

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

22 October 2003

B5-0454/03 }
B5-0455/03 }
B5-0460/03 }
B5-0462/03 }
B5-0464/03 } RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Fernando Fernández Martín and José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Margrietus van den Berg, Rolf Linkohr and Manuel Medina Ortega on behalf of the PSE Group
- Marieke Sanders-ten Holte on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Monica Frassoni, Alain Lipietz and Camilo Nogueira Román on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Pedro Marset Campos, Fausto Bertinotti, Pernille Frahm, Armando Cossutta and Ilda Figueiredo on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PSE (B5-0454/03),
- PPE-DE (B5-0454/03),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0454/03),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0454/03),
- ELDR (B5-0454/03),

on the situation in Bolivia

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PE 337.888}
PE 337.889}
PE 337.902}
PE 337.904}
PE 337.906} RC1

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European Parliament resolution on the situation in Bolivia

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Latin America,
- A. whereas Bolivia has the worst poverty index in South America,
- B. whereas the majority of the Bolivian people endure great hardship, and urgent action is needed to ensure that their demands for social justice are answered and that the developing democratic process continues to move forward,
- C. whereas in recent weeks Bolivia witnessed violent protests, social unrest, demonstrations, disturbances and riots, which were put down by the authorities with extreme harshness; whereas these events claimed more than 80 lives, wounding many more and causing material damage, forcing the then President, Mr Sánchez de Lozada, officially to submit his resignation to Congress,
- D. welcoming the rapid transition which has taken place in Bolivia, with the election of Vice-President Mesa Gisbert as President, in accordance with the constitutional rules in force, and the return of peace and tranquillity to the country following the departure of the former President,
- E. whereas large sections of Bolivian society, notably the indigenous population, peasants, workers and the unemployed, are largely excluded from the country's political and economic life and have a legitimate claim to participate in it,
- F. whereas nations enjoy sovereignty over their natural resources, and the use of those resources must be conditional on the democratically expressed will of the people,
- G. mindful, moreover, that the exercise of democratic power does not justify indiscriminate violence against the civilian population, and that rulers must answer both legally and politically for any human rights violations they perpetrate,
- H. whereas Bolivia is the designated host for the XIIIth Ibero-American Summit in November 2003, and, together with the other Andean countries, is in the midst of a process due to lead to the conclusion of a new political dialogue and cooperation agreement with the EU in the near future,
- 1. Reiterates its firm and resolute support for the democratic system, the rule of law and the constitutional order legitimately agreed on by the Bolivian people;
- 2. Expresses its condolences to the people and government of the Republic of Bolivia for the loss of human life and other personal and material damage caused by the repression of the popular protest movements, and condemns and repudiates all the acts of violence which occurred;

3. Takes note of the first declaration by President Carlos Mesa Gisbert, as well as his pledge to govern in a spirit of dialogue by organising a referendum on the energy issue, calling early elections and democratising the political system to render it more inclusive, notably as regards the Aymara and Quechua population;
4. Calls for an exhaustive investigation to be carried out into the above-mentioned events in order to clearly identify those responsible;
5. Hopes that a consensus will be found within Bolivian society so that the country's natural resources, notably its sources of energy, can serve to promote its development and the social wellbeing of the population;
6. Emphasises the need for the EU to support the physical, political, social and economic reconstruction of the country, rendering it governable and paving the way for the strengthening of democracy and the rule of law, respect for human rights, notably those of Bolivia's indigenous population, economic and social development, poverty eradication and opportunities for all Bolivians;
7. Calls for moderation and good sense to prevail in order to permit a constructive dialogue between all concerned, enabling a climate of sufficient trust and understanding to be generated so as to lead Bolivia towards a peaceful transition and allow it to overcome the current impasse;
8. Calls for the sending of a European Parliament delegation to Bolivia to assess the existing situation on the spot and suggest appropriate aid to help the new government resolve the urgent problems facing it;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments of the Member States, the Government and Congress of the Republic of Bolivia, and the Secretary-General of the OAS.