Basic information

2006/2617(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on the situation in the Middle East **Subject** 6.10.04 Third-country political situation, local and regional conflicts 6.10.05 Peace preservation, humanitarian and rescue tasks, crisis management **Geographical area** Israel Lebanon	

Key players

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2779	2007-03-05
General Affairs	2748	2006-09-15
General Affairs	2795	2007-04-23
General Affairs	2800	2007-05-14
General Affairs	2776	2007-01-22
General Affairs	2756	2006-10-16

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
06/09/2006	Debate in Parliament		
07/09/2006	Decision by Parliament	T6-0348/2006	Summary
07/09/2006	Results of vote in Parliament		
07/09/2006	End of procedure in Parliament		
15/09/2006	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
16/10/2006	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
22/01/2007	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
05/03/2007	Debate in Council		
23/04/2007	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
14/05/2007	Debate in Council		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2006/2617(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Motion for a resolution		B6-0469/2006	06/09/2006	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0472/2006	06/09/2006	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0477/2006	06/09/2006	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0481/2006	06/09/2006	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0486/2006	06/09/2006	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0487/2006	06/09/2006	
Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects		T6-0348/2006	07/09/2006	Summary

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.

Resolution on the situation in the Middle East

2006/2617(RSP) - 15/09/2006

The Council discussed the situation in the Middle East. It underlined that lasting peace and security in the region can only be ensured by a comprehensive settlement with a negotiated two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at its core. The High Representative must pursue his efforts to reinvigorate the Peace Process.

The Council supported the full implementation of UNSCR 1701 including the withdrawal of Israeli troops in parallel with the deployment of UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces. It welcomed the early deployment of the Lebanese army in southern Lebanon and the substantial contribution by EU Member States to the reinforced UNIFIL mission, as well as the lifting of the Israeli air and sea blockade, and the instrumental role played by EU Member States. The EU reiterated its call for the immediate release of the two abducted Israeli soldiers. The Council asked for a report on a possible European contribution to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 on the Lebanese-Syrian border.

It emphasised its commitment to assist the Lebanese government in meeting emergency, humanitarian and environmental needs, launching the rehabilitation and reconstruction process, extending its authority throughout Lebanese territory and taking forward political, security, economic and social reforms. It was noted that the EU/Lebanon ENP Action Plan provides an agreed framework through which the EU could assist the Government in implementing its reform agenda.

The Council went on to underline its commitment to promoting tangible progress towards a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It welcomed the announcement by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on an agreement to form a government of national unity and expressed the hope that its political platform will reflect the Quartet principles and allow for early engagement. It called for an immediate end to violence by Palestinian factions as well as to Israeli military activity in the Palestinian territories. The Council reiterated its call for the immediate release of the abducted Israeli soldier. It further repeated its call for the immediate release of Palestinian ministers and legislators in Israeli custody. All parties must respect their Roadmap obligations. The Israeli Government was called upon to freeze all settlement activity, including natural growth of settlements. Ministers reiterated that the EU would not recognise any changes to the pre-1967 borders other than those agreed by both parties.

The Council expressed deep concern at the humanitarian situation in the Palestinian territories. In this context the Council recalled the strong EU commitment made at the Stockholm International Donor Conference on 1 September. It welcomed the expansion of the Temporary International Mechanism, by which the EU and its Member States have already channelled substantial resources directly to the Palestinian people, and agreed that its operation should be extended for a further three months. It encouraged donors and others in the region to make full use of the mechanism. The Council repeated its call on Israel to resume transfers of withheld Palestinian tax and customs revenues. It called for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access and, in this regard, reiterated its continued commitment to EU Border Assistance Mission in Rafah. It urged that Rafah and all other border-crossings be re-opened.

It should be noted that the Council also adopted a common position imposing an arms embargo in Lebanon in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 1701.