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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled for the debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by Bob van den Bos, Anne André-Leonard and Ole Andreasen

on behalf of the ELDR Group

on Moldova

PE 339.895

B5-0546/2003

European parliament resolution on Moldova

The European parliament,

- Having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement signed on 28 November 1994 between Moldova and the EU and entered into force on 1 July 1998;
 - Having regard to the Memorandum of May 1997 signed between Moldova and Transdniestria;
 - Having regard to the resolution n°1280 of the Council of Europe of 24 April 2002;
 - Having regard to the conclusions of the European Council of 16 and 17 October 2003;
 - Having regard to the statement of the chairman-in-office of the OSCE at the closing plenary of the 11th meeting of the OSCE ministerial council in 2003;
- A. whereas the economy of Moldova has not developed well, leaving the country as the one of the poorest in Europe;
- B. aware of the difficulties the people of Moldova have been facing since the independence and during the process of economic and social reforms;
- C. whereas Transdniestria has declared independence in 1992, after an armed conflict involving Russian troops, thereby destabilising the whole Moldovan republic;
- D. whereas there is a serious amount of criminal activities, a deeply rooted non official economy and no respect for fundamental rights and human rights, especially in Transdniestria,
- E. whereas the Moldovan government has offered to work together with Transdniestria in a joint constitutional commission, involving the Council of Europe and the EU as observers, in order to draw up a new constitution for a reunited Moldova before February 2004;
- F. whereas the meeting between the Ukraine, Russian and the OSCE on 24 and 25 September 2003 in Zagreb did not succeed in giving a new impulse to the constitutional process; a process that should not be linked to the withdrawal of Russian arms and troops from Transdniestria;
- G. whereas Russia decided to put forward a second peace plan themselves on 17 November 2003, proposing a demilitarised federation in which Transdniestria would have a special status; a plan that was in the end rejected by Moldovan government;

H. whereas the withdrawal of Russian arms and troops, foreseen in the commitments undertaken at the OSCE Istanbul Summit in 1999, has been delayed again, thereby giving the Transdniestria authorities the possibility to maintain the status quo;

I. whereas most of the ministers taking part in the 11th OSCE ministerial council would like to provide an OSCE mandate for a multinational peace consolidation mission and unarmed observers;

1. Calls on the Moldovan government to respect democratic principles, fundamental rights and human rights including minority language rights and continue with the process of economic and social reforms;

2. Considers that the Moldovan government has not been able to stabilise the economy and establish more democracy, while noting that the Transdniestrian conflict has contributed for a large part to the instability of the whole country;

3. Welcomes that the Moldovan civil society is playing a role in the demilitarisation, decriminalisation and democratisation of the whole Moldovan republic;

4. Supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova as the basis for any peaceful solution of the conflict;

5. Welcomes the establishment of a joint constitutional commission, but is disappointed that the Commission has not made any substantial progress;

6. Considers that the peace plan presented by Russia is legitimising the present situation, which has an influence on the development of democracy in Moldova and contributes to the destabilisation of the whole region and awaits with interest a possible peace plan from the Moldovan government;

7. Deplores that the Russian government did not withdraw its arms and troops before the end of 2003;

8. Welcomes the position of most of the ministers taking part in the 11th OSCE ministerial council to provide an OSCE mandate for a multinational peace consolidation mission and unarmed observers, and would like the EU to join this mission and provide observes as well;

Urges the governments of Romania, the Ukraine and Russia to refrain from any unilateral interference in Moldova's internal affairs, but to work together with the OSCE, the leading force in the democratisation process in Moldova, the EU and the Council of Europe in order to establish a stable and peaceful development of all countries in the region;

Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission, the government of Moldova, the government of Romania, the government of the Ukraine, the government of Russia, the Secretary General of the OSCE and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.