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B5-0546/2003 } B5-0555/2003 } B5-0559/2003 } B5-0561/2003 } B5-0568/2003 } RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 50(5) of the Rules of Procedure, by

- Michael Gahler, Charles Tannock, Bernd Posselt and Lennart Sacrédeus on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Margrietus J. van den Berg and Jan Marinus Wiersma on behalf of the PSE Group
- Bob van den Bos, Anne André-Léonard and Ole Andreasen on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Elisabeth Schroedter and Marie Anne Isler Béguin on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Bastiaan Belder on behalf of the EDD Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- ELDR (B5-0546/2003),
- EDD (B5-0555/2003),
- PSE (B5-0559/2003),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0561/2003),
- PPE-DE (B5-0568/2003),

on Moldova

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European Parliament resolution on Moldova

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Moldova and its resolution 'Wider Europe -Neighbourhood: a New Framework for Relations with our Eastern and Southern Neighbours' of 20 November 2003,
- having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between Moldova and the EU which was signed on 28 November 1994 and entered into force on 1 July 1998,
- having regard to the Memorandum of 8 May 1997 signed between Moldova and Transnistria,
- having regard to Resolution No 1280 of the Council of Europe of 24 April 2002,
- having regard to the conclusions of the European Council of 16 and 17 October 2003,
- having regard to the statement of the chairman-in-office of the OSCE at the closing plenary of the 11th meeting of the OSCE ministerial council in 2003.
- having regard to the aid provided by the European Union to Moldova in the framework of TACIS.
- having regard to the Final Statement and Recommendations of the last meeting of the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Cooperation Committee on 11 June 2003,
- having regard to Rule 50(5) of the Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, due to weak administration and lack of effective democratic control over the administration, the economy of Moldova is suffering from a high incidence of corruption, nearly 80% of the market is informal, so that there is no tax revenue, in addition to no border controls on the Eastern border and an inefficient social system, making the country one of the poorest in Europe,
- B. aware of the difficulties the people of Moldova have been facing since independence and during the process of economic and social reform,
- C. whereas Transnistria declared independence in 1992, after an armed conflict involving Russian troops, thereby destabilising the whole Moldovan Republic,
- D. whereas there is a serious level of criminal activity, a deeply rooted unofficial economy and no respect for fundamental rights and human rights, especially in Transnistria,
- E. whereas the Moldovan Government has offered to work together with Transnistria in a joint constitutional commission, involving the Council of Europe and the EU as observers, in order to draw up a new constitution for a reunited Moldova before February 2004,
- F. whereas the meeting between Ukraine, Russia and the OSCE on 24 and 25 September 2003 RC\518156EN.doc PE 339.895}

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- in Zagreb did not succeed in giving fresh impetus to the constitutional process, a process that should not be linked to the withdrawal of Russian arms and troops from Transnistria,
- G. whereas Russia decided to put forward a second peace plan itself on 17 November 2003, proposing a demilitarised federation in which Transnistria would have a special status, a plan that was in the end rejected by the Moldovan Government,
- H. whereas the withdrawal of Russian arms and troops provided for in the commitments given at the OSCE Istanbul Summit in 1999 and confirmed at the 10th OSCE Ministerial Council in Porto in 2002 has been delayed again, thereby giving the Transnistrian authorities the opportunity to maintain the status quo,
- I. whereas most of the ministers taking part in the 11th OSCE Ministerial Council wished to provide an OSCE mandate for a multinational peace consolidation mission and unarmed observers and urged the parties to redouble their efforts to overcome their differences,
- 1. Calls on the Moldovan Government to respect democratic principles, fundamental rights and human rights, including minority language rights, and intensify the process of economic and social reform, including the further development and implementation of anti-corruption measures; considers that this includes the legitimate right of civil society and the opposition parties to fully exercise and comply with their constitutional rights and obligations;
- 2. Considers that the Moldovan Government has not been able to stabilise the economy and establish greater democracy and is convinced that a rapid solution of the Transnistrian conflict would contribute considerably to the stabilisation of Moldova's economy and also strengthen democracy;
- 3. Calls, furthermore, on both government and opposition to build upon their common position with regard to promoting Moldova's European aspiration;
- 4. Welcomes the fact that Moldovan civil society is playing a role in the demilitarisation, decriminalisation and democratisation of the whole Moldovan Republic;
- 5. Urges the Moldovan Government to combat trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation, especially women and children, through effective law enforcement and to provide the necessary assistance to the victims in order to reintegrate them into society;
- 6. Supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova as the basis for any peaceful solution of the conflict:
- 7. Welcomes the establishment of a joint constitutional commission, but is disappointed that the commission has not made any substantial progress;
- 8. Considers that the peace plan presented by Russia in order to legitimise the present situation is an obstacle to the further development of democracy in Moldova and does not contribute to the stabilisation of the whole region and awaits with interest a possible peace plan from the Moldovan Government;

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- 9. Deplores the fact that the Russian Government does not intend to withdraw its arms and troops before the end of 2003 despite its repeated commitments;
- 10. Welcomes the visa ban imposed by the EU on Members of the Transnistrian regime;
- 11. Calls for the release of all political prisoners, especially in Transnistria;
- 12. Welcomes the position of most of the ministers taking part in the 11th OSCE Ministerial Council in favour of providing an OSCE mandate for a multinational peace consolidation mission and unarmed observers, and would like the EU to join this mission and likewise provide observers;
- 13. Urges the Governments of Romania, Ukraine and Russia to refrain from any unilateral interference in Moldova's internal affairs and to work together with the OSCE the leading force in the democratisation process in Moldova the EU and the Council of Europe in order to foster the stable and peaceful development of all countries in the region;
- 14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Government and Parliament of Moldova, the Government of Romania, the Government of Ukraine, the Government of Russia, the Secretary General of the OSCE and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

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