

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Session document*

3 October 2001

B5-0632/2001 }  
B5-0642/2001 }  
B5-0645/2001 }  
B5-0655/2001 }  
B5-0659/2001 }  
RC1

## JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Charles Tannock and W.G. van Velzen, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Manuel Medina Ortega, Giovanni Claudio Fava, Margrietus J. van den Berg, Rolf Linkohr and Emilio Menéndez del Valle, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Antonio Di Pietro, on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Alain Lipietz and Alexander de Roo, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Pedro Marset Campos, Jonas Sjöstedt and Giuseppe Di Lello Finuoli, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Cristiana Muscardini, on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PPE-DE (B5-0632/2001),
- UEN (B5-0642/2001),
- PSE (B5-0645/2001),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0655/2001),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0659/2001),

on Colombia

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## European Parliament resolution on Colombia

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Colombia,
  - having regard to the statement on Colombia made on 17 April 2001 by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,
  - deeply dismayed by the murder of former Minister Consuelo Araujo Noguera, who was kidnapped by the FARC along with several others on 24 September, and by the murder of Yolanda Cerón, human rights activist and head of the Social Pastoral Office in Tumaco, at the hands of paramilitaries on 19 September,
  - also dismayed at the murder of Octavio Sarmiento, member of the National Congress and founder of the 'Unión Patriótica' political party, on Tuesday, 2 October,
  - whereas Colombia continues to be plagued by a widespread climate of violence despite the efforts made to end the 30-year-old conflict,
  - having regard to the scale of the violence that has occurred in the country in recent months, involving systematic human rights violations, extortion, kidnappings, murders, drug-trafficking and the suffering and displacement of the civilian population,
  - having regard to the conditions governing European cooperation with Colombia and in particular the decision taken by the Council of Ministers a year ago to submit a report to the European Parliament every six months on the peace process, the progress made with its programmes and the Colombian Government's compliance with international human rights recommendations,
  - having regard to the recent visit to Colombia in June 2001 by a European Parliament delegation, which was able to hold talks with the legitimate authorities of the Colombian Government, including President Pastrana, with the leaders of the ELN and the FARC, who were asked to put an immediate stop to the practice of kidnapping, and to release the two Colombian members of parliament it was holding as well as various European Union citizens captured by this guerrilla group,
  - noting that 7 October will see the legal expiration of the 42 000 km<sup>2</sup> demilitarised zone in the south of the country which Mr Pastrana handed over to the FARC,
  - having regard to the clearly expressed will of the vast majority of Colombian society who want peace,
1. Condemns all human rights violations committed in Colombia;
  2. Expresses its condolences to the families of the victims, the human rights activist and head of

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the Social Pastoral Office in Tumaco, Yolanda Cerón, the former Minister Araujo Noguera and the Unión Patriótica member of parliament Octavio Sarmiento, and to the families of all those who have fallen victim to terrorism and violence in recent months, which represent an out-and-out attack on the peace process;

3. Calls again on the FARC guerrillas to release the civilians it is holding, particularly the EU citizens, a request it made during the visit by the European Parliament delegation which, if complied with, would demonstrate a genuine desire for progress towards peace and reconciliation among Colombians;
4. Urges the guerrilla leaders and paramilitary forces to end the systematic violation of human rights and international humanitarian law and to stop putting pressure on the civilian population, and calls on them to conclude a humanitarian agreement to this effect;
5. Calls on the Colombian Government to renew its efforts to protect and guarantee the security of the civilian population in Colombia, as well as that of political, social and trade union leaders and human rights activists, and to step up its efforts to combat immunity from punishment and dismantle paramilitary groups;
6. Reiterates its support for the peace process and a negotiated settlement to the conflicts and calls on the parties to declare a ceasefire, as proposed by the committee of eminent persons for peace, and points to the deep-rooted economic and social causes of this situation;
7. Points out that this commitment to the nascent peace process makes it necessary to continue to search for peace, strengthen institutions, comply with the rule of law, and promote development cooperation, humanitarian aid and social development and thus bring about the establishment of a fairer society, while stressing that, if resources, volunteers, experts and aid workers are to be sent, the minimum standards to guarantee their safety must be met;
8. Calls on the Council, Commission and the Member States to keep a close watch on developments in Colombia and offer to provide mediation between the parties to secure a stable peace agreement; in the sphere of cooperation calls on the EU to pay closer attention to stepping up measures to combat immunity from punishment and to support the work done by human rights organisations;
9. Calls on the Council to submit to the European Parliament its first six-monthly progress report on the peace process and human rights in Colombia as soon as possible;
10. Reaffirms its commitment to combat drug-trafficking, which should not be countered solely by military action, but also requires concerted social and economic action involving the civilian population concerned and consumer countries for which the drugs are intended;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Colombian Government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.