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Plenary sitting

5.12.2012

B7-0535/2012

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 110(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference regarding the establishment of a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction (2012/2890(RSP))

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on behalf of the S&D Group

B7-0535/2012

European Parliament resolution on the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference regarding the establishment of a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction (2012/2890(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, in particular that of 10 March 2010 on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons¹,
 - having regard to the 1995 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, which adopted a resolution calling for the opening of negotiations to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,
 - having regard to the report of the UN Disarmament Commission of 30 April 1999 recommending a set of principles and guidelines for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone,
 - having regard to the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, especially to Final Document Volume I, Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions, paragraphs 104 and 116, and Chapter IV on the Middle East, particularly the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East,
 - having regard to the European Union Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), adopted by the European Council on 12 December 2003,
 - having regard to Council Decision 2012/422 CFSP of 23 July 2012 in support of a process leading to the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East,
 - having regard to the UN General Assembly Resolution of 13 December 2011 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,
 - having regard to the report of the UN Secretary-General of 6 October 2010 on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East,
 - having regard to the statement by the spokesperson of the EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the postponement of the Helsinki Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction,
 - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the proliferation of WMD, and their means of delivery, represents one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and whereas the most pressing

¹ OJ C 349 E, 22/12/2010, p. 77-81.

security priorities are to prevent additional states from obtaining or using nuclear weapons, to reduce global stockpiles and to move towards a world without nuclear weapons;

- B. whereas the development of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension such as the Middle East, would enhance international peace and security and contribute to strengthening the international non-proliferation regime; whereas, therefore, it should be encouraged as a matter of priority;
- C. whereas a number of nuclear-weapons-free zone treaties already exist for other regions of the world, namely Latin America and the Caribbean, the South Pacific, Southeast Asia, Africa and Central Asia; whereas Mongolia's self-declared nuclear-weapon-free status has been recognised through the adoption of the UN General Assembly's resolution on Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status; whereas there are other treaties that also deal with the denuclearisation of certain areas, such as the Antarctic Treaty, the Outer Space Treaty, the Moon Agreement and the Seabed Treaty;
- D. whereas in the final document of the 2010 Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference there is an agreement to convene a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in the Middle East;
- E. whereas the preparations for this conference have been underway since the appointment of Jaako Laajava, Finland's Under-Secretary of State, as the facilitator for this Conference;
- F. whereas the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States are the co-sponsors of the 1995 Non-Proliferation Treaty Resolution on the Middle East and the depositary States of the Treaty;
- G. whereas the European Union, along with all the members of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, subscribed to the goal of promoting the establishment of a WMD in the Middle East in the Barcelona Declaration of 1995; whereas the EU supports the efforts of the facilitator, and the aim, of promoting the establishment of a WMD-free zone in the Middle East, notably through the 'Non-Proliferation consortium' and a series of seminars on the topic, such as those organised in 2008 and 2011 and in November 2012;
- H. whereas the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, which was scheduled for December 2012, has been postponed;
- I. whereas the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East has been on the agendas of various international fora for a long time, in particular the UN Security Council and General Assembly and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors and General Conference;
- J. whereas the UN Secretary-General reaffirmed his strong commitment to convening the Conference and underlined the importance of the Conference, which is a unique opportunity for all states of the region collectively to enhance their security;

1. Deeply regrets the postponement of the Conference, which was scheduled to take place in Helsinki in December 2012, and strongly urges all parties concerned to convene the Conference in early 2013;
2. Praises the facilitator for his tireless efforts to lay the groundwork for a successful conference despite the diverging views about the possible agenda and what the conference should accomplish, and against the backdrop of turmoil and dramatic political change taking place in the region;
3. Notes the frustration of the Arab states over the lack of implementation in the past years of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, as was strongly expressed in the run-up to, and during, the 2012 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference;
4. Is very concerned that, unless the Conference is convened within the shortest possible time, the 2015 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference could end without consensus; appeals to the Arab states to refrain from threatening to reconsider their NPT membership and instead to continue to promote and support the establishment of a Middle East zone free of WMD; calls, at the same time, on Israel to become a state party to the NPT, to place all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards, and to participate constructively in the discussions for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East;
5. Supports the ongoing attempts by the P5+1 group of countries to seek a swift diplomatic resolution to international concerns regarding Iran's nuclear programme based on the NPT and the full implementation by Iran of UN Security Council and IAEA Board of Governors resolutions;
6. Strongly believes that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and stability;
7. Calls on the HR/VP Catherine Ashton to ensure that the European Union remains actively engaged in supporting this process, particularly through active diplomatic encouragement of all parties concerned to engage constructively and with reinforced political will in the negotiations;
8. Asks the HR/VP Catherine Ashton to keep Parliament informed of any developments related to the ongoing efforts to reconvene the Conference following the postponement of its scheduled date in December 2012;
9. Urges all states in the region not to pursue actions that would undermine the goal of establishing the zone, including developing, producing, testing or otherwise acquiring nuclear weapons, but instead to take measures – including confidence-building and verification measures – aimed at establishing a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Middle East;
10. Welcomes the call of the Non-Aligned Movement for the speedy establishment of a Middle East nuclear-weapons-free zone as a priority step towards the establishment of a WMD-free zone in the region;
11. Believes that negotiations on nuclear, chemical and biological weapons should evolve

simultaneously in order to maintain parallel progress, in substance and timing, in the process leading to achieving the total elimination of WMD, as required in the 2012 NPT Review Conference declaration on the Middle East; encourages, therefore, all states in the region to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT);

12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the European Commission / High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Council, the Commission, the parliaments and governments of the EU Member States, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the facilitator, and the governments and parliaments in the Middle East.