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B5-0390/2002 }
B5-0395/2002 }
B5-0398/2002 }
B5-0400/2002 }

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, Iñigo Méndez de Vigo, Philippe Morillon, Othmar Karas and Eva Klant, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Enrique Barón Crespo, Martin Schulz, Hannes Swoboda, Margrietus J. van den Berg, Rosa M. Díez González, Jannis Sakellariou and Anna Terrón i Cusí, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Lousewies van der Laan, Cecilia Malmström, Elly Plooij-van Gorsel and Jules Maaten, on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Gerard Collins, Cristiana Muscardini, and Luís Queiró, on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- ELDR (B5-0390/2002),
- PPE-DE (B5-0395/2002),
- UEN (B5-0398/2002),
- PSE (B5-0400/2002),

on the outcome of the European Council meeting on 21-22 June 2002 in Seville

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PE 319.817}
PE 319.822}
PE 319.825}
PE 319.827} RC1

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European Parliament resolution on the outcome of the European Council meeting on 21-22 June 2002 in Seville

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Presidency conclusions of the Seville European Council on 21-22 June 2002 and the European Council report and Commission statement in plenary on this issue,
- having regard to its resolution on the preparation of the European Council Meeting in Seville adopted on 13 June 2002,
- having regard to its resolution on the reform of the Council (A5-0308/2001),

THE REFORM OF THE COUNCIL

1. Welcomes the fact that a long overdue start is being made on opening up the legislative procedures of the Council to the press and public; deplores, however, that only the initial stage of codecision procedures and only certain sections of it form part of this opening up; deplores, as well, the lack of transparency regarding documents and encourages the Danish Presidency to show a good example at future Council meetings;
2. Notes the agreement to a series of specific measures applicable, without amendment of the Treaties, to the organisation and functioning of the European Council; insists that a strong European Council must be grounded in the Treaty and subject to the same regime as the other institutions; reiterates, therefore, its support for a strong and independent Commission, and insists that all fundamental changes must be discussed within the Convention prior to any decision being taken by the European Council;
3. Regrets that notwithstanding the European Parliament's budgetary and legislative powers, Parliament has not been mentioned in connection either with the new multi-annual strategic programme of the European Council or with the new annual operating programme of Council activities;
4. Notes that no progress was made on the reform of the Presidency of the Council and that this matter has simply been forwarded to the future Danish Presidency; regrets also that the Spanish Presidency did not succeed in resolving the issue of the seat of some 14 agencies, on which there was no agreement at the Laeken European Council;
5. Welcomes the commitment to an interinstitutional agreement on better regulation, to be adopted before the end of 2002, in order to improve the quality of Community legislation, and the conditions, including time frames, for its transposition into national law; calls for a working party to be set up for this purpose at the level of the political representatives of the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission;

6. Regrets the disappearance of the Development Council, given its importance as a key link between the EU and the world's least developed nations; urges the Council to make every effort to ensure that the name of the new body resulting from the forthcoming reform process is 'General, Foreign and Development Affairs Council';
7. Welcomes the decision of the European Council to take cognisance of the national declaration of Ireland on the Treaty of Nice;

ENLARGEMENT

8. Supports the European Council's reaffirmation that, if the present rate of progress in negotiations and reforms is maintained, the EU is determined to conclude the negotiations with Cyprus, Malta, Hungary, Poland, the Slovak Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, the Czech Republic and Slovenia by the end of 2002, if the countries are ready;
9. Welcomes the undertaking to present a revised and enhanced pre-accession strategy for Bulgaria and Romania in December;
10. Reaffirms the conclusions of the Helsinki European Council with regard to assessing the 12 candidate countries on their own merits and in accordance with the principle of differentiation, and welcomes the progress made in the accession negotiations in the first half of this year;
11. Stresses that the EU's support for strengthening administrative and judicial capacity in the candidate countries must be continued at central and local levels, in order to guarantee effective implementation of the acquis; believes that, to this end, an appropriate transitional mechanism should be set up in the accession treaty for the monitoring and enforcement of commitments; expects to be duly involved in this monitoring exercise;
12. Calls on the Council and the governments of the Member States and the candidate countries to promote the advantages of enlargement and to redouble their efforts to generate popular support for enlargement;

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

13. Takes note again of the intention of the European Council in Seville to speed up the implementation of the legislative programme adopted in Tampere in October 1999 for the creation of an area of freedom, security and justice and, in particular, of the political commitment shown by the European Council to developing European Union common policies on asylum and immigration; asks the Council to comply with the calendar set out for the adoption of a series of asylum policy instruments;
14. Calls for an equal commitment to the establishment of a common immigration policy, which should introduce a legal way of entering the European Union, taking into account demographic and labour-market requirements in the Member States, and to the adoption of Commission proposals aimed at facilitating the integration of third-country nationals legally resident in the European Union;

15. Notes that the European Council endorsed the comprehensive plan to combat illegal immigration and that it has outlined a plan for implementing a set of related measures to this end; stresses that, if it is to be effective, the fight against illegal immigration must be part of a genuine common EU policy on asylum and immigration;
16. Notes that the Seville Summit made political progress on the establishment of integrated border management and welcomes the move towards a common unit for external border practitioners; calls for the applicant countries to be fully involved;
17. Notes the outcome of the European Council in Seville as regards the integration of immigration policy into the Union's relations with third countries, and welcomes the balanced approach taken, which underlines the role of economic cooperation, trade expansion, development assistance and conflict prevention as a means of reducing migratory pressure;
18. Welcomes the conclusions of the Fourth Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum held in Bari on 17 and 18 June 2002 and, notably, the document on migration; calls for the European Union to take effective measures to help progress with economic and political stabilisation, especially in the countries from which immigration originates;
19. Stresses the responsibility which the European Union has to increase support for democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights in developing countries, as well as to remove EU trade barriers in order to create the conditions for poorer countries to improve their economic situation;
20. Takes note of the decision that any future measures taken by the EU against a non-cooperating third country should not jeopardise development objectives;
21. Recalls that the slow progress in the implementation of the provisions of the Amsterdam Treaty and the Tampere Conclusions is due to the lack of political will within the Council and the use by certain Member States of individual initiatives which cause gridlock in the decision-making process; supports the speeding up of this process and demands the introduction of majority voting in the Council and codecision by the European Parliament by 2004 at the latest, as provided for in the Treaty;

TERRORISM

22. Strongly condemns the terrorist attacks which were committed in several Spanish cities when the European Council was taking place in Seville and which caused injuries to citizens from different Member States; reiterates its determination to fight terrorism by all legal means and calls on the European Union and its Member States to continue their efforts to combat all forms of organised crime;

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT JOHANNESBURG

23. Welcomes the European Council's commitment to the success, and the ambitious agenda, of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), to be held in Johannesburg, and

notably the new positive emphasis on replenishing the Global Environment Facility; stresses the overwhelming priority which must be given to the alleviation of poverty and hunger and the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources, and emphasises the need to secure a final agreement which sets specific targets for measures to assist the alleviation of poverty and hunger, and to promote the sustainable use of natural resources;

24. Calls for delivery mechanisms to be established to ensure that commitments made by signatory nations are met within the agreed time-frame;
25. Reiterates its view that the European Parliament delegation should be fully involved in the decision-making and internal coordination within the EU delegation in Johannesburg;

ECONOMIC, LABOUR-MARKET AND SOCIAL POLICIES

26. Calls on some Member States to be more ambitious in relation to the goals and pace of their economic reforms, as sound macro-economic policies and effective reform will accelerate the ongoing recovery of growth, job creation and economic stability;
27. Welcomes the European Council's reaffirmed commitment to the Stability and Growth Pact and to fiscal consolidation, and calls on Member States to pursue budgetary policies in line with Broad Economic Policy Guideline (BEPG) recommendations, and encourages them to use growth dividend related to the economic recovery to consolidate public finances;
28. Regrets that the ECOFIN Council watered down the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines on the commitment to a public budget in balance, and much preferred the Commission's original proposal in this respect;
29. Asks for Parliament to be more involved in the development and implementation of the EU's major economic policy guidelines; reiterates its belief that its position should be taken into account in the interests of closer cooperation between the EU institutions;
30. Reminds the European Council that, as the labour market is reformed, stability and growth should also raise employability and remove obstacles and disincentives to taking up or remaining in a job, while preserving the high protection standards of the European social model;
31. Insists that, as economic and social progress have to be mutually supportive, these reforms have to be achieved in close cooperation with the social partners, and cannot reduce the individual and collective rights of employees;
32. Welcomes the commitment from the Council to a full and timely implementation of the Financial Services Action Plan, but notes that much work needs to be done in order to keep to the timetable;
33. While welcoming the European Council's references to making progress on measures underway to connect Europe's economies and to implementation of the Sixth Framework Programme for Research and the Commission's biotechnology strategy, considers that the European Council must display more determination, and be more self-critical where

necessary, if the Lisbon goals are to be met;

34. Is of the opinion that in order to foster economic, social and territorial cohesion, the European Union must offer its citizens good-quality and environmentally sustainable public services at affordable prices; to this end, requests that a framework Directive on public services and services of general interest should be brought forward as a matter of urgency, together with a methodology on the evaluation of services of general interest;
35. Welcomes the adoption of the E-2005 Plan and urges Member States to prepare national implementation plans as soon as possible;
36. Hopes that the establishment of a Competitiveness Council will contribute to the development of an enterprise policy for industry which strikes a balance between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development; in this regard, regrets the absence of a specific reference to 'impact assessments' to ensure that legislative proposals do not unduly hamper the competitiveness of European industry;
37. Calls on the Council to meet the target of ensuring that the tax package is adopted before the end of 2002;

MIDDLE EAST

38. Reiterates its support for the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the principles for a sustainable and fair agreement between Israelis and Palestinians, and recalls its resolutions on this issue;
39. Fully supports the European Council declaration seeking to try to bring the present crisis to an end and to make simultaneous endeavours towards security and the reopening of a political dialogue between the two parties;
40. Reaffirms its conviction that the role of the entire international community, notably that of the Quartet (EU, USA, UN and Russia) and of concerned Arab countries, is necessary, and supports the European Council's request for the urgent holding of an international conference;
41. Takes note of the recent statement by President George Bush and reiterates its view that a settlement of the crisis can be achieved only through negotiations, political dialogue and positive engagement by all parties; recalls that PNA President Arafat was democratically elected in January 1996 in elections declared fair by the international observers; reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to decide for themselves on their leadership; welcomes the announcement that elections will be held in January 2003; expects the next Palestinian leadership to effectively fight the culture of terrorism and corruption;
42. Reiterates its condemnation of all acts of terrorism against the Israeli people, of the use of excessive military force against the Palestinian people and of the extrajudicial executions;
43. Reiterates its condemnation of all acts of terrorism and military oppression against civilians

in Israel and the Palestinian territories, and reaffirms that an end to the occupation and the early establishment of a democratic and viable Palestinian state within the 1967 borders are the conditions most likely to ensure Israel's right to security;

44. Expresses its deepest sympathy with the appeal launched by more than 50 Palestinian intellectuals calling for a halt to suicide bomb attacks, and urges the Commission to find ways to support their initiative;

ESDP

45. Welcomes the Council's determination to reinforce the role of the EU in combating terrorism and its recognition of the importance of the contribution of the CFSP, including the ESDP, to that end;
46. Welcomes also the willingness expressed by the Council to take over the NATO operation Amber Fox in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at the end of NATO's current mandate, provided that the permanent arrangements between the EU and NATO (Berlin +) are then in place; regrets, however, in this context that the Berlin + is still not in force, which throws into serious doubt EU access to NATO's planning, assets and capabilities, which are crucial to the success of its first military operation;
47. Points out that the hard work of the Spanish Presidency to make the ESDP operational at both institutional and capability level has not brought the ESDP under the democratic control of both the European Parliament and national parliaments;

INDIA AND PAKISTAN

48. Welcomes the European Council's statement on the situation on India and Pakistan; again invites Pakistan to take further action to prevent terrorist groups operating in and from the territory under its control, to comply with its international obligations including UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001), and to stop infiltration across the line of control; encourages India to take further de-escalatory steps in order to create a situation which would bring about a long-lasting solution to the problem through bilateral negotiations; reiterates its proposal that the EU could, thanks to its own historic background, act as a facilitator for contacts between the two countries in order to get them around the negotiation table; invites the High Representative for CFSP to pay an early visit to the region;
49. Underlines the importance of the holding of free, fair and inclusive elections in Jammu and Kashmir in the second half of this year;

KALININGRAD

50. Insists that the further development of the Kaliningrad region as a future Russian enclave in the enlarged EU is of common interest; welcomes, therefore, the Council's decision to invite the Commission to submit an additional study on the possibilities for an effective and flexible solution to the question of the transit of persons and goods to and from the region; reaffirms its position that any solution to be found together with Russia, Poland and Lithuania has to be based on a sound balance between the need to firmly secure the EU's

external borders in full respect of the Schengen Agreement and the need to ensure the smooth functioning of visa and transit arrangements for travel to and from Kaliningrad;

OTHER BUSINESS

51. Calls on the Council and the Commission to press ahead with the implementation of Article 299(2) of the EC Treaty, which recognises the specific nature of the outermost regions, and to submit suitable proposals to the Copenhagen European Council for their special needs to be taken into account;
52. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the European Council.