Resolution on the outcome of the European Council on 7-11 December 2000 in Nice

2000/2637(RSP) - 14/12/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

Although the Parliament notes with satisfaction the agreement in the Presidency conclusions on the issues such as the social agenda, common security and defence policy, food safety, public services, the statute for the European companies and environmental questions, the draft Treaty of Nice falls far short of what Parliament considers to be necessary to strengthen the EU's capability for enlargement and its democratic legitimacy. The resolution, which was adopted by 308 votes to 95 with 85 abstentions, also regrets that most Heads of State and Governments gave priority to their short-term national interests rather than to EU interests. Nevertheless, it notes that progress has apparently been made concerning the nomination, composition and functioning of the Commission and particularly the increased powers of its President. It also welcomed the progress achieved relating to the warning system in the case of Member States contravene the EU's basic principles (Article 7) and the statute of political parties. There is criticism however of apparent shortcomings in Council decision-making procedures and the fact that there is no automatic link between QMV and legislative codecision. The House is also unhappy that in launching closer cooperation, the assent procedure of Parliament is only occasionally required. The Constitutional Affairs Committee is called upon to undertake a detailed evaluation of the draft Treaty and to assess whether an enlarged Union can function effectively on the basis of this Treaty. Lastly, the Parliament considers that traditional IGC method is unsuitable and calls for a Convention - similar to the one which produced the Charter of Fundamental Rights - to reorganise the treaties into a single simplified document or 'Constitution'.