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B6-0271/2008 }
B6-0272/2008 }
B6-0273/2008 }
B6-0274/2008 }
B6-0275/2008 }
B6-0276/2008 } RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Tokia Saïfi, Jana Hybášková, Ioannis Kasoulides and Bogusław Sonik, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Pasqualina Napoletano, Véronique De Keyser, Béatrice Patrie and Hannes Swoboda, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Philippe Morillon, Elizabeth Lynne and Marielle De Sarnez, on behalf of the ALDE Group
- Hélène Flautre, Pierre Jonckheer and David Hammerstein, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Ryszard Czarnecki, Roberta Angelilli and Adam Bielan, on behalf of the UEN Group
- André Brie, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PPE-DE (B6-0271/2008)
- ALDE (B6-0272/2008)
- Verts/ALE (B6-0273/2008)
- UEN (B6-0274/2008)
- PSE (B6-0275/2008)
- GUE/NGL (B6-0276/2008)

on the situation in Lebanon

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European Parliament resolution on the situation in Lebanon

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Middle East, in particular those of 16 January 2003 on the conclusion of an Association Agreement with the Republic of Lebanon, 10 March 2005 on the situation in Lebanon, 7 September 2006 on the situation in the Middle East, 12 July 2007 on the Middle East, and 29 November 2007 on the proposal for a Council decision providing Community macro-financial assistance to Lebanon,
 - having regard to UN Security Council Resolutions 1559 (2004), 1636 (2005), 1680 (2006), 1701 (2006), and 1757 (2007),
 - having regard to the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement establishing an association between the European Community and its Member States of the one part, and the Republic of Lebanon, of the other part,
 - having regard to Council Decision 2007/860/EC, of 10 December 2007, providing Community macro-financial assistance to Lebanon,
 - having regard to the statement of 16 May 2008 by EU High Representative Javier Solana on the situation in Lebanon,
 - having regard to the Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the Middle East of 14 March 2008,
 - having regard to Rule 103(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. extremely alarmed at the escalation of violence in Lebanon and deeply concerned by the institutional situation in Lebanon following the failure of the presidential elections,
- B. whereas the recent violent clashes between Hizbollah's and other militias in Beirut and in other parts of Lebanon, following the decisions taken by the Lebanese Government on 6 May 2008, and the violence that followed the dismissal of the general in charge of airport security and the ban on Hizbollah's communication systems, killed dozens and wounded hundreds of citizens,
- C. whereas the Lebanese Government, with the aim of putting an end to the fighting, has cancelled the decisions that led to the violence and put the Lebanese army in charge of resolving the crisis,
- D. whereas the Lebanese Parliament was not playing its constitutional role even before November 2007, when the mandate of the President of the Lebanese Republic came to an end, and whereas the country is in a state of institutional breakdown, which is having serious consequences in terms of democratic functioning,

- E. whereas Hezbollah is not only a political opposition party, but also an armed group that controls a good part of Lebanon's territory, including the area inhabited by its Shiite communities,
- F. whereas, based on the initiative taken by the Arab League, the parties concerned reached an agreement on 15 May 2008 to end immediately the armed clashes, to resume the national dialogue based on the questions of the national unity government and the new election law, and to restore normal life and the situation to that prior to the recent incidents,
- G. whereas the current political deadlock in Lebanon is paralysing the proper functioning of the country; whereas this political crisis is a considerable threat to the fragile stability in Lebanon and in the region as a whole; whereas a stable, fully sovereign, united and democratic Lebanon is of crucial importance for the stability and the peaceful development of the whole Middle East,
- H. whereas Lebanon is a country with strong political, economic and cultural links to Europe and is an important partner of the European Union in the Middle East; whereas a sovereign and democratic Lebanon can play a crucial role in the development of a strong Euro-Mediterranean Partnership,
- I. whereas Article 2 of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Community and its Member States of the one part, and the Republic of Lebanon, of the other part, stipulates that relations between the Parties, as well as all the provisions of the Agreement, shall be based on respect for democratic principles and fundamental human rights, as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guides their internal and international policy and constitutes an essential element of the Agreement; whereas the Association Council can take the necessary measures, in the framework of the regular political dialogue provided for in the Agreement, to promote cooperation between the European Parliament and the Lebanese Parliament,
- J. whereas UN Security Council Resolution 1757 (2007) set up an international tribunal to try the persons responsible for the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and for other political assassinations in Lebanon,
- K. whereas Lebanon still faces substantial financial and economic challenges; whereas on 4 January 2007 the authorities of Lebanon adopted a comprehensive programme of socio-economic reforms; whereas macro-financial assistance amounting to € 80 million, with a view to supporting Lebanon's domestic efforts to carry out post-war reconstruction and bring about a sustainable economic recovery, and in this way alleviating the financial constraints on the implementation of the Government's economic programme, has been offered by the European Union,
- L. whereas more than 300 000 Palestinian refugees are still living in poor conditions in Lebanon; whereas the outbreaks of violence and the fights with the army that have taken place in some Palestinian refugee camps have made the situation in the country more strained,

M. whereas the territorial integrity of the Shebaa farms is still a pending issue,

1. Appeals firmly to all parties involved and Lebanon's communities to resume the national dialogue and reject any recourse to arms;;
2. Expresses its deep concern about the possible grave consequences of the current political crisis and the deterioration of the security situation in Lebanon; stresses the importance of Lebanon's stability, sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity; points out that political stability in Lebanon should be built on the restoration of a climate of confidence between all the parties, the renunciation of violence and the rejection of external influence;
3. Welcomes the positive way in which the army and security services contributed to putting an end to the recent developments; invites all the parties involved to support the Lebanese army so that it can guarantee fully the functioning, security, law and order, sovereignty and stability of Lebanon;
4. Supports all the efforts aimed at finding a constitutional and democratic solution, based on a national consensus, to the current political deadlock, including the election of the new President of the Republic following the agreement already reached on General Sleimane's candidacy; stresses that no lasting solution can be found without the parties involved showing real political will to tackle the root causes of the crisis;
5. Considers therefore that the security of the country and of all Lebanese people is dependent on the disarmament of all armed groups, including Hizbollah, and control of arms trafficking to Lebanon; considers it vital that all weapon imports into Lebanon be directed only to the official Lebanese army; reiterates its call for the Lebanese Government to exercise, in cooperation with UNIFIL, full sovereignty and effective control over the borders and the territory of the country in this regard; calls, in this regard, on all parties to renounce violence, fully accept the rules of democracy and recognise all state authorities and institutions democratically elected, regardless of their ethnic, religious and party affiliation and origin;
6. Welcomes the agreement reached by the parties on 15 May 2008; encourages all Lebanese political forces to fully implement this agreement, with special regard to the pledge to refrain from resorting to the use of arms or violence with the aim of achieving political gains, to engage in a national dialogue based on the questions of the national unity government and the new election law, and to take further confidence-building measures following the recent positive steps taken by the government; supports in this regard the plan adopted by the Arab League and the efforts made by its Secretary-General to broker a solution to the political crisis in Lebanon; supports the efforts by Qatar to mediate between the parties;
7. Notes that Lebanon is facing a situation of democratic deficit after 19 failed attempts to elect a new president since 23 November 2007; urges the President of the Lebanese Parliament to restore the functioning of the institution, which is a basic requirement of democracy, in order to contribute to the success of the national dialogue and to find a compromise solution to the current political deadlock;

8. Recalls that the Association Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Lebanon provides for a political dialogue between the European Parliament and the Lebanese Parliament on the basis of the establishment of political cooperation between the two institutions;
9. Reiterates the importance of the role of UNIFIL; considers it vital that the Lebanese Government exercises full sovereignty and effective control over the country's borders and territory in all activities that fall under the jurisdiction of the state in a way that guarantees the security of the country and its citizens;
10. Reiterates its call for all the parties concerned to support the work of the international tribunal to try those responsible for the assassination of the former Prime Minister, Rafik Hariri, and other politically motivated assassinations in Lebanon, and urges Syria to fully cooperate with it;
11. Urges the Lebanese authorities to make every effort to put an end to all discrimination against the Palestinian refugees; reiterates its call for the international community to increase its assistance so as to arrive at a lasting settlement;
12. Calls on Syria to refrain from all interference that can have a negative impact on Lebanese internal affairs and to play a constructive role in seeking to establish stability in the country; appeals to Iran and Syria to play a constructive role; calls on all parties concerned to comply with UN Security Council Resolutions 1559 and 1701, with regard to respecting the independence, sovereignty, security and stability of Lebanon, recalling the ban on selling weapons to armed militias;
13. Reiterates its support for the determination of the European Union to assist Lebanon in its economic restructuring; calls on the Council and the Commission to continue their efforts to support the reconstruction and the economic recovery of Lebanon as well as to establish closer cooperation with civil society in the country, in order to promote further democratisation there;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the UN Secretary-General, the Secretary-General of the Arab League, the Quartet Envoy to the Middle East, the President of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, the Government and Parliament of Lebanon, and the President and Government of Syria.