Resolution on the conclusions of the European Council meeting in Feira on 19 and 20 June 2000

2000/2581(RSP) - 06/07/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the conclusions of the European Council meeting at Feira on 19 and 20 June 2000. It covered the following areas: -on the IGC and the Charter of Fundamental Rights, Parliament regretted that the European Council failed to give a new political impetus to the IGC to enable preparations for enlargement, and emphasised the need for a substantial extension of qualified majority voting plus co-decision with Parliament. It warned against using future work on closer cooperation or the prospect of another IGC as a pretext for not making progress on widening and deepening the Union. -On the Common European Security and Defence Policy, Parliament voiced concern at the increasingly complex institutional relations, where the Council, the Commission, the Council of Ministers and the Council Secretary-General-High Representative interact with each other and with Parliament. The Council was urged to involve Parliament fully in defining priorities regarding external action. The commitment to build a Common European Security and Defence Policy was welcomed. -On taxation, the agreement on savings tax is welcomed, but the timetable for implementation of the savings tax agreement does not reflect the urgency of the matter. -On the follow-up to Lisbon, Parliament welcomed the broad consensus on the Lisbon strategy for economic reform and social cohesion, and emphasised the crucial coordinating role of the broad economic policy guidelines in implementing an effective macroeconomic policy mix with a view to sustainable growth, competitiveness, investment, employment and social cohesion. The position of the European Parliament must be respected in these matters via an Interinstitutional Agreement. The European Charter for Small Enterprises is welcomed, but there needs to be real commitment to reducing red tape, reforming labour markets and introducing tax systems rewarding success, without risking workers' rights. Greece's accession to the euro is also welcomed. -On foreign affairs, Parliament welcomed the first EU-India Summit, and noted the adoption of a comprehensive "Agenda for Action". India should be included in the ongoing ASEM process. Parliament also welcomed the agreement to intensify cooperation with the states of the Western Balkans and the Action Plan for the Northern Dimension. The European Council's call for a strong partnership with Russia is welcomed, but Parliament regrets that there is still no peace strategy for Chechnya.