

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Session document

14.1.2009

B6-0051/2009 }
B6-0054/2009 }
B6-0056/2009 }
B6-0057/2009 }
B6-0058/2009 }
B6-0059/2009 } RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Joseph Daul, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Elmar Brok, Charles Tannock, Jana Hybášková, Ioannis Kasoulides, Gunnar Hökmark, Tokia Saïfi and Vito Bonsignore, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Martin Schulz, Pasqualina Napoletano, Hannes Swoboda, Kristian Vigenin, Richard Howitt and Proinsias De Rossa, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, on behalf of the ALDE Group
- Roberta Angelilli, Hanna Foltyn-Kubicka, Ryszard Czarnecki, Eugenijus Maldeikis, Inese Vaidere, Eoin Ryan, Mirosław Mariusz Piotrowski and Adam Bielan, on behalf of the UEN Group
- Daniel Cohn-Bendit and Monica Frassoni, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Francis Wurtz, Luisa Morgantini and Miguel Portas, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Kathy Sinnott

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PSE (B6-0051/2009)
- Verts/ALE (B6-0054/2009)
- PPE-DE (B6-0056/2009)
- GUE/NGL (B6-0057/2009)
- ALDE (B6-0058/2009)
- UEN (B6-0059/2009)

on the situation in the Gaza Strip

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PE416.176v01-00}
PE416.179v01-00}
PE416.181v01-00}
PE416.182v01-00}
PE416.183v01-00}
PE416.184v01-00} RC1

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European Parliament resolution on the situation in the Gaza Strip

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Middle East, in particular those of 16 November 2006 on the situation in the Gaza Strip¹, 12 July 2007 on the Middle East², 11 October 2007 on the humanitarian situation in Gaza³ and 21 February 2008 on the situation in the Gaza Strip⁴,
 - having regard to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 1860 of 8 January 2009,
 - having regard the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949),
 - having regard to the postponement of the vote on the assent to further participation of Israel in EC programmes,
 - having regard to the European Union statement of 30 December 2008 on the situation in the Middle East,
 - having regard to Rule 103(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 27 December Israel launched a military offensive in Gaza in response to Hamas rocket attacks in the south of Israel since Hamas took control of the Strip and following the breakdown of the ceasefire and the refusal to renew the ceasefire agreement,
- B. whereas according to the latest reports the Israeli operation has so far killed about one thousand people in Gaza, many of them children and women, causing thousands of casualties and the destruction of houses, schools and other key items of civilian infrastructure, owing to the use of force by the Israeli army,
- C. whereas the border crossings in and out of Gaza have been closed for 18 months and the embargo on the movement of people and goods has affected the daily lives of the inhabitants and further paralysed the economy in the Strip and has limited any substantial improvements in the situation in the West Bank; whereas the embargo on the Gaza Strip represents collective punishment in contravention of international humanitarian law,
- D. whereas improving the living conditions of Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, together with a revival of the peace process and the establishment of functioning Palestinian institutions in Gaza, is a key aspect of efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians,

¹ Texts adopted: P6_TA(2006)0492.

² Texts adopted: P6_TA(2007)0350.

³ Texts adopted: P6_TA(2007)0430.

⁴ Texts adopted: P6_TA(2008)0064.

- E. whereas the considerable European Union financial support to the Palestinians has played an important role in seeking to prevent a humanitarian disaster in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank; whereas the European Union continues to provide, including through UNWRA, humanitarian assistance in the Gaza Strip,
1. Welcomes the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1860 of 8 January 2009 and regrets that so far both Israel and Hamas have failed to meet the UN request for a halt to the hostilities; calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, which should include a halt to rocket attacks by Hamas on Israel and the end of Israel's military action in Gaza;
 2. Agrees on the necessity of urgently providing, as demanded by the UNSC Resolution 1860, arrangements and guarantees in Gaza in order to sustain a durable ceasefire which includes at the same time the withdrawal of the Israeli troops, the sustained re-opening of the crossing points, the lifting of the blockade and the prevention of smuggling of illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition;
 3. Calls for a negotiated truce, which should be guaranteed by a mechanism, to be set up by the international community coordinated by the Quartet and the Arab League, which could include the dispatching of a multinational presence, under a clear mandate, in order to restore security and secure respect for the ceasefire for the people in Israel and Gaza, with special reference to the monitoring of the Egypt-Gaza border, which implies a special responsibility for Egypt; calls on the Council to increase its pressure in order to halt the ongoing violence; encourages the diplomatic efforts so far undertaken by the international community, especially Egypt and the EU;
 4. Expresses its shock at the suffering of the civilian population in Gaza; strongly deplores, in particular, the fact that civilian and UN targets have been hit during the attacks; expresses its sympathy for the civilian population affected by the violence in Gaza and southern Israel;
 5. Calls in the strongest terms on the Israeli authorities to allow unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance and aid to the Gaza Strip and to guarantee a continuous and adequate flow of aid through the humanitarian corridors; urges the Israeli authorities to allow the international press to follow events on the ground;
 6. Calls on Israel to fulfil its obligations under international law and international humanitarian law; calls on Hamas to end rocket attacks and to assume its own responsibilities by committing itself to a political process aimed at restoring inter-Palestinian dialogue and contributing to the ongoing process of negotiation;
 7. Calls for a stronger and more united political stance on the part of the European Union and invites the Council to take the opportunity to cooperate with the new US Administration in order to put an end to the conflict with an agreement based on the two-state solution, with the aim of building a peaceful new regional security structure in the Middle East;
 8. Stresses the high importance of renewing the efforts for inter-Palestinian reconciliation

between all the components of Palestinian society, based on the February 2007 Mecca Agreement, which implied acceptance of the previous agreements, including the right of Israel to exist; and underlines, in this connection, the need for a permanent geographical connection between, and the peaceful and lasting political reunification of, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank;

9. Stresses that only real progress towards peace and a substantial improvement on the ground in the West Bank and Gaza can strengthen the legitimacy of the Palestinian Authority;
10. 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 Quartet Envoy to the Middle East, the President of the Palestinian Authority, the Palestinian Legislative Council, the Israeli Government, the Knesset, the Egyptian Government and Parliament and the Secretary-General of the Arab League.