

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Session document

13 March 2002

B5-0143/2002 }
B5-0148/2002 }
B5-0153/2002 }
B5-0157/2002 }
B5-0163/2002 }
B5-0172/2002 }

RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- John Walls Cushnahan and Bernd Posselt on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Maria Carrilho, Robert J.E. Evans, Erika Mann, Jean-Claude Fruteau and Margrietus J. van den Berg on behalf of the PSE Group
- Elizabeth Lynne and Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Reinhold Messner and Jean Lambert on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Pernille Frahm on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Gerard Collins on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- Verts/ALE (B5-0143/2002),
- UEN (B5-0148/2002),
- PPE-DE (B5-0153/2002),
- ELDR (B5-0157/2002),
- PSE (B5-0163/2002),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0172/2002),

on Sri Lanka

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PE 314.927}
PE 314.932}
PE 314.937}
PE 316.485}
PE 316.491}
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European Parliament resolution on Sri Lanka

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolution of May 2000,
 - having regard to the cease-fire agreement signed between the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam which entered into force on 23 February 2002,
- A. whereas internal conflict has continued in Sri Lanka for over 19 years, resulting in the deaths of over 60 000 people with almost one million internally displaced and some 600 000 fleeing the country,
- B. whereas 750 000 people (mostly Tamils and Muslims) are living on humanitarian aid, particularly provided by the ECHO programme,
- C. whereas antipersonnel landmines are killing or injuring thousands of people, particularly children,
- D. whereas the level of military expenditure is seriously damaging the country's opportunities for development, investment and tourism,
- E. whereas the truce agreement, which includes international monitoring, is the first step towards a negotiated settlement of the ethnic conflict,
- F. whereas expectations are high that the end of the military conflict could improve the problematic human rights situation in Sri Lanka,
- G. having regard to the serious structural economic underdevelopment of the areas where the majority of the population are Tamils, and the resultant misery,
- H. whereas the government has just lifted the economic restrictions which for seven years had applied to the areas controlled by the LTTE,
- I. whereas for the first time since 1995 journalists are now permitted to visit the areas controlled by the LTTE,
1. Welcomes the cease-fire agreement as an opportunity to create a peaceful atmosphere in which a negotiated settlement to the ongoing ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka may be agreed; recognises that both sides have taken bold steps to conclude the cease-fire and hopes that the process on which they are now embarking will be supported and lead to a political solution and a lasting peace;
2. Strongly acknowledges the contribution of the Government of Norway and its Ambassador

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PE 314.927}
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to Sri Lanka towards facilitating direct negotiations;

3. Calls on all the political parties and interest groups in Sri Lanka to seize this historic opportunity and to actively support the truce agreement leading to future peace negotiations;
4. In this context stresses the importance of the confidence-building measures aimed at national reconciliation, including the reunification of families separated by the years of conflict and an improvement of security conditions across the whole country for the benefit of everyone; underlines particularly the importance of the measures concerning the freedom of movement of persons and all non-military goods, especially food and medicine, throughout the whole island;
5. Recalls its concern that human rights be respected, particularly by controlling the actions of the armed forces of the two camps and by putting an end to all discrimination on grounds of membership of a linguistic or religious community;
6. Calls on the Council and the Commission as a matter of urgency to consider how this agreement can be supported in practical terms, especially through financial support, so that Sri Lanka's many problems can be tackled, including the issue of reintegrating child soldiers;
7. Calls on the EU and the Member States to go to the donors' meeting in Sri Lanka in May with a comprehensive and coordinated proposal;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the President and Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.