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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the European Council report and the Commission statement

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

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on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the Thessaloniki European Council of 19-20 June 2003

B5-0327/2003

European Parliament resolution on the Thessaloniki European Council of 19-20 June 2003

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolutions on the Convention and its resolutions of June 2003 on the EU/SEE Summit, on the Transatlantic Partnership and on an open method of coordination for the Community immigration policy and integrating migration issues in the European Union's relations with third countries,
- having regard to the statements by the Council Presidency and the Commission on the outcome of the Thessaloniki European Council,

Convention - IGC

1. Welcomes the European Council's conclusions and its decision on the draft constitutional treaty, and takes the view that the latter must form the sole basis for the work of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC);
2. Takes the view that the outcome of the Convention (the majority of whose members were parliamentarians) should not be called into question by the IGC;
3. Calls on the Italian Presidency to convene the Intergovernmental Conference as soon as possible (with the accession States taking a full and equal part), so that it can finish before the end of 2003, and calls for the European Parliament to take a full part in its work;
4. Stresses that the Convention has proved its usefulness as a new negotiating instrument for treaty reform at the level of the national parliaments, the European Parliament, representatives of the governments and the European Commission;
5. Considers it important that the Convention should deal fully with, and conclude, Parts Three and Four of the draft treaty, with the essential aim of extending qualified majority voting in order to guarantee the EU's capacity to act;

Common European immigration policy

6. Welcomes the European Council's decision to speed up implementation of the programme approved in Tampere, particularly as regards the establishment of a common European immigration policy;
7. Recalls the European Parliament's call, underpinned by that in the text of Part III of the draft Treaty establishing a European Constitution, to incorporate asylum and immigration policy in a common legal framework;

Establishment of a common policy on illegal immigration, external borders, return of

illegal immigrants and cooperation with third countries

8. Welcomes the willingness of the Council to apply harmonised solutions to documents of third-country nationals, passports of EU citizens and information systems (SIS II and Schengen visa information system);
9. Calls on the Commission to submit to it as soon as possible, with a view to carrying out this harmonisation, proposals establishing legislative instruments enabling European laws to be put in place with regard to passports, visas and biometric data, in accordance with Article 18(3) of the EC Treaty;
10. Approves the Council's decision to reinforce operational cooperation in managing external borders, but wishes special emphasis to be put on controls at maritime borders, with better coordination of the authorities responsible for carrying out controls being ensured by effective training and improved resources;
11. Intends to consider as soon as possible the Greek proposal aimed at setting up a network of immigration liaison officers (ILOs) in third countries;
12. Undertakes to consider the Commission's proposals on a revision of the Common Manual with a view to establishing, in agreement with the Council and Parliament, a procedure for the examination of the confidential parts of this manual;
13. Notes with satisfaction the willingness expressed by the European Council to consolidate solidarity in the area of freedom, security and justice; welcomes the Council's intention of ensuring that the financial perspectives are adapted (as of 2006) to reflect this political priority of the Union; supports the wish of the Council to release in the meantime additional resources with which to meet the most pressing structural needs, namely:
 - management of external borders,
 - implementation of the action programme on returns,
 - development of the visa information system (VIS);

Affirms that these additional resources may not in any circumstances be generated by reducing current Category 3 expenditure;

14. Welcomes the European Council's call to speed up the establishment of a common European asylum regime, and declares itself ready to take part in the adoption of additional laws in this area, in accordance with the codecision procedure, as provided for in the Nice Treaty;

Development of a European policy on integration of third-country nationals residing legally on European Union territory

15. Approves the Council's action in declaring that the Member States continue to be responsible for establishing and implementing policy on integration of third-country nationals, while envisaging the establishment of basic common principles, with which it

wishes to be associated;

16. Welcomes the European Council's proposal to make the European migration network a permanent structure, but wishes it to be implemented in agreement with the European Parliament;

The fight against terrorism

17. Welcomes the European Council Presidency's report mentioned in Annex I, particularly its recommendations on fighting funding for terrorism and collaboration with third countries, particularly the United States;
18. Recalls the necessity to link the fight against funding for terrorism with the fight against money laundering and drug trafficking;

Cyprus

19. Fully endorses the European Council conclusions with regard to the creation of favourable conditions for a solution to the Cyprus problem, particularly through the renovation of the UN Secretary-General's mission of good offices in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions;

Western Balkans

20. Welcomes the EU-Western Balkans Summit outcomes and notes that the incoming Italian Presidency will organise before the end of the year a new Summit together with EU-WB Home Affairs ministerial meetings to focus on better common action to combat crime;
21. Recognises the irreversibility of the process under which each of the WB countries moves towards accession, while at the same time insisting on the principle of judging each country on its own merits and believing that this differentiated approach may include arrangements based on bilateral links between the EU and certain WB countries for an interim period before accession and on the participation of the WB countries in a multilateral framework such as a European Economic Area (EEA) 'plus';
22. Underlines that these countries should commit themselves to a wide range of reforms of their economies, judicial systems, standards of democracy and respect for democratic values, good governance, respect for the rule of law, good neighbourliness, inviolability of borders, peaceful resolution of disputes, which constitute real obstacles to democratic stability in the region; considers also that the pace of further enlargement must take into account the capacity of the EU institutions to continue to function effectively;
23. Is satisfied with the endorsement by the Summit of the Council conclusion of 16 June on the Western Balkans, including the annex 'The Thessaloniki Agenda for the Western Balkans: moving towards European integration', and hopes that the enrichment of the SAP and its main pillar, the SAA, by adding elements of the experience acquired from the Union's enlargement – including promotion of political dialogue and cooperation in the CFSP/ESDP area – will finally provide the right framework for preparing the Western

Balkans for future integration, stressing cooperation with the EU and amongst themselves, including a strong commitment to respect for human rights, protection of minorities and refugee return and to moving the fight against organised crime, corruption and trafficking in human beings, drugs, arms and illegal immigration to a higher level;

24. Considers that, in order to strengthen the process of the structural convergence of the Western Balkans with the EU, it is vital to support sustainable development in a framework of enhanced regional development and cooperation;
25. Asks for a strong EU commitment to promoting mobility programmes within SEE and the EU, in particular to giving access to the EU's Socrates and Leonardo programmes;
26. Welcomes the CFSP High Representative Javier Solana's declaration that Belgrade has agreed to hold talks, before the end of July, with representatives of Kosovo on the status of Kosovo itself; in this framework, congratulates the Belgrade and Pristina Authorities, who have expressed their willingness to enter into a practical dialogue on issues of mutual interest, and expressly calls for this first step to bring about a concrete resolution of the disputes;
27. Encourages Bosnia in its steps towards acceptance of the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court; urges Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to take the same decision; reaffirms its hope that Croatia – in the framework of its application to join the EU – will take concrete steps to comply with the Copenhagen Criteria and to cooperate fully with the ICTY (International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia);

Follow-up to the European Spring Council Session of April 2003

28. Welcomes the adoption of the Employment Guidelines, together with the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines (BEPGs), and their emphasis on macro-economic and financial stability;
29. Urges the Member States to undertake the reforms that are deemed necessary in these guidelines, including reform of the labour market; is of the opinion that extension of the duration of the BEPGs from one to three years will favour continuity of the economic coordination process;
30. Notes the proposed candidature of Mr Trichet as the next President of the ECB and refers to Rule 36 of its Rules of Procedure;

External relations

Euromed

31. Reiterates its proposal to establish a Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, reinvigorating the parliamentary dimension of the Barcelona Process through a greater degree of institutionalisation and increased political visibility, and guaranteeing parliamentary control and follow-up of the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements;
32. Recalls the need to achieve by 2010 a free trade area between the Mediterranean countries

and the EU, as set out in the Barcelona Declaration;

Arab world

33. Agrees on the need to reinforce its partnership with the Arab world through an intensification of political dialogue, promoting pluralism, democratic reforms and economic and social development;

Middle East

34. Shares the view that the current situation could be considered as an historic and unique opportunity to reach a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, in spite of the continuing violence on the ground;
35. Welcomes both sides' decision to accept the Road Map developed by the Quartet and asks for its full implementation within the fixed clear timelines, with the active participation of the EU;
36. Adds its voice to demands that Hamas and other groups declare an immediate ceasefire, and unequivocally condemns all kinds of terrorism;
37. Calls on Israel, with the European Council, to abstain from extra-judicial killings and to reverse the settlement policy;
38. Recalls the efforts of, and the important role played by, EU Special Representative Moratinos in the region and urges the Council to name his successor without delay;
39. Declares once again that there is no military solution to the conflict, and only the negotiation of a peace agreement in line with the phases indicated in the Road Map can lead to the coexistence of two states – Israel and a democratic and viable Palestine – living in peace, side by side, within secure and recognised borders;

Iraq

40. Welcomes the adoption of UNSC Resolution 1483 as a clear indication of the wish to return to a constructive spirit of cooperation within the UN and looks forward to the contribution of the UN, through its experience, to the formation of a new, representative Iraqi Government as soon as possible, as well as to reconstructing a peaceful, secure and prosperous country for the Iraqi people;
41. Welcomes the European Council's determination to involve the European Union in the humanitarian relief efforts and asks the Commission and the High Representative to submit proposals for the EU contribution without delay;

Cuba

42. Firmly condemns the current policy pursued by the Cuban authorities, which has led to an increase in repression and human rights violations vis-à-vis opposition leaders, and notes that its Foreign Affairs Committee has tabled oral questions on the situation on the island

in order to assess and react to the unacceptable behaviour of the Castro regime;

North Korea

43. Fully endorses the EC Presidency Conclusions and reiterates the EU commitment to actively supporting the Sunshine Policy pursued by the Republic of Korea;

Burma

44. Calls on the Burmese authorities to release without delay the Sakharov Prize winner Mrs Aung San Suu Kyi and the other NLD members in detention;

Green Diplomacy

45. Welcomes the renewed commitment by the Council to incorporating the environment in external relations by promoting a European diplomacy on environment and sustainable development, which translates into action Parliament's views and is fully in line with Parliament's statements in all international fora;

46. Underlines that, in the context of globalisation of environmental issues such as climate change, management of water resources and sustainable development in general, it is of particular relevance to integrate the environmental dimension in all policies at global level, as is the case at European level;

The International Criminal Court

47. Welcomes the EC Presidency's strong support for the ICC and its commitment to working actively for the universality of the Court and contributing to its effective functioning;

48. Welcomes, furthermore, the Declaration by the ten Acceding Countries, Bulgaria and Romania and Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland that they share the objectives of the EU Common Position on the ICC (16 June 2003) and that they will ensure that their national policies conform to this Common Position;

EU Security Strategy

49. Welcomes the recommendations submitted to the Council by Secretary-General/High Representative Javier Solana for an overall EU strategy in the field of foreign and security policy, underlining the need for a more muscular CFSP to deal with weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and the conflicts of the post-cold-war era, and to exert influence to prevent conflict or take 'pre-emptive engagement' through 'effective' multilateral institutions, to spend more on defence, to reduce the duplication of military assets and to increase civilian planning during and after crises, thereby creating EU 'hard power' tools to back up its soft power ones; requests that the EP be involved in the formulation and implementation of the EU Security Strategy;

European Security and Defence Policy

50. Notes with satisfaction that the EU now has operational capability across the full range of

the Petersberg tasks, which has been reaffirmed through the launching of the first ESDP operations: European Union Police Mission (EUPM) in Bosnia-Herzegovina, CONCORDIA in FYROM and ARTEMIS in Bunia, DRC; regrets, however, that this operational capability is still limited and constrained by many shortfalls, and calls upon the Council, therefore, to continue to develop the EU's military capabilities, inter alia through the establishment of ECAP Project Groups;

Agency in the field of defence capabilities

51. Welcomes the decision of the Council to comply with the requests of the European Parliament and to undertake the necessary actions towards creating an agency aiming at developing defence capabilities in the field of crisis management, promoting and enhancing European armaments cooperation, strengthening the European defence industrial and technological base and creating a competitive European defence equipment market, as well as promoting research activities aimed at leadership in strategic technologies for future defence and security capabilities; underlines, however, that the main activity of the agency should be to coordinate the various European armaments projects;
52. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the accession States.