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Session document

17 December 2003

B5-0548/2003 }
B5-0549/2003 }
B5-0552/2003 }
B5-0553/2003 }RC1/rev.

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 37(4) of the Rules of Procedure, by

- Michael Gahler, Philippe Morillon, Georg Jarzembowski, Charles Tannock and Thomas Mann on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Margrietus J. van den Berg on behalf of the PSE Group
- Ole Andreasen on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Daniel Marc Cohn-Bendit and Per Gahrton on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- ELDR (B5-0548/2003),
- PPE-DE (B5-0549/2003),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0552/2003),
- PSE (B5-0553/2003),

on arms sales to China

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PE 339.897}
PE 339.898}
PE 339.908}
PE 339.909} RC1/rev.

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European Parliament resolution on arms sales to China

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Declaration on China made by the European Council in Madrid on 26 June 1989 following the brutal repression that took place in China at that time, introducing an embargo on trade in arms with China, the scope of which has been left for national interpretation,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the European Summit of 12-13 December 2003,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the 6th Summit meeting between China and the European Union held in Beijing on 30 October 2003,
 - having regard to the recent release of both EU and China policy papers on EU-China relations, which pave the way for the development of relations in the years to come,
 - having regard to the EU Code on Arms Exports, with reference to countries or regions where serious tensions persist,
 - having regard to Rule 37(4) of the Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas in its resolution of 23 October 2003 on the annual report from the Council to the European Parliament on the main aspects and basic choices of CFSP the European Parliament insisted on a peaceful resolution of the Taiwan issue through dialogue across the Taiwan Straits and called on China to withdraw missiles in the coastal provinces adjacent to the Taiwan Straits,
- B. whereas policy towards China must necessarily take the following three key factors into account: the development of human rights and the rule of law, China's role in world politics and the EU's economic interests,
- C. whereas China and the EU attach great importance to a multilateral approach, non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament,
- D. whereas the human rights situation in the People's Republic of China has improved over the years but remains unsatisfactory, as the crackdown on fundamental freedoms continues as well as torture, ill-treatment, mistreatment of HIV-AIDS sufferers, arbitrary detention, the high number of death sentences each year, and the lack of respect and protection of minority rights,
- E. whereas from the outset little tangible progress has been made with regard to the EU-China human rights dialogue,
- F. taking note of a proposal by some EU countries to lift the ban on arms sales to China,
1. Strongly believes that China needs to prove it has made significant progress on human rights

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before the EU can consider lifting the ban;

2. Believes it is the wrong time, in view of Chinese threats against Taiwan, to open the way to a lifting of the European arms embargo;
3. Calls on the Council and the Member States, including the acceding and applicant countries, to maintain the EU embargo on trade in arms with the People's Republic of China and not to weaken the existing national limitations on such arms sales;
4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Member States, including the acceding and applicant countries, and the Government of the People's Republic of China.