in recent years that causes rapid rainwater run-off and soil erosion and which according to a recent report of the Asian Development Bank could deforest the country within five years,
- K. alarmed at the recent floods in the Mekong Delta region and the growing number of victims and homeless people,

Municipal elections

- 1. Deplores the continuing restrictions imposed on the activities of the political opposition and the systematic resort to political violence;
- 2. Expresses its concern at the rising violence in the lead-up to the local elections, and condemns the three political killings (two SRP members and one from FUNCINPEC) as well as the numerous cases of political threats and intimidations that occurred in the last months;
- 3. Regrets the timing of the National Election Committee's decision to change the Rules applicable to the registration of voters for the commune election, which increased the difficulty of an already poorly planned process, people not knowing where they are to register, and which could, moreover, result in a change of the electoral balance in several communes to the advantage of the CPP;
- 4. Urges the Government to take immediate action to stop the violence, the Cambodian authorities to refrain from any act of intimidation against the democratic opposition, and the judicial system, the armed forces and the local authorities to maintain independence and neutrality, in order to ensure the democratic course of the elections;
- 5. Calls on the Cambodian Government to extend the period of voter registration and to eliminate discriminatory practices, so as to establish a level playing field for all participants including guaranteed access to the broadcast media for all political parties taking part in the elections;
- 6. Calls on the Council to field a European Union Observer Mission for the elections in Cambodia;
- 7. Calls on the Commission to set up a programme aimed at conducting voter education and training of electoral agents and party candidates,

Special Tribunal

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8. Welcomes the approval by the Constitutional Council and the signature by King Norodom Sihanouk of the legislation on the special Tribunal to prosecute members of the Khmer Rouge, which, by enabling the trial of leaders of Democratic Kampuchea for crimes against humanity and genocide, will help put an end to the culture of impunity in the country;
9. Urges the Government of Cambodia to finalise as soon as possible the Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations concerning the details of the Court, in order to enable the proceedings to begin in the near future;
10. Welcomes the announcement of the indictment of the deputy leader of the Khmer Rouge and urges the parties to solve the remaining issues and, especially, to come to an agreement regarding the Khmer Rouge leaders who were amnestied in the 1990s, stressing that immunity from prosecution would jeopardise the aim of guaranteeing justice for the victims as well as peace and reconciliation in the country;
11. Expresses its concern at the fact that the Tribunal offers fewer legal safeguards than originally requested by the United Nations,
12. Stresses, therefore, the need to ensure rigorous trials, in accordance with internationally recognised standards of justice;

Floods / Environment

13. Expresses its sympathy to the victims of the recent floods and to their families as well as to the thousands of homeless;
14. Deplores the violent means used by the Cambodian police to disperse the flood victims who had moved into town from their flooded homes;
15. Urgently calls on the Cambodian Government to take serious measures against illegal logging and lawlessness in the forest and fisheries sector and invites the Commission to assist Cambodia in the evaluation of the dangers that deforestation causes to the environment leading to ecological disaster such as successive destructive floods and drought;
16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the United Nations, ASEAN and to the government and parliament of Cambodia.