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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, Elmar Brok, Othmar Karas, Gunnar Hökmark, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Charles Tannock, Stefano Zappalà, Karl von Wogau, Jean-Pierre Audy, Tunne Kelam, Marian-Jean Marinescu and Ria Oomen-Ruijten

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the situation in Georgia

European Parliament resolution on the situation in Georgia

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Georgia and, in particular, those of 26 October 2006¹, 29 November 2007² and 5 June 2008³,
 - having regard to its resolution of 17 January 2008 on a more effective EU policy for the South Caucasus⁴ and its resolution of 15 November 2007 on strengthening the European Neighbourhood Policy⁵,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on EU-Russia relations, particularly its resolution on the EU-Russia Summit of 19 June 2008⁶,
 - having regard to the General Affairs and External Relations Council's Conclusions on the situation in Georgia of 13 August 2008,
 - having regard to Council Joint Action 2008/450/CFSP of 16 June 2008⁷ regarding a further contribution of the European Union to the conflict settlement process in Georgia/South Ossetia and to other previous Council Joint Actions on this same subject,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the extraordinary European Council meeting⁸ on the situation in Georgia of 1 September 2008,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the distribution of Russian passports to citizens in South Ossetia and support for the separatist movement, together with increased military activity by separatists against villages with Georgian populations, have increased the tensions in South Ossetia, combined with large-scale Russian military manoeuvres close to the border with Georgia during July,
- B. whereas on 8 August 2008 forces of the Republic of Georgia clashed in Tskhinvali, the capital of the breakaway Georgian region of South Ossetia, with Russian forces, which on 11 August extended their offensive into Georgia proper,
- C. whereas on 12 August the Presidents of Georgia and Russia committed themselves to an agreement on the basis of the mediation efforts carried out by the EU providing for an

¹ Texts adopted P6_TA(2008)0253.

² Texts adopted P6_TA(2007)0572.

³ Texts adopted P6_TA(2008)0253.

⁴ Texts adopted P6_TA(2008)0016.

⁵ Texts adopted P6_TA(2007)0538.

⁶ Texts adopted P6_TA(2008)0309.

⁷ OJ L 157, 17.6.2008, p. 110.

⁸ 12594/08.

immediate ceasefire, the withdrawal of Georgian and Russian forces to their positions prior to 7 August and the opening of international talks on an international mechanism to be set up rapidly in order to prepare for a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict,

- D. whereas on 19 August NATO suspended regular top-level ties with Russia, saying that Russia's military action has been 'disproportionate' and 'inconsistent with its peacekeeping role in parts of Georgia' and that 'business as usual' could not continue while Russian troops remained in Georgia,
- E. whereas on 22 August Russia withdrew tanks, artillery and hundreds of troops from their most advanced positions in Georgia, but still controls access to the port city of Poti, south of Abkhazia, and has established other checkpoints around South Ossetia and Abkhazia,
- F. whereas on 25 August Russia's upper house of parliament adopted a resolution asking the President to recognise the independence of Georgia's breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which was followed on 26 August by President Medvedev formally recognising the two regions as independent states,
 - 1. Calls on Russia to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognised borders of the Republic of Georgia, and dismisses in consequence the recognition by the Russian Federation of the independence of the breakaway Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia as contrary to international law;
 - 2. Underlines that there is no legitimate reason for Russia to invade Georgia, to occupy parts of it and to threaten to override the government of a democratic country, and that there exists no legitimate Russian interest in other sovereign states;
 - 3. Stresses that the partnership between Europe and Russia must be based on respect for the fundamental rules of European cooperation, upheld not just in words but in action; welcomes, therefore, the European Council's strong condemnation of Russia's actions, including Moscow's recognition of the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia;
 - 4. Reiterates its firm belief in the principle that no third country has a veto over the sovereign decision of another country to join any international organisation or alliance or the right to destabilise a democratically elected government; raises concerns, therefore, over the Russian aim of toppling the democratically elected President Mikheil Saakashvili and replacing him with a president favourable to the Russian Government;
 - 5. Expresses deep concern at the effect of Russian mines on the social and economic activity of Georgia, in particular with regard to the blowing up of a railway bridge near Kaspi on the main rail link from Tbilisi to Poti on 16 August and the explosion caused near Gori on 24 August to the fuel train carrying crude oil from Kazakhstan for export through Poti; underlines that both actions violated the ceasefire commitment;
 - 6. Condemns the continued forced resettlement of Georgian populations from their homes in Southern Ossetia even after the ceasefire was agreed upon and calls on the Russian and South Ossetian authorities to guarantee the return of those people;

7. Strongly urges Russia to honour all its commitments under the ceasefire agreement reached and signed through the diplomatic efforts of the EU, beginning with the complete and immediate withdrawal of its troops from Georgia proper and the reduction of its military presence in South Ossetia and Abkhazia to the Russian force deployed as peacekeepers in the two provinces before the conflict erupted; condemns the extensive looting perpetrated by the Russian invasion forces and accompanying mercenaries;
8. Welcomes in this context the decision of the European Council to mandate its President to go to Moscow on 8 September, accompanied by the President of the Commission and the High Representative, and to continue discussions with Russia with a view to the full application of the six-point agreement;
9. Calls on the EU and NATO and its members to use, on the basis of a common position, all available means to persuade the Russian Government to abide by international law, which is the necessary condition for playing a responsible role in the international community; reminds Russia of its responsibility as a UN veto power for a global order of peace;
10. Calls on the Council and Commission to review their policy towards Russia should Russia not fulfil its commitments under the ceasefire agreement; welcomes in consequence the decision of the European Council to postpone the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement negotiations until the withdrawal of the Russian troops to their positions prior to 7 August;
11. Calls on the EU Member States to review the issuing of visas for economic activities based in South Ossetia and Abkhazia;
12. Calls on the Council and Commission to show proof of strong political will in the conflict, especially vis-à-vis Russia, and to use the EU's political and economic possibilities as they are at present; insists on the need for the EU to present a common position on this subject;
13. Expresses its gratitude to the French EU Presidency for the achievement of a rapid ceasefire agreement;
14. Calls for a robust contribution by the European Union to the planned international mechanism for the resolution of the conflict on the basis of OSCE decisions, leading to the retreat of the Russian troops and the subsequent setting up of an international peacekeeping force with a clearly distinguishable European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) mission forming part of it;
15. Calls for the rapid deployment of international humanitarian efforts, and demands that the European Union and its Member States allocate sufficient emergency funding for the victims of the crisis, with part of the EU budgetary resources previously allocated to the Russian Federation being transferred for that purpose; stresses that Russia must allow aid operations full access to all parts of Georgia, including those parts where there are currently Russian troops;
16. Calls on the Commission, the Council and the Member States rapidly to support the reconstruction of Georgia's infrastructure;

17. Calls on all parties to the conflict to allow full and unfettered access for humanitarian assistance to victims, including refugees and internally displaced persons;
18. Calls for an independent international investigation into the alleged crimes committed by the parties to the conflict in Georgia, from the first events in and around Tskhinvali between 1 and 7 August to the later ethnic cleansing in South Ossetia and Abkhazia;
19. Calls on the Council and Commission to develop the European Neighbourhood Policy further by making it better adapted to the needs of our eastern partners, including a strengthening of EU involvement in the Black Sea region, to take up the European Parliament's proposal for a European Economic Area Plus or the Swedish-Polish proposal and to speed up, in relation to Georgia, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova in particular, the establishment of a free trade zone; notes that liberalisation of EU visa policy towards these countries must take account of the fact that Russia has been granted better conditions in this area than they have;
20. Calls on the Council and Commission to convene a conference on European Neighbourhood Policy in Tbilisi;
21. Calls on the Council and Commission to become proactively involved in identifying efficient new mechanisms for solving conflicts in the area;
22. Calls on the Council and Commission to convene an international donors' conference for the reconstruction of Georgia, to examine the possibility of a major EU plan to provide financial support for the rebuilding of the areas of Georgia affected by war and to establish a stronger EU political presence in the country and throughout the region;
23. Affirms, in its capacity as representative of the peoples of Europe, that European citizens should be involved, through their representatives, in the resolution of this situation; suggests in this context that, depending on the developing seriousness of the situation in Georgia, an extraordinary meeting of the foreign affairs committees of the European Parliament and the Member States' national parliaments be considered;
24. Stresses the importance of Georgia in improving EU energy security by providing an alternative to the Russian energy transit route; considers it crucial that existing infrastructure such as the BTC pipeline be effectively protected, and calls on the Commission to offer Georgia all necessary assistance to this end; expects a strong EU commitment in pursuing the Nabucco pipeline project, recognised as an EU priority project that would cross Georgia's territory;
25. Underlines the importance to security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area of EU-US relations that are on an equal basis and insists that a joint policy on the part of the transatlantic partners is the most effective way of dealing with problems that affect both sides of the Atlantic;
26. Recalls that at the Bucharest Summit on 3 April 2008 NATO agreed that Georgia would become a member of the Alliance, and takes the view that Georgia is still on track eventually to join the Alliance;

27. Takes the view that the role of the EU in the current crisis could have been increased through a strengthening of European foreign, defence and security policy, and believes that the Treaty of Lisbon, including the creation of the position of High Representative, the solidarity clause and the EU Energy Security Policy, represents the right way of doing this;
28. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Member States, the Presidents of the Parliaments of the Member States, the Presidents and Parliaments of Georgia and the Russian Federation, NATO, the OSCE and the Council of Europe.