

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

18 December 2002

B5-0659/2002 }
B5-0660/2002 }
B5-0663/2002 }
B5-0664/2002 }

RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Hans-Gert Poettering, Ilkka Suominen, Arie M. Oostlander, Elmar Brok, Markus Ferber and Christos Zacharakis on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Enrique Barón Crespo and Gary Titley on behalf of the PSE Group
- Jules Maaten on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Daniel Marc Cohn-Bendit, Monica Frassoni and Nelly Maes on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- ELDR (B5-0659/2002),
- PSE (B5-0660/2002),
- PPE-DE (B5-0663/2002),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0664/2002),

on the outcome of the European Council meeting in Copenhagen on 12 and 13 December 2002

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European Parliament resolution on the outcome of the European Council meeting in Copenhagen on 12 and 13 December 2002

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolutions on the Brussels European Council meeting of 24-25 October 2002,
- having regard to its resolution on ‘Enlargement: progress report for 2001’, in which it urged the European Council to set the date for the accession of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia for early 2004, and no later than 1 May 2004,
- having regard to the Presidency conclusions of the Copenhagen European Council on 12 and 13 December 2002 and the European Council report and Commission statement in plenary on this issue,

Enlargement

1. Welcomes the unprecedented and historic milestone represented by the conclusion of the accession negotiations with Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia, which allows these States to be welcomed as members from 1 May 2004;
2. Notes that the forces of democracy, freedom and peace in these countries have thus won a decisive victory over the dictatorial ideologies of the last century;
3. Looks forward to working together with the citizens and governments of the new Member States, and to building an enlarged Union based on the principles of peace, democracy, stability, justice, social cohesion and economic solidarity and on a social market economy and the commitment to full employment;
4. Recalls, however, that the implementation of certain aspects of the *acquis communautaire* as well as of the commitments undertaken by the new Member States still needs improvement; will carefully examine the Commission progress reports between now and 1 May 2004; recalls, furthermore, that Parliament will have to give its assent to the accession of each of the candidate countries before the accession treaty can be signed and ratified;

Budgetary and financial issues

5. Will carefully scrutinise the financial consequences of enlargement and hopes they will provide a solid basis for the integration of ten new Member States and safeguard the effective functioning of the enlarged Union, while ensuring the continued functioning of the internal market as well as the various EU policies, without prejudging future reform; stresses the need for a reform of the CAP by 2006, not least in view of the Doha commitments; recalls that the

lack of such a reform would have serious repercussions for the EU budget and calls upon the European Council to support the Commission in its reform proposals linked to the mid-term review of the Agenda 2000 reform process;

6. Welcomes the fact that the European Council has formally confirmed that a decision with regard to a new Financial Perspective can only be taken in agreement with Parliament in accordance with paragraph 25 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999 and asks the Commission to submit its proposal for the adjustment of the Financial Perspective to Parliament and the Council at the latest by the end of February 2003, in order to avoid delays in the enlargement process;
7. Notes the proposal on the budgetary and financial framework and reserves its final position until it has carefully analysed all elements of the proposal; recalls, together with the Council, that paragraph 21 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999 applies as far as the ring fencing of expenditure is concerned; regrets that short-term cash-flow facilities have been preferred over much-needed long-term investments in structural and rural development policies;
8. Notes the intention to increase financial assistance to Turkey; recalls that any modification of the Financial Perspectives must be agreed between the two arms of the budgetary authority, Parliament and the Council; recalls that it is prepared to include a corresponding Commission proposal as an integral part of the 2004 budget negotiations under the heading for external actions;
9. Welcomes the overall budgetary compromise between the Member States and the accession countries; regrets that the financial implications of the compromise reach beyond the term of the current financial perspective; recalls that an agreement on the next financial perspective requires the agreement of the European Parliament as part of the budgetary authority;

Monitoring and safeguards

10. Welcomes the decision to monitor the commitments undertaken up to accession, giving the necessary reassurance to current Member States. Calls for the transformation of the accession monitoring process into a system of 'peer review', whereby all Member States would be involved in a constructively critical evaluation of their respect for matters such as the democratic accountability and integrity of public administration, non-discrimination, civil liberties and the rule of law. Endorses also the commitment to continue the surveillance of progress with regard to economic, budgetary and structural policies;
11. Reiterates its demand to be fully involved in the monitoring of the commitments given up to and after accession, including the procedure for application of the special safeguard clauses, which should only be applied following a qualified majority decision in the Council and the assent of the European Parliament;

Cyprus

12. Welcomes the undertaking of the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots to continue to negotiate with the objective of concluding a comprehensive settlement by 28 February 2003

on the basis of the UNSG's proposals, which would enable Parliament to give its assent to the accession of a united Cyprus;

13. Welcomes the fact that Cyprus will be admitted to the European Union as a new Member State. Nevertheless supports the European Council's strong preference for accession to the European Union by a united Cyprus and urges the Council and the Commission to make every effort to facilitate and conclude negotiations by 28 February 2003 and to support concretely those sectors of civil society on both sides striving for peace and dialogue;

Bulgaria and Romania

14. Is confident that the roadmaps put forward by the Commission will give each country the possibility of setting the pace for its accession process and welcomes the ambition of Bulgaria and Romania to join the Union by 2007, following the conclusions of the European Council in Brussels and depending on the fulfilment of the Copenhagen criteria; insists that both countries need to make further efforts, in which they will be assisted by the EU, and that they will be judged on their own merits;
15. Points to the need to improve significantly the management and use of pre-accession funds not only by decentralisation of Phare and ISPA, but also by encouraging the participation of civil society and building of partnerships, in particular with regard to social and economic cohesion and rural development measures in the framework of a long-term strategy;

Turkey

16. Welcomes the important steps taken by Turkey through recent legislative packages testifying to the determination of the Turkish government to address all remaining shortcomings in the field of the political criteria;
17. Welcomes the fact that the normal EU procedure was confirmed in the case of Turkey's application for membership in Copenhagen, and that it is to be determined in autumn 2004, on the basis of the Commission's progress report, whether readiness for negotiation has been achieved, particularly through the realisation of the 1993 Copenhagen criteria in day-to-day life throughout the country;
18. Calls on the Commission to present a list of concrete targets to be attained by Turkey in order to fulfil the Copenhagen political criteria, and underlines that Parliament will give its opinion on the possible opening of negotiations with Turkey on the basis of the progress report to be established by the Commission;

The enlarged Union and its neighbours

19. Underlines the need to avoid new dividing lines in Europe and to promote peace and stability beyond as well as within the new borders of the Union; welcomes, therefore, the support for the efforts by the countries of the Western Balkans (South-East Europe) to move closer to the Union with an ultimate view to accession;

20. Takes the view, furthermore, that the EU must offer a further option for European countries that cannot, should not or do not wish to become members of the EU for some considerable time;
21. Endorses the European Council's support for further developing cross-border and regional cooperation and encourages the Commission to present a paper on new neighbour strategy;
22. Underlines the importance of a genuine Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, including a Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly; reiterates that enlargement will also strengthen relations with the southern Mediterranean countries;

European security and defence policy

23. Welcomes the comprehensive agreement reached with NATO on all outstanding permanent arrangements between the EU and NATO; notes that as things stand at present Cyprus and Malta will not take part in EU military operations conducted using NATO assets once they have become members of the EU, and welcomes the Union's willingness to take over not only the military operation in FYROM from NATO, but also the military operation in Bosnia following SFOR;

The Middle East

24. Expresses its support, in connection with the conflict in the Middle East, for the Presidency's courageous decision to give high priority to the adoption of the roadmap by the Quartet during its scheduled meeting of 20 December, and agrees with the need to implement it in a comprehensive way, in parallel to progress in the security, political and economic fields;
25. Considers, with regard to Iraq, that priority must be given to the work of the UN inspectors according to the timetable and arrangements agreed in Resolution 1441 of the Security Council;

Better lawmaking

26. Expresses its satisfaction about the progress achieved so far in the ongoing negotiations for an Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Lawmaking; recalls that the agreement will have to safeguard the full democratic legitimacy of the Union's lawmaking and regulatory processes while at the same time achieving enhanced efficiency; appeals to the Council and to the Commission to take full account of this dimension in the coming negotiations under the Greek Presidency to ensure that a final agreement can be reached in time before the next spring summit;

Institutional questions

27. Will prepare its position on the Accession Treaty to be submitted to it for assent by April, in order to allow the Council to sign the Treaty in Athens on 16 April 2003 and the current and acceding States to ratify the Treaty in accordance with their national ratification procedures in due time for it to enter into force on 1 May 2004;

28. Welcomes, furthermore, the fact that the peoples of the new Member States will participate in the June 2004 European Parliament elections;
29. Insists that on all arrangements related to the nomination and term of office of the Commission, an interinstitutional agreement which must fully respect the prerogatives of the European Parliament must be reached by the end of January;
30. Insists that the proposal for the next President of the Commission must be made after the 2004 European elections;
31. Takes the view that the EU must have the right to take decisions independently and on the basis of its own interests on the question of its enlargement seen from the point of view of its internal cohesion and its capacity to act and develop;
32. Notes that public approval for the enlargement of the EU must not be taken for granted in the applicant countries and the current Member States; calls on the European institutions and the governments of the applicant countries and Member States to facilitate their efforts to inform their citizens about the accession process in a decentralised and coordinated way;
33. Reiterates that a comprehensive reform of the Union in terms of democratisation and efficiency is indispensable; draws attention once again therefore to the utmost importance of a successful conclusion of the work of the European Convention;
34. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Member States and the candidate countries.