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Session document

11 June 2002

B5-0327/2002 }
B5-0330/2002 }
B5-0331/2002 }
B5-0332/2002 } RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Hans-Gert Poettering, Ilkka Suominen, W.G. van Velzen, Francesco Fiori, Arie M. Oostlander, Othmar Karas, Hubert Pirker and Iñigo Méndez de Vigo, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Enrique Barón Crespo, Hannes Swoboda, Margrietus J. van den Berg and Jannis Sakellariou, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Cecilia Malmström and Jules Maaten, on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Cristiana Muscardini and Gerard Collins, on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PPE-DE (B5-0327/2002),
- UEN (B5-0330/2002),
- PSE (B5-0331/2002),
- ELDR (B5-0332/2002),

on the preparation of the European Council in Seville (21-22 June 2002)

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European Parliament resolution on the preparation of the European Council in Seville (21-22 June 2002)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Council and Commission statements on the preparation of the European Council in Seville (21-22 June 2002);

The future of the European Union and Council reform

1. Reaffirms its position as expressed in its resolutions of 25 October 2001 and 16 May 2002;
2. Welcomes the intention to refocus European Council meetings on their essential function of political orientation and strategy and asks the Council to restore the Community method in the decision-making process;
3. Welcomes the proposals that can already be implemented without treaty revision, notably to upgrade the role of the General Affairs Council, to re-establish a single procedure for preparing Council decisions and to improve coordination with the European Parliament and of Council members with their national parliaments; calls, in particular, on the Council to hold its meetings in public when it acts as a legislator;
4. Stresses, however, that all proposals that may be tabled in Seville should in no way interfere with the work of the Convention;
5. Is concerned, however, about certain information on the unilateral and exclusive abolition of some of the Councils, and considers that Parliament, as one arm of the budgetary authority, should be consulted on/involved in any reform of the Council;
6. Stresses that the ratification of the Nice Treaty by all Member States will facilitate a successful enlargement process;
7. Welcomes the fact that the Commission has made a contribution to the debate on the future of Europe and considers it an important element to be submitted to the Convention;
8. Insists that the legislative process in the EU must become more transparent and efficient, in keeping with the Commission's recent proposals on 'Better Regulation'; this requires the establishment of an interinstitutional working group on better lawmaking composed of political representatives of the Council, Parliament and the Commission; calls, therefore, on the European Council to express its support for an interinstitutional agreement on better regulation at its Seville meeting, to be concluded by the end of this year;

Economic, labour market and social policies

9. Regrets once again that Parliament is not yet fully involved in the development and implementation of the European Union's Broad Economic Policy Guidelines; calls, therefore, on the European Council to take into consideration Parliament's position and to amend the present recommendation in line with the concrete amendments which were submitted to ECOFIN; calls, furthermore, for Parliament to be appropriately involved this year in preparing the streamlining of economic and employment procedures, including the improvement of cooperation between EU institutions; regrets that reference to the environmental dimension of sustainability is lacking in the country-specific economic policy guidelines;
10. Calls on the Member States to stand by their commitment to the Growth and Stability pact and the commitments undertaken in Barcelona, and to implement these to the benefit of the European economy;
11. Calls on the European Council to take decisive measures to ensure that all Council formations work more expeditiously on delivering legislative and other commitments in the framework of the Lisbon strategy;
12. Recalls that, in accordance with the conclusions of the Barcelona European Council, the integration of European networks and the opening-up of public services markets must fully respect the principles of territorial and social cohesion and the principles laid down in Article 16 of the Treaties;
13. Stresses the need to guarantee access to lifelong learning by setting concrete targets and benchmarks; welcomes the resolution on 'Education and Lifelong Learning' adopted by the Education Council on 30 May, but regrets the fact that, under the method of 'open coordination', Parliament was not involved in drawing up this political reflection;

Asylum, Immigration and Integration

14. Reaffirms that the establishment of the AFSJ is currently one of the main priorities of European integration and that progress needs to be made in implementing a programme of work drawn up in accordance with the Tampere objectives (scoreboard) which provides for the adoption of a common asylum and immigration policy with instruments to safeguard respect for fundamental rights and freedoms;
15. Calls on the Council to redouble its efforts to work towards the establishment of a common European immigration and asylum policy in accordance with the conclusions of the Tampere European Council;
16. Welcomes the recent recognition by some governments of the slow progress on drawing up EU asylum measures; deplores the fact however, that the biggest factor slowing real progress so far has been the Council itself;
17. Welcomes the proposal by the Commission to set up a European corps of border guards to assist national border guards, which could be used for the surveillance of particularly

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sensitive parts of present and future external EU borders, but draws attention to the urgent need to adopt a genuine common European policy on asylum and immigration, as provided for at Tampere; considers that it is in this context that effective measures against illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings must be taken;

18. Calls on the Spanish Presidency to complement its combat against illegal immigration with an equal commitment to the adoption of other related legislative proposals, thereby maintaining a balance between purely restrictive measures and legislation supporting the integration of third-country nationals admitted in the Member States of the EU, in line with the conclusions of the Tampere European Council, as well as measures to combat discrimination;
19. Stresses that the slow progress on implementing the provisions of the Amsterdam Treaty and the Tampere summit conclusions is due to the lack of political will within the Council and among certain Member States; stresses, therefore, that majority voting in Council and codecision by the European Parliament must be introduced in 2004, as foreseen in the Treaty;
20. Considers it essential to introduce the EURODAC system as soon as possible;

Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Summit

21. Reiterates its call for an ambitious EU political agenda for the Rio + 10 World Summit; refers in particular to its resolutions on 'ten years after Rio: preparing for the World Summit on Sustainable Development' and 'global partnership for sustainable development' of 16 May 2002;
22. In this context, expresses its concerns about the serious difficulties encountered by the preparatory conference in Bali when trying to define a high level of ambition for the Johannesburg Summit;
23. Considers that the Johannesburg Summit should develop specific initiatives, especially concerning a global water strategy, and believes that there is a need to take full account in the various economic sectors of the limits of natural resources, which should be managed, used and conserved in a sustainable way and shared equitably;
24. Reiterates the need to take all necessary measures to ensure universal access to education, in line with Parliament's previous resolutions, since this is an essential step on the road to sustainable development;
25. Welcomes the setting of specific targets and timetables in some areas (for example in reversing biodiversity loss, reducing infant mortality, doubling access to safe drinking water and sanitation and promoting sustainable energy);
26. Warmly welcomes the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by the EU Member States and the Commission on 31 May, as well as the ratification by Japan, as a strong signal that concerted intergovernmental action to combat climate change is possible and that, if the political will is

manifest, similar progress can be achieved in other areas;

Enlargement

27. Encourages the Commission, the Member States and the applicant countries to accomplish their tasks during this crucial year of the accession process; stresses that the evaluation of the applicant countries has to continue to be carried out on the basis of merit and in line with the principle of differentiation, and with strict maintenance of the conclusions of the Helsinki Council and the Copenhagen criteria; urges the Member States to find a satisfactory agreement as soon as possible on the common position for the chapters on agriculture, regional policy and budgetary issues, so that these chapters may be completed in sufficient time to close the negotiations as provided for in the road-map;

ESDP and EU-NATO Relations

28. Welcomes the Crisis Management Exercise 2002 (CME 02) which was held between 22 and 28 May and demonstrated the progress achieved in the setting-up of the ESDP bodies and in their cooperation with EU Member States;
29. Reaffirms in this context that the EU-NATO agreement on the use of NATO assets and capabilities will not undermine the decision-making autonomy of the Union, and calls on the Council to define a clear negotiating mandate for this issue; calls for the High Representative for the CFSP to directly negotiate this issue with the Secretary General of NATO;
30. Urges the Spanish Presidency to make the ESDP operational at both institutional and capability level, accompanying it with proposals and measures aimed at finding a solution to bringing the ESDP under the full democratic scrutiny of both the European Parliament and of national parliaments;

Russia

31. Welcomes the further developments in the EU's relations with Russia, as demonstrated during the summit of 29 May 2002;
32. Underlines the importance of the strategic partnership between the European Union and Russia, based on full adherence to the UN Charter, the obligations and commitments undertaken within the framework of the Council of Europe and the OSCE, as well as common values and mutual trust; expresses its strong determination to contribute to the further development of the Russia-EU political dialogue and the first practical steps in developing cooperation on crisis management and security matters;
33. Is convinced that common solutions can be found to all issues, and invites the Commission and the Council to further assist Russia in its accession to the WTO and grant Russia market economy status if preconditions are met;
34. Regrets that the issue of Chechnya was not dealt with as a key topic; believes that a deep

and lasting political relationship can only be built on common fundamental values such as respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law;

35. Insists that the further development of Kaliningrad as a future Russian enclave in the enlarged EU is of common interest, and that the EU is ready to assist Russia to develop the region in order to promote the quality of democracy, the rule of law and public administration, and to bridge the social and economic gap between Kaliningrad and the surrounding area in order to prevent its isolation;
36. Recalls its position taken in the recent Kaliningrad report, which invites the Commission and Council to seek 'in full respect of the Schengen agreement, together with Russia, Poland and Lithuania, to achieve a balance between the need solidly to secure the EU's external borders and the need to make visa and transit arrangements smooth for travel to and from Kaliningrad';
37. Urges Russia to set a timetable for the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol;

India and Pakistan

38. Is aware of the risk of all-out war between India and Pakistan, and urges both parties to make the necessary efforts to avoid a spiral of confrontation with unpredictable consequences, and to take all measures to decrease tensions as a first step towards the resumption of productive dialogue between the two countries;
39. Calls upon President Musharraf to set further steps to implement his commitment outlined in his speech of 12 January 2002 in order to eradicate terrorist activities carried out from Pakistan, especially to stop infiltration of terrorists across the Line of Control into Jammu and Kashmir; calls for the resumption of bilateral talks on the Kashmir question; welcomes and commends all efforts being deployed by the international community, including the EU, the US, Russia and the UN, to counter the present state of tension and prevent any escalation;
40. Underlines the need to strengthen moderate forces in Kashmir and to help develop a stronger civil society;

Middle East

41. Reiterates its support for the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the principles of a sustainable and fair agreement between Israelis and Palestinians; considers that the present situation remains very critical and unbearable, and requests that particular attention be paid to the protection of the civilian population;
42. Condemns all acts of terrorism and military oppression against civilians in Israel and the Palestinian territories;
43. Expresses its full support for the talks in which the EU, the United States, Russia and the

United Nations continue to be actively involved; calls for all proposals to be based on international legality; considers it necessary to make simultaneous endeavours towards security and the reopening of a political dialogue between both parties;

44. Reiterates its support for the Saudi initiative for Peace in the Middle East, as endorsed by the Arab League Summit in Beirut in March 2002, and welcomes the proposal made by President Mubarak last week;
45. Insists on the need for international monitoring of implementation of any agreements;
46. Emphasises the importance of the establishment of a unified structure for the Palestinian security forces which can effectively fight terrorism, and of free elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council and the Presidency of the Palestinian Authority, this being an essential step for the reconstruction of a democratic and corruption-free Palestinian state; welcomes the first step by President Arafat towards this;

FYROM – Federal Republic of Yugoslavia – Montenegro

47. Welcomes and strongly supports the agreement of 2001 concluded last month between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Macedonia, with the participation of UNMIK, confirming the border existing since 1946;
48. Welcomes the adoption on 31 May 2002 by the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of an agreement on the restructuring of relations between Serbia and Montenegro;

International Criminal Court

49. Welcomes the entry into force of the Treaty establishing the International Criminal Court; notes that already by taking national judicial action itself, the US can prevent its citizens from being brought before the International Criminal Court; all the more regrets the passage by the US Senate of a bill which would allow for the use of force by the US to prevent its citizens being tried by the ICC; points out the possible contradictions between this bill and the North Atlantic and Western European Union Treaties which, in different ways, are built upon unreserved solidarity by all in case of armed attack on one of the signatories;

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50. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the European Council, and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the applicant countries.