Resolution on transatlantic relations

2004/2630(RSP) - 13/01/2005 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted by 319 votes to 94, with 151 abstentions, a resolution on transatlantic relations.

The text adopted in plenary had been tabled as a joint resolution by the EPP-ED, PES, ALDE and UEN groups.

MEPs hope that the second term-in-office of President Bush and the new administration will lead to a fresh start in EU-US transatlantic relations. They declare the willingness of the European Union, and specifically the European Parliament, to cooperate and work together to solve global problems which require global efforts and a common approach. They call on the US to assume its shared responsibility for economic stability in an increasingly interdependent world.

The Parliament proposes the building of a transatlantic "community of action" for regional and global cooperation and challenges, focusing in particular on the following three joint actions:

1. the development of a peace initiative in the Middle East in agreement with the governments and peoples of the region, with the aim of contributing to a solution to the existing conflicts, including encouraging democracy in Palestine, Iran and Iraq;
2. the search for global security, which should be tackled with the following priorities in mind:
    - the fight against international terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as the revival of negotiated arms control and disarmament at multilateral level, within the UN system, and at bilateral level;
    - the need to address the sources of terrorism through, for example, coordination in the area of development assistance and support for emerging democratic processes on the basis of full respect for human rights and international law;
    - the need for an effective response - on the shared basis of the Millennium Development Goals - to new global challenges which cut across national boundaries, notably poverty reduction, communicable diseases and degradation of the environment, in particular by promoting dialogues on climate protection and transport emissions;
3. a new impetus for the strengthening of the economic partnership, by focusing on specific ideas to further transatlantic economic integration to the fullest, working towards a comprehensive Transatlantic Aviation Agreement and accelerating the Financial Market Regulatory Dialogue to promote a vibrant and open transatlantic capital market.