

Resolution on the situation in the Middle East

2006/2617(RSP) - 07/09/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution in which it expresses its serious concern over the extension and intensity of the military conflict in south Lebanon and deeply regrets the casualties among civilians, soldiers and UN observers in Lebanon and/or Israel, and the massive destruction of infrastructure. It reaffirms that there is no military solution to the conflict in the Middle East.

It also stresses, in this connection, that no ceasefire can be lasting without the parties directly or indirectly involved showing the political will to tackle the root causes of the recent crisis. It calls for the immediate release of the kidnapped Israeli soldiers and of the members of the Palestinian Government and members of the Palestinian Legislative Council imprisoned by Israel.

Parliament welcomes the unanimous adoption by the UNSC of Resolution 1701, which establishes the conditions for putting an end to the military operations. It points out that strong, quick and effective efforts are needed for the reconstruction of Lebanon. It welcomes, in this regard, the conclusions of the Stockholm Conference for Lebanon's Early Recovery, in which donor countries decided to contribute substantively to the reconstruction of the country, and the Commission and Member States announced the grant of EUR 120 million in humanitarian aid.

The Council and the Commission are called upon to continue their efforts to establish a living partnership with democratic political forces and civil society, in order to support further democratisation in Lebanon after the events of March 2005.

On an international level, Iran and Syria are called upon to play a constructive role. It calls specifically on Syria to step up controls on its side of the Lebanese-Syrian border in accordance with Resolution 1701, which requires neighbouring countries to prevent supplies of weapons to non-State entities. It deeply deplores the deteriorating situation of the population and civilian infrastructure in Gaza and the West Bank and stresses the need to bring the Middle East peace process back to the top of the international political agenda. It calls on the Quartet (UN, EU, USA and Russia) to revive the implementation of the Roadmap with a view to the annual UN General Assembly session in September 2006.

The Parliament believes that in the medium to long term, the building of institutions uniting the countries of the Mediterranean basin, such as a Euro-Mediterranean Development Bank, will be the best guarantor of lasting peace and human development. It calls on EU Member States to strive for the creation of such institutions, rather than to seek bilateral agreements.

Lastly, the Parliament is in favour of sending a fact-finding delegation to Lebanon, Palestine and Israel in order to monitor the situation, with special focus on the humanitarian and political conditions.