

Thursday 1 April 2004

TEXT PROPOSED
BY THE COMMISSION

AMENDMENTS
BY PARLIAMENT

Working Group Meetings (four per year),
Hire of meeting rooms,
Travel and accommodation (experts),
Miscellaneous,
Reserve for RAC-commissioned scientific research.

Part 2. Interpretation and translation costs

The Commission will conclude with each RAC and for each year an action grant agreement which will set the precise terms and conditions and the procedure for the grant of financing.

P5_TA(2004)0270

Olympic truce

European resolution on the Olympic truce

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the resolution of 1990, followed by Resolution 56/75 of the United Nations General Assembly of 11 December 2001, in which it decided to consider the item 'building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal' every two years in advance of each Summer and Winter Olympic Games and Paralympic Games,
- having regard to the 58th session of the United Nations General Assembly and its resolution 'Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal' (A/58/L.9), which was co-sponsored and adopted unanimously by a record number of 190 United Nations member states on 3 November 2003,
- having regard to the conclusions of the Brussels European Council of 12 December 2003, in which the Council declared its support for the idea of the Olympic Truce and welcomed the relevant resolution agreed unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly,
- recalling the ancient Hellenic tradition of ekecheiria, namely the ceasing of all conflicts during the Olympic Games, allowing athletes, artists and spectators to travel to Olympia and participate in the Games,
- whereas the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games are taking place in 2004 in Athens, Greece, where the tradition of the Olympic Truce was first established,
- having regard to Rule 42(5) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games and the Olympic Truce contribute to building a world based on the rules of fair competition, humanity, reconciliation and tolerance, and promote multicultural dialogue, cooperation and understanding,

B. whereas the period of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games should provide an opportunity for a peaceful dialogue and the search for durable solutions for the restoration of peace in all areas of conflict, where the first victims are children, young people, women and the elderly,

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1. Asks the Council to urge the Member States and the acceding, candidate and neighbouring countries to respect and observe the Olympic Truce during the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games and to use the Olympic Truce as an instrument to promote peace, dialogue and reconciliation in areas of conflict during and beyond the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games period;
2. Calls on the Council to appeal to warring parties worldwide to respect the Olympic Truce;
3. Urges the Council to support the International Olympic Committee in its efforts to promote peace and human understanding through sport and the Olympic ideal;
4. Calls on the Council to mobilise all international sports organisations and the National Olympic Committees of the Member States to undertake concrete actions at national, regional and world level to promote and strengthen a culture of peace based on the Olympic Truce initiative;
5. Welcomes the establishment by the International Olympic Committee of an International Olympic Truce Foundation and an International Olympic Truce Centre to promote further the ideals of peace and understanding through sport, and asks the Council to support these organisations;
6. Welcomes the individual support of European and world personalities for the promotion of the Olympic Truce;
7. Urges the Council to reconsider this matter every two years, before all upcoming Summer and Winter Olympic Games and to reaffirm its support for the Olympic Truce initiative before the Games in Turin, Italy, in 2006;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the parliaments of the Member States and the acceding, candidate and neighbouring states.

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Situation in Kosovo

European Parliament resolution on the situation in Kosovo

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Kosovo and the former Yugoslavia, in particular its resolution of 15 February 2001 on the situation in Kosovo⁽¹⁾,
- having regard to the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, in particular Resolution 1244 of 10 June 1999,
- having regard to the External Relations Council's statement on Serbia and Montenegro and on Kosovo of 22 March 2004,
- having regard to the strongly worded condemnation of the violence in Kosovo made by the Brussels European Council of 25 and 26 March 2004,
- having regard to Rule 37(4) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. alarmed by the worst outbreak of mainly ethnically motivated violence in Kosovo for five years, which has left dozens dead and about a thousand people injured and has resulted in the destruction of several hundred houses and about forty Orthodox churches, monasteries, schools and other buildings throughout Kosovo,

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 276, 1.10.2001, p. 277.