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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on statements by the Council and Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Véronique De Keyser

on behalf of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the conclusion of a protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part, on a framework Agreement between the European Community and the State of Israel on the general principles governing the State of Israel's participation in Community programmes

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European Parliament resolution on the conclusion of a protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part, on a framework Agreement between the European Community and the State of Israel on the general principles governing the State of Israel's participation in Community programmes

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the decision of the Council and the Commission of 19 April 2000 on the conclusion of a Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part and the State of Israel, of the other part (2000/384/EC, ECSC),
- having regard to the Council decision on the conclusion of a protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part, on a Framework Agreement between the European Community and the State of Israel on the general principles governing the State of Israel's participation in Community programmes (Council document 5471/08),
- having regard to its resolution of 10 April 2002 on the Middle East¹, which called for full observance of human rights by Israel for the proper functioning of the Association Agreement between the European Communities and Israel,
- having regard to the European Union statement following the Eighth Meeting of the EU-Israel Association Council of 16 June 2008,
- having regard to Recommendation No 1/2005 of the EU-Israel Association Council of 26 April 2005 on the implementation of the EU-Israel Action Plan,
- having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council of 24 October 2006 laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument,
- having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council and to the European Parliament on the general approach to enable ENP partner countries to participate in Community agencies and Community programmes (COM(2006) 724),
- having regard to Decision No 1639/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007 to 2013)²,

¹ *Texts Adopted*, P5-TA(2002)0173 and OJ C 127E, 29.5.2003, p. 584.

² OJ L 310, 9.11.2006, p. 15.

- having regard to its resolutions on the research framework programmes and its resolution of 25 September 2007¹ on the proposal for a Council decision concerning the conclusion of the Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the European Community and the State of Israel (COM(2007)0276 - C6-0237/2007 - 2007/0096(CNS)),
 - having regard to the Euro-Mediterranean Interim Association Agreement between the European Community and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)²,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, in the Association Agreement, the EU and Israel committed themselves to creating an appropriate framework for political dialogue and to establishing a close partnership in various fields, including economic, scientific, technological, audiovisual and cultural cooperation,
- B. whereas the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) aims to consolidate a ring of prosperity, stability and security, to develop close ties with and between the EU's neighbouring countries, and to commit them to pursue reforms towards democracy based on respect for human rights, the rule of law, better governance and sustainable economic and social development; whereas Israel was the first ENP partner country to agree on an Action Plan,
- C. whereas the European Neighbourhood Policy aims also at providing a framework for developing good-neighbourly relations between bordering countries with a view to overcoming past differences and tensions and facilitating a comprehensive settlement of the ongoing conflicts; whereas a genuine development of the European Neighbourhood Policy can only be possible if progress is made in the resolution of the existing conflicts,
- D. whereas the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) has been established to provide assistance for the development of an area of prosperity involving EU Member States and ENP partner countries; whereas the funding level for Israel under the ENPI is estimated at EUR 14 million over the period 2007-2013,
- E. whereas the gradual opening up of certain Community programmes to the participation of ENP partner countries represents an important measure to promote dialogue and cooperation with, and encourage reforms in, the countries concerned; whereas on 18 June 2007 the Council issued directives to the Commission to negotiate Framework Agreements with several ENP partner countries, including Israel, on the general principles governing their participation in Community programmes,
- F. whereas the participation of ENP partner countries, including Israel, in Community programmes is based on a non-discriminatory case-by-case approach; whereas the financial contribution related to this participation is calculated with regard to the specific features of each individual programme and can be covered by resources provided by the ENP partner country or the EU budget,

¹ *Texts Adopted*, P6-TA(2007)0390.

² OJ L 187, 16.7.1997, p. 3.

- G. whereas Israel is fully associated with the EU framework programme for research and development; whereas Israeli entities participated in over 600 research projects under the Sixth Research Framework Programme; whereas the European Union and Israel renewed their science and technological cooperation in 2007, giving access to the Seventh Research Framework Programme on an equal footing with researchers from EU Member States and making Israel an integral part of the European Research Area,
- H. whereas improved regional cooperation between the countries concerned can make a considerable contribution to strengthening political stability and economic development in the Middle East,
- I. whereas the question of the products coming from the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories and exported to EU countries has not yet been fully clarified and solved by the Member States; whereas the European Community must respect international law in the exercise of its powers, cannot apply or implement its own legislation in a manner that recognises as lawful or gives legal effect to the situations resulting from serious breaches of international law,
- J. whereas relations between the EU and Israel, under Article 2 of the Association Agreement, are based on respect for human rights and democratic principles; whereas the Action Plan underlines that the EU and Israel share the common values of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law and basic freedoms, and that the level of ambition of the EU-Israel relationship will depend on the degree of commitment to common values as well as the mutual interests and the capacity of each party to implement jointly agreed priorities; underlines the importance of creating a Subcommittee on Human Rights in order to deal with these questions in an appropriate institutional framework,
- K. whereas the European Community cannot apply or implement its own legislation in a manner that recognises as lawful or gives legal effect to the situations resulting from serious breaches of international law, and must ensure that all Community programmes are implemented in a manner that does not give rise to the deficient implementation of Community legislation,
1. Takes note of the efforts, including the gradual opening up of certain Community programmes, aimed at further strengthening the cooperation between the EU and ENP partner countries, including Israel;
 2. Considers that the dynamic and high-level cooperation between the EU and Israel, including under the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme, is of mutual benefit to both parties and can set an example in relations with other ENP partner countries; underlines the fundamentally civil character of this cooperation;
 3. Encourages the further strengthening of scientific and technological cooperation between the EU and Israel in fields of a civil nature; expresses its concern, however, about the possible military use of the results of this cooperation, with special regard to the Galileo project;
 4. Welcomes the non-discriminatory financial approach that supports the participation of ENP partner countries in Community programmes on an equal footing; considers that the

implementation of EC-Israel cooperation should provide best practice for cooperation with other ENP partner countries;

5. Stresses the importance of full access on an equal footing for all students, researchers, other individuals, companies and organisations based in Israel to projects under Community programmes; calls, however, for project criteria giving preference to disadvantaged and less developed regions, such as the Galilee and Negev areas, and ensuring non-discrimination vis-à-vis Arab citizens of Israel;
6. Stresses the importance of and the need for political stability to ensure improved regional cooperation between countries in the Middle East and to strengthen economic development in the area;
7. Welcomes the EU statement at the Eighth Meeting of the EU-Israel Association Council, which underlines that the process of developing a closer EU-Israeli partnership needs to be in the context of the common interests and objectives, including the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the implementation of the two state solution based on international law and on observance of United Nations resolutions; calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure that the participation of Israeli entities in Community programmes will be in line with the existing EC legislation and policy, with special regard to measures aimed at preventing the participation of settlement-based companies and organisations in the programmes concerned, strengthening the control on Israeli products imported into the EU under preferential importation, and starting the infringement procedures if there are products coming from the Occupied Palestinian Territory; . Is confident that Israel will respect the Community's need to comply with its own legal obligations under the Treaty and under general international law and will cooperate with the Community's efforts to do so;
8. Reminds the parties of the commitments they made in Annapolis to hold negotiations in good faith with a view to concluding by the end of 2008 a peace treaty resolving all outstanding issues and calls for swift and tangible results on the ground, including the respect of Israel's right to live in security and the establishment of a viable Palestinian State; encourages the trilateral cooperation between the European Union, the Israeli and the Palestinian authorities in key policy areas, in line with the EC-Israel Association Agreement and the EC-PLO Interim Association Agreement, which can promote peace and people-to-people contacts; calls on Israel, in this context, to fully respect the EC-PLO Interim Association Agreement, to lift all impediments to its implementation and to facilitate the participation of individuals – with special regard to students and researchers –, companies and other organisations based in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in Community programme projects under the cooperation between the EU and the Palestinian Authority by removing administrative and physical obstacles and by ensuring the free movement of the persons concerned;
9. Asks the Commission to present an evaluation of the participation of Israel in Community programmes to the European Parliament on an annual basis; stresses that the participation of Israel in Community programmes should be in line with the principles and commitments included in previous agreements between the EC and Israel, with special regard to Article 2 of the Association Agreement, and with the aim of resolving the

Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the implementation of the two-state solution based on international law and observance of United Nations resolutions;

10. Calls upon the Commission and the Council to ensure that all memoranda of understanding based on this Protocol contain provisions that secure the correct implementation of European Community legislation and the Community's compliance with its own legal obligations under general international law;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the State of Israel.