

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Session document

3 October 2001

B5-0618/2001 }
B5-0630/2001 }
B5-0638/2001 }
B5-0649/2001 }
B5-0661/2001 }
RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Ursula Schleicher and Bernd Posselt on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Rolf Linkohr, Demetrio Volcic, Ioannis Souladakis and Margrietus J. van den Berg on behalf of the PSE Group
- Bertel Haarder on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Per Gahrton on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Pedro Marset Campos and Luigi Vinci on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Cristiana Muscardini on behalf of the UEN Group
- Olivier Dupuis, Marco Pannella, Emma Bonino, Maurizio Turco, Benedetto Della Vedova, Gianfranco Dell'Alba, Marco Cappato and Claudio Martelli

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- ELDR (B5-0618/2001),
- PPE-DE (B5-0630/2001),
- UEN (B5-0638/2001),
- PSE (B5-0649/2001),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0661/2001),

on development of relations between the European Union and the southern
Caucasus

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PE 309.511 }
PE 309.523 }
PE 309.531 }
PE 309.542 }
PE 309.554 } RC1

European Parliament resolution on development of relations between the European Union and the southern Caucasus

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the Agreements for Partnership and Cooperation between the European Union, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia of July 1999, and the joint declaration by the Presidents of the three states of June 1999 in Luxembourg, for cooperation in the region and more widely in Europe,
 - B. welcoming the assertion of the European identity of the peoples of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia by their political representatives,
 - C. desirous to underpin initiatives to strengthen human rights, civil society and social, economic and political reforms in each of the states of the Southern Caucasus, and pointing out the human rights situation which is still unsatisfactory and merits stronger attention,
 - D. conscious of the situation of the peoples of the Southern Caucasus, at the eastern extremity of Europe, and the inherited difficulties in their relations from the Soviet era, and consequent enduring human suffering and other problems, and reiterating its conviction that the EU must play a greater political role and a more courageous one in this region of the world, taking account of the aspirations of these countries and their peoples to participate fully in the process of European integration,
 - E. determined to reinforce bilateral and multilateral dialogue with the peoples of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia and with major players in their political, economic and social life, as avenues for incremental confidence-building measures, and stressing that all efforts must be made to solve all the conflicts in the region which prevent the development of genuine and balanced relations between the countries in the area and are the most important source of instability,
 - F. stressing that a coherent and ambitious action by the EU is even more urgent given that the region is now dangerously unstable following the war in Chechnya, with numerous refugees being obliged to flee to the neighbouring countries, particularly Georgia and Azerbaijan,
1. Proposes a Conference of the three states of the Southern Caucasus and the European Union, in order to draw up a strategy for regional cooperation which promotes peace, human rights, democracy, social and cultural development, economic growth and cooperation on shared environmental problems;

2. Proposes an institutional structure for cooperation in the Southern Caucasus in which the European Commission provides advisory and technical services, and requests the Council to give the appropriate mandate for the rapid consolidation of their institutions and for the rapid bringing into line of their national law with Community law;
3. Calls for a conference on investment and economic development in the Southern Caucasus by banks and firms in the European Union with special emphasis on energy;
4. Supports and encourages initiatives for regional cooperation among the countries of the region, and especially the Black Sea Cooperation Council;
5. Demands the establishment of a European Commission Delegation in Armenia and in Azerbaijan;
6. Urges the Council to take into account the possibility of appointing a EU Special Envoy for the region so as to improve the profile of the EU in the South Caucasus, increase the effectiveness of its action and contribute to the peaceful solution of the ongoing conflicts;
7. Calls on the Commission to strengthen ECHO action in the Caucasus region so as to provide the means to deal with the present humanitarian emergency;
8. Requests the Council and Commission to report to Parliament on the initiatives envisaged in this resolution;
9. Calls on the Commission and Council for a global report on the situation, cooperation and initiatives in the region, and calls on the Commission and Council to submit to it, as soon as possible, a joint EU strategy for the southern Caucasus, taking account of the interests of those countries' populations and of the EU in a region of Europe which occupies a strategic position as the gateway of Europe to Central Asia;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the Governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.