Resolution on the situation in South Ossetia, Georgia

2006/2646(RSP) - 26/10/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the situation in South Ossetia (Georgia).

The resolution was tabled by the EPP-ED, PES, ALDE, Greens/EFA, GUE/NGL and UEN groups.

The situation in South Ossetia is deteriorating, with incidents, shootouts and clashes between Georgian and Ossetian forces and police units in recent months causing deaths and injuries. Moreover, the Government and Parliament of Georgia have questioned the existing format of the negotiating process, the composition of the peacekeeping forces and the mechanisms of the peacekeeping operations stemming from the ceasefire agreement of 1992.

In this context, the Parliament reiterates its call for a peaceful resolution of the conflict and its commitment to support the peace process, and calls on all parties to act responsibly by refraining from unilateral steps. It reaffirms its full support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and calls on the Russian authorities to fully respect the sovereignty of that country within its internationally recognised borders.

The resolution strongly condemns the attempts by movements in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia to establish independence unilaterally. It calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to withhold support from all of these movements and to give its fullest support to the multilateral efforts to find a solution to the conflicts in its neighbourhood. It also condemns the fact that South Ossetia will hold a referendum on independence on 12 November 2006.

The Parliament considers that the stagnated peace process needs to be re-launched and calls for an enhanced and combined effort by the European Union and the OSCE to bring the parties back to the negotiating table. The two parties are called upon to sign the joint document on refraining from the use of force and on security guarantees and to engage in constructive negotiations in order to overcome the present stalemate.

Moreover, MEPs consider that full demilitarisation is a fundamental element of conflict prevention and that neutral, effective and impartial peacekeeping operations are essential for resolving territorial conflicts in Georgia. In this context, they stress that the EU should be prepared, if necessary, to commit troops to a new peacekeeping force.

The Council is called upon to keep on making every effort to defuse the tension and rebuild confidence between Georgia and the Russian Federation and prevent the present diplomatic crisis from escalating further. The Russian state authorities are urged to halt immediately all acts of repression and harassment carried out against ethnic Georgians living in Russia and to lift their unjustified import ban on products from Moldova and Georgia.

Lastly, the Parliament calls on the Council and the Commission to include the question of frozen conflicts and their resolution on the agenda for the next EU-Russia summits.