Resolution outcome of the informal European Council in Biarritz on 13-14 October 2000

2000/2618(RSP) - 25/10/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

MEPS voted 403 to 65 with 78 abstentions in favour of a joint resolution tabled by the EPP-ED, PES, Liberal and Green groups, on the outcome of the informal European Council in Biarritz on 13-14 October 2000. The resolution focused on four following themes: 1) the Charter of Fundamental Rights - the European Parliament expressed its satisfaction with the Charter and called for it to be incorporated into the Treaty. 2) the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) - the European Parliament reaffirmed that qualified-majority voting (QMV) must become the general rule and unanimity must be restricted to decisions of a constitutional nature; also, the link between the extension of QMV and the codecision procedure must be respected in the legislative sphere. However, the European Parliament, however, called on all the parties involved to conclude a successful Nice IGC summit and in particular, it called on the IGC negotiators to avoid creating any gulf between the 'large' and 'small' EU States. Finally, the European Parliament stated its concern over the growing imbalance in interinstitutional relations and it called on the IGC to strengthen all the EU institutions and partnership between them. 3) Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) - the European Parliament welcomed recent political developments in the FRY but appealed to President Kostunica to urgently review all the political cases of prisoners in Serbia. It also invited the Council to take the increased need for multiannual financial assistance into account. 4) Situation in the Middle East - the European Parliament applauded the visit of the High Representative for the CFSP to the Sharm-el-Sheikh Summit as well as calling for a lasting agreement between all parties involved. 5) Other policies - the European Parliament also referred to the current oil situation and called on all oil producer countries to accept contracts in euros with European consumer countries. Furthermore, it called on the Commission and the Member States to study urgently and adopt measures to cope with the negative impact of the oil crisis on the employment and living conditions of the less well-off in the EU. Finally, it called on the Council to adopt a coherent energy strategy.