Resolution on situation in Somalia

2006/2598(RSP) - 15/09/2006

The Council adopted certain conclusions on Somalia:

- it welcomed the conclusions of the second round of the Khartoum based inter- Somali dialogue, held on 2-4 September 2006, between the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFI) and the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC), and the agreed communiqué as a positive step towards peace and reconciliation. The EU encourages the TFIs and the UIC to sustain the momentum of the talks, inter alia through the Joint Committee agreed in Khartoum, and enter into substantive negotiations, including on power sharing and security, on the basis of the Khartoum communiqué;

- the Council reaffirmed the commitment of the EU to assist the process, and urged the international community, particularly regional actors, to support the dialogue sponsored by the League of Arab States;

- it expressed its deep concern about the continuing tensions in Somalia between the UIC and the TFIs. The Council reconfirmed its support to the TFIs as the only legitimate political representation in Somalia as defined in the Transitional Federal Charter (TFC);

- all Somali parties were urged to exercise maximum restraint and to take immediate steps to reduce tension. Similarly, all states in the region were asked to support the Somali transition and to avoid interfering in the situation;

- the Council recalled the UN Security Council Resolution 733 of 1992 and the ensuing decision and presidential statements on this matter by the Security Council concerning the arms embargo on Somalia and urged all actors to adhere to it fully. The arms embargo must be closely monitored;

- the Council took note of the readiness of the AU and IGAD to deploy a regional peace support mission in Somalia. Recalling the Statement by the President of the UN Security Council of 13 July 2006 and its balanced approach to the TFIs and the UIC, the Council encouraged all parties to work for a broad consensus in Somalia in support of peace and reconciliation. Once consensus on the peace support mission is achieved, the deployment of such a mission would necessitate a limited adjustment of the arms embargo.

- the Council welcomed the establishment of the International Contact Group (ICG) on Somalia in order to support the peace and reconciliation process. It emphasised that the Somali peace process could only become a reality with the will and effort of the Somali people itself, including through the active involvement of civil society, women's groups and the diaspora.