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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on statements by the Council and Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Joseph Daul, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Elmar Brok, Jana Hybášková, Ioannis Kasoulides and Gunnar Hökmark

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the situation in the Middle East/Gaza Strip

European Parliament resolution on the situation in the Middle East/Gaza Strip

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Middle East and in particular those regarding the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip,
 - having regard to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 1860 (2009),
 - having regard to the statement on the Middle East made by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on 21 September 2007,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, as a result of the increased violence in the region, fear and suffering amongst the civilian population in the Gaza Strip and Israel have dramatically increased,
- B. whereas the already fragile humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip has deteriorated dramatically since Israel began its military offensive,
- C. whereas Hamas has refused to renew the ceasefire agreement and continued to fire rockets towards the southern cities in Israel,
- D. whereas Hamas has illegally and brutally destroyed the Palestinian Authority in Gaza,
- E. whereas potential progress in the Middle East conflict and avoidance of the use of any form of violence will substantially contribute to overall world peace,
- F. 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. Calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, which should include a halt to rocket attacks by Hamas on Israel and an end to Israel's current military action in Gaza;
 2. Expresses its deepest concern about the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip and its possible grave consequences; stresses that human rights and international humanitarian law must be fully respected in the area;
 3. Calls upon Hamas to durably and verifiably cease firing rockets into Israel and calls for appropriate security measures to be put in place in Gaza;
 4. Welcomes the peace initiative by the EU and its Member States, which must cooperate closely with the Czech Presidency of the Council and with the Commission, as well as the

cooperation of the Troika of three EU Presidencies led by the Czech Republic;

5. Calls for swift joint action at a high-ranking level by the Middle East Quartet (EU, USA, UN, Russia), which must closely cooperate with Arab States in order to stop the current conflict and establish the preconditions and guarantees for a durable solution to the Middle East conflict on the basis of the State of Israel's living side by side in peace and security with a viable Palestinian State;
6. Welcomes the new EU-Egyptian initiative as a very positive sign of Egyptian action and responsibility;
7. Calls on Egypt to agree to ensure that the smuggling of rockets, guns and ammunition and the tunnel-building at the border between Gaza and Egypt are stopped and the coastal waters off Gaza and Egypt are controlled and on the international community, coordinated by the Quartet together with the Arab States, to provide international assistance in the form of both personnel and equipment, under a robust and clear mandate, in order to restore security and secure respect for the ceasefire for the people in Israel and Gaza;
8. Insists that a humanitarian catastrophe be avoided, that supplies for the civil population be ensured and that a proper distribution network be put in place; welcomes, with the goal of establishing a permanent ceasefire, the adoption of the planned daily three-hour suspension of fighting and opening of a humanitarian corridor to Gaza as a step in the right direction;
9. Considers it necessary that Israel, Egypt and the international community cooperate more closely in controlling border crossings in order to ensure supplies and freedom of movement and at the same time stop the smuggling of weapons and ammunition into Gaza;
10. Considers that in this context the EU should resume and strengthen its Rafah border mission and should ensure that EU BAM Rafah is effective;
11. Hopes that US President-elect Obama will immediately treat this topic as a priority from the beginning of his presidency, in order to establish his country's immediate ability to act on the Middle East question in cooperation with the outgoing administration and in coordination with the Quartet;
12. Calls upon Syria and Iran to stop their weapons supplies to Hamas and Hezbollah and to support the international peace initiatives actively and constructively;
13. Deems it necessary that Israel, the Quartet and the Arab States cooperate closely with President Abbas;
14. Regards President Abbas and the Palestinian Authority as the legitimate representatives of the West Bank and Gaza Strip;
15. Calls upon Hamas and other Palestinian militant groupings to renounce the use of violence and to recognise the right of existence of the State of Israel as well as to respect the authority of President Abbas in his negotiations;

16. Calls upon Israel to guarantee the flow of humanitarian aid, to gradually dismantle checkpoints in the West Bank and to drastically change its settlement policy in order to make economic development possible, as a precondition for a viable Palestinian State;
17. Calls on the Council and Commission to continue to guarantee, together with the international community, essential humanitarian aid for the Palestinian population, with special regard to the specific needs of particularly vulnerable groups; calls on Council and Commission to strengthen in close coordination the EU's direct influence in the Gaza Strip and the Middle East and to create conditions for solving the critical situation and eradicating terrorism, extremism, unemployment and poverty; considers that the EU's financial aid must be used as a real tool to both fortify its role in the region and bring about real empowerment of the civilian population of Gaza;
18. Emphasises that the current situation again shows the importance of continuous foreign representation of the EU as provided for in the Treaty of Lisbon;
19. 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 Secretary General of the Arab League, the President of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, the President of the Palestinian Authority, the Palestinian Legislative Council, the Israeli Government, the Knesset and the Egyptian Government and Parliament.