Resolution on the European Council of Stockholm of 23 and 24 March 2001 on foreign affairs matters

2001/2544(RSP) - 05/04/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament welcomed the arrest of President Milosevic and insists that he should be transferred to the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY) in order to stand trial on the indictments for war crimes. Commission and Council are urged to support the FYROM government and the resolution stresses the importance of the inviolability of borders in the Balkans. The importance of full rights for the Albanian ethnic minority in FYROM is also stressed. There is rejection of President Putin's comparison of the conflict in FYROM with that in Chechnya and regret that the Council Presidency did not comment on these remarks. Action to resolve the conflict in FYROM and in Kosovo is urged and an early warning system should be speedily developed. With regard to the Middle East, the Parliament rejects the use of violence and the Parliament reaffirms its commitment to pursuing the dialogue. The need for the EU to contribute in an even-handed manner to build up confidence to resume the peace process is stressed. The Israeli Government is urged to refrain from any disproportionate use of force an there is a call for the Palestinian National Authority to make every effort to control extremists. The House also urges the Israeli government to show its willingness to restart negotiations by putting an end to the blockade of the territories and to the settlements' expansion and paying back the overdue revenues to the Palestinian authorities. The EU's support for the creation of a viable Palestinian state is reiterated and Member States are urged to renew all efforts to ensure that the UN Security Council sends a monitoring mission in the Palestinian territories. Member States are urged to strengthen customs controls on Israeli products imported into the EU, starting the infringement procedures if there are products coming from the occupied territories. As regards the Russian Federation, there is a welcome for the EU's strategic partnership with Russia, however, the Putin government is urged to stop violations of human rights of citizens and refugees both within and outside Chechnya and to demostrate restraint in its military actions in the area. Independent media and humanitarian organisations be granted free access to all areas under Russian control in order to improve living conditions for all those concerned. Council and Commission are both urged to establish flexible relations with the district of Kaliningrad. Particular attention will have to be paid to making the application of the Schengen acquis to Lithuania and Poland and access to Russian citizens, mutually acceptable. There is support for the Norther Dimension policy and the promotion of the co-funding of actions to combat pollution in the Baltic Sea and the opening up of EIB lending to selected environmental projects in Russia. Lastly, the decision to enhance the role of the EU in the Korean peninsula in support of peace, security and freedom was welcomed. However, the Parliament believes that assistance to North Korea should be reviewed, with regard in particular to the KEDO agreement.