Resolution on the Olympic truce

2005/2633(RSP) - 01/12/2005 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the Olympic Truce for the Turin Winter Olympics in 2006, welcoming the efforts by the United Nations to secure a ceasefire in areas where there is conflict, and urged the countries concerned to observe a truce during the Olympic Games. Parliament also urged the Commission to place a greater emphasis on the potential of sport in its development and peacekeeping work and in the achievement of the Millennium Goals, and felt that the EU should be involved in the work of the International Olympic Truce Foundation.

Parliament asked the Council to urge all Member States, accession, candidate and neighbouring countries and all the countries participating in the Winter Olympics and Paralympics in Turin to observe the Olympic Truce during the Games and beyond. The Council was reminded of its commitment to consider this matter every two years and to reconfirm its support for the Olympic Truce for the 2006 Turin Games.

Parliament went on to urge the Council and Commission to assist in the observance of the Truce during the Winter Olympics in Turin by holding a special event, possibly at the Parliament. It pledged to do everything in its power to ensure observance of the Olympic Truce and the attainment of world peace, and called for a delegation to be sent to Turin for the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2006 Winter Olympics.

The Council and Commission must urge the IOC and the Organising Committee of the Turin Games to agree that the EU flag should be displayed prominently on the signs put up by the organising city for the Games and at the sports venues where the Games will take place.

Finally, Parliament felt that the Olympic Truce is about more than a call for a brief cessation of conflicts and, in this regard, welcomed the interfaith and educational initiatives in Turin, Jerusalem and Sarajevo.