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Session document

22.6.2005

B6-0386/2005 }
B6-0388/2005 }
B6-0389/2005 }
B6-0390/2005 }
B6-0391/2005 } RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 103(4) of the Rules of Procedure, by

- Hans-Gert Poettering, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Martin Schulz and Hannes Swoboda, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Graham Watson, Jules Maaten and Cecilia Malmström, on behalf of the ALDE Group
- Monica Frassoni, Daniel Marc Cohn-Bendit and Johannes Voggenhuber, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Brian Crowley, Cristiana Muscardini, Guntars Krasts and Roberta Angelilli, on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- ALDE (B6-0386/2005)
- PSE (B6-0388/2005)
- UEN (B6-0389/2005)
- PPE-DE (B6-0390/2005)
- Verts/ALE (B6-0391/2005)

on the outcome of the European Council meeting in Brussels on 16-17 June 2005

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European Parliament resolution on the outcome of the European Council meeting in Brussels on 16-17 June 2005

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Declaration by the Heads of State or Government of the Member States of the European Union on the ratification of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe,
 - having regard to the Presidency Conclusions following the European Council meeting of 16-17 June 2005,
 - having regard to the European Council report and Commission statement on the outcome of the European Council meeting of 16-17 June 2005,
 - having regard to Rule 103(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the outcome of the European Council is disappointing, and the results worsen the current difficult situation of Europe after the referenda in France and the Netherlands,
- B. whereas it is, instead, essential for the European Union to take urgent and concrete initiatives in a number of fields given the challenges ahead of us, to make Europe a leading player on the world stage in support of peace, security and sound economic and social development,
- C. whereas the European Parliament, as the democratically elected institution, needs to take the lead in an open debate about the direction of Europe to give the European Union a new impetus towards political and social integration,
- D. whereas, in the context of the current political debate on the Constitution, we need to make an even more extensive analysis of public opinion via discussions involving national parliaments, political parties, the social partners and, more generally, all European citizens,
- E. expressing its strong disappointment that at such a crucial moment in the development of the EU the European Council failed to agree on its position with regard to the Financial Perspective for the period 2007-2013,

I. European Constitution

1. Takes note of the European Council's decision to allow a period for reflection and debate on the current state of the European Union, its future and its Constitution; takes note of the Council's proposal for a longer period of more intense reflection, clarification and discussion, but observes that the Heads of State and Government did not make any concrete proposals for its structure, its duration, its main actors and its goal;
2. Notes the possibility of suspending the referendums and the ratification process now under way concerning the Constitutional Treaty;
3. Considers that the values, aims, and structures set out in the Constitutional Treaty remain

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valid; believes that the Constitution's political objective of strengthening political union must be made clearer to the citizens, in particular the need for a Europe with a greater focus on solidarity; takes the view that the period of reflection should be used to seek dialogue and consensus with citizens, in a spirit of greater transparency and greater democracy, with a view to tackling objectives such as economic reform, subsidiarity, solidarity, unemployment, social exclusion, competitiveness and internal and external security and facing up to the challenges of globalisation and Europe's role in the world;

4. Is therefore of the opinion that the European Union must focus in particular on the underlying reasons behind the concerns expressed by the citizens; regrets, however, that governments are too willing to take credit for Europe's achievements while blaming Europe for their own deficiencies;
5. Calls on its Committee on Constitutional Affairs to draw up by the end of September 2005 a proposal for the structure, the timetable and the goals of such debate;
6. Calls on the Member States, the Council and the Commission to join with it in efforts, by the end of the Austrian Presidency, to bring the Union closer to its citizens and to meet their concerns, particularly by means of an information campaign, mounted at local and regional level, that really is close to the citizens;

II. The future multi-annual financial framework 2007-2013

7. Regrets that, from the beginning of their deliberations on the Financial Perspective, Member States were not willing to concentrate discussions on the policy challenges that the EU faces; deplores the fact that the Council was not able to define its negotiating position on the Financial Perspective post-2006 at the European Council of 16 and 17 June 2005, at a moment when it was crucial for the European Union to reach an acceptable agreement on this issue, which is fundamental to the future functioning of the EU;
8. Refers to the European Parliament's negotiating position on Policy Challenges and Budgetary Means of the Enlarged Union 2007-2013 which was adopted by a large majority on 8 June 2005 (A6-0153/2005) and which provides a basis for balanced financing of the post-2006 tasks of the European Union, and underlines the key points that the European Parliament has suggested for the financial framework 2007-2013;
9. Calls on the Council to revise its general approach to ongoing negotiations on the Financial Perspective, in order to base a final agreement on providing adequate support for the commonly agreed current and future policy priorities of the Union, rather than seeking to base agreement on the objective of cutting the overall size of the budget and individual contributions to it; in this context recalls that, in the course of the work of the Temporary Committee on Policy Challenges and Budgetary Means of the Enlarged Union 2007-2013, Parliament also held a substantive debate on the political priorities; calls on the Council to engage with the European Parliament in a serious and constructive dialogue on the political priorities and their financing;
10. Further recalls that there cannot be a new multiannual financial framework without the agreement of Parliament; points out that the provisions of Article 272 of the EC Treaty and

the current Interinstitutional Agreement ensure that the Union will have a budget, even after the end of the current Financial Perspectives; insists that the next Financial Perspectives must prepare the Union for the future and contribute to the competitiveness of the European economies;

11. Calls upon the Council to continue the procedures for the adoption, jointly with Parliament, of the legislative package for the period beyond 2006, even in the absence of a financial framework; recalls that it is essential that the new regulations enter into force before 2007 to allow their proper implementation;
12. Calls for a revision of the own resources system which should in the short term lead to a fairer distribution of net burdens and should establish, before the end of the next Financial Perspective, an independent EU funding system; proposes that the work of preparing such a new system should be entrusted to an interparliamentary conference, involving the European Parliament and the national parliaments, in keeping with the spirit of the protocol to the Constitution on the role of the national parliaments;

III. Lisbon

13. Supports the economic and social principles underpinning the integrated guidelines for growth and employment for the period 2005-2008; calls on the Member States to adopt ambitious national reform programmes fully consistent with the guidelines; urges a renewed emphasis on EU spending on the more effective implementation of policies, such as on research, innovation, education and social cohesion;
14. Reiterates its conviction that the newly redefined Lisbon Strategy constitutes a vital instrument in the service of growth and employment and that only dynamic and coherent efforts to coordinate the three dimensions of the Lisbon Strategy and a pre-established medium-term governance cycle offer an approach conducive to the effective implementation of the ambitious national reform programmes and the Community's Lisbon programme; calls on each participant in that process to commit themselves fully to their respective tasks; undertakes to continue dialogue with the national parliaments and the Commission;

Sustainable development

15. Supports the Council's commitment to achieving the goals of the Lisbon Strategy viewed through the prism of sustainable development; welcomes the Council's Declaration on Guiding Principles for Sustainable Development, which states that environmental protection is one of the key objectives for achieving the aims of a sustainable development strategy; recalls that the health of EU citizens is a prerequisite for Europe's economic and human well-being; confirms the positive contribution of environmental policy to a forward-looking, dynamic and efficient economy which offers citizens a high quality of life through, in particular, the development of eco-innovation; therefore urges the Commission to act decisively and bring forward the appropriate proposals as soon as possible in order to adopt the renewed Sustainable Development Strategy before the end of 2005, based on clear targets and indicators and supported by adequate financial resources and effective and transparent monitoring procedures to be adopted before the end of 2005;

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IV. Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

16. Reiterates its call for the Council to establish a single legal framework for policies related to the AFSJ, to take urgent action to transfer judicial and police cooperation to the Community sphere under Article 42 of the EU Treaty, and, pursuant to Article 67 of the EC Treaty, to make qualified majority voting the general rule in the Council and use the codecision procedure for all policies related to the AFSJ;
17. Calls on the Commission, therefore, to draft by September 2005, on the basis of Article 42 of the Treaty on European Union, a proposal for a decision stipulating that actions in the fields referred to in Article 29 shall be governed by Title IV of the EC Treaty, while at the same time providing for qualified majority voting for their adoption; calls on the Council to adopt a new decision under Article 67 of the EC Treaty providing for codecision to be used for all Community measures falling under Title IV and abolishing the limits to the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice;
18. Regrets that it was not consulted on strategy options and that it was not formally involved in programming with regard to terrorism;

V. External relations

Enlargement

19. Insists that no doubt should be created on decisions already taken and that the conclusions of the European Council meetings of 17 and 18 June and of 16 and 17 December 2004 as well as the Accession Treaty with Bulgaria and Romania should be honoured in their entirety and be fully and completely implemented; emphasises at the same time that the candidate and accession countries must also fully implement and adhere to the agreements concluded; stresses that the period of reflection on the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe and the future of the European integration process should also include an assessment of the further process of enlargement of the European Union;

Western Balkans

20. Stresses the importance of securing peace and stability in the Western Balkans and the role that full implementation of the Thessaloniki agenda plays in achieving the objectives of the stabilisation and association process, and its reaffirmation that the future of the Balkans is within the European Union; emphasises that full and unrestricted cooperation with the ICTY remains an essential requirement for further continuation of the process of integration into the European Union;

External Actions

21. Urges the Council and the Commission not to allow this period of reflection to undermine the initiatives and the priority activities in the field of Foreign Affairs and External Actions which are already covered and mentioned in the European Council conclusions;

VI. Other Business

Fight against HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases

22. Welcomes the encouragement to Member States to strengthen their cooperation to combat HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, and recalls Regulation 851/2004 of the European Parliament and the Council establishing the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, whose mission is to identify, assess and communicate current and emerging threats to human health from communicable diseases and other health emergencies;
23. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments of the Member States and of Bulgaria and Romania.