

Peace and Reconciliation in the Balkans – Strengthening Europe's role

Reinforcing democracy and stimulating economic prosperity

We are convinced that only democracy and prosperity in the countries of the region can secure lasting peace and stability,

Therefore the ELDR Party,

A. Whereas the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is clearly lagging behind the other countries in the region in implementing political and economic reforms;

B. Whereas democratic elections have been held successfully in Montenegro under international observation, strengthening the reform parties, including the Liberal Alliance of Montenegro;

C. Whereas full and strict implementation of all provisions of the Dayton Peace Agreement is essential for the continuation of the peace process;

D. Whereas freedom of the media needs to be enhanced in all countries of the region, but especially in the FRY, where President Milosevic recently has made moves to silence electronic media outlets that are not pro-Milosevic, by shutting them down;

1. Believes that free media is a key element in successful democratization, and calls on the Council and the Commission to help the independent media in the region by means of programmes based on Phare funds for democracy;

2. Calls on President Milosevic to immediately reverse the trend of increased suppression of opposition voices, and to guarantee the existence of a free and independent media;

3. Supports the legitimate leadership of Montenegro in its commitment to political and economic reform;

4. Calls on the government and political parties of the Republic of Macedonia, to improve inter-ethnic relations within the country;

5. Calls on the government and political parties of Bosnia-Herzegovina to deepen its commitment to democracy, human rights and inter-ethnic reconciliation,

6. Calls on all political parties in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in particular on liberal parties, to take advantage of the elections in September 1998, to uphold the liberal tradition of political pluralism and inclusiveness by

Resolution:

Peace and
Reconciliation in the
Balkans –
Strengthening
Europe's Role

Year and Congress:

June 1998,
Copenhagen

Category:

Foreign Affairs –

Foreign &
Humanitarian Policy

Page:

1

fighting a campaign based on a firm and clear commitment to multi-ethnic politics;

7. Supports the "regional approach", adopted by the Council last year, that makes the readiness to transborder regional cooperation with neighbouring countries a condition for trade preferences, further aid and improved relations with the European Union;

8. Calls on the Council and the Commission, however, to apply conditionality in a more decentralised way within Bosnia-Herzegovina, and differentiate support all the way down to municipal level, according to how well the focal authorities comply with democratization, provisions in the Dayton agreement and with good-neighbourliness;

Refugees must be allowed to return

E. Whereas insufficient progress has been made implementing the Dayton agreement, notably as regards the free movement of people and the right of all refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes of origin;

F. Whereas ethnic clashes and violence against minority returnees have rocked Bosnia-Herzegovina in recent months;

9. Urges the governments of FRY, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina to adhere to the full and strict implementation of the provisions of the Dayton Peace Agreement, and to increase the number of refugees and displaced persons returning;

10. Calls on Croatia to show greater respect for basic principles of human and minority rights, not just in word but in deed and to exert its influence on the hard line Bosnian HDZ and put an immediate end to violence against Serbian returnees; Vukovar should be regarded as a test case for multi-ethnic cohabitation;

Bringing war criminals to trial

G. Whereas the ELDR Party is pleased that the work of the International Criminal Tribunal, ICTY, has gained momentum over the last year, but concerned that suspects such as Karadzic and Mladic still have not been brought to justice;

11. Urges the governments of FRY, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina to strengthen their cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal;

12. Calls on the UN to ensure that the multinational follow-on force in Bosnia- Herzegovina be mandated to:

Resolution:

Peace and
Reconciliation in the
Balkans –
Strengthening
Europe's Role

Year and

Congress:

June 1998,
Copenhagen

Category:

Foreign Affairs –

Foreign &
Humanitarian Policy

Page:

2

- apprehend persons indicted for war crimes by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia,
- to assist in locating and excavating mass graves,
- secure safe return for refugees and displaced persons,
- protect minorities and vulnerable groups all over Bosnia-Herzegovina;

13. Calls on the governments of the states supplying troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina to order their troops to fully implement the above mentioned tasks;

Kosovo – status quo unsustainable

H. Whereas war has broken out in Kosovo as a consequence of the policies of President Milosovic;

I. Recognises that this war is a threat to international peace within the terms of Chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter and that therefore it cannot be regarded as an internal problem of Serbia;

J. Commending the restraint demonstrated by the Albanian Government in response to Serb belligerence and in doing its utmost to deal generously with the refugees;

K. Whereas only a negotiated agreement between the Yugoslav authorities and representatives of the Kosovo Albanians can lay the ground for a stable peace in the region;

L. Whereas the international community has been late in recognizing the potential dangers posed by the Kosovo conflict, and whereas the Council so far was unable to propose concrete problem-solving measures;

M. Whereas the UNDEPREP mission in Macedonia, WEU's MAPE Police mission in Albania and the OSCE missions in Albania and Macedonia have contributed to the stability in the region, a stronger military presence of the international community is nevertheless needed after the recent events in Kosovo;

14. Welcomes the NATO-Declaration from 28 May 1998 and the initiatives announced therein and calls furthermore on the Council to make every effort to ensure that dialogue leads rapidly to a peaceful solution of the crisis;

15. Calls on the Council to invite the conflicting parties to a meeting outside the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; talks should be held without any preconditions and the result of the talks should be guaranteed by a third party;

Resolution:

Peace and
Reconciliation in the
Balkans –
Strengthening
Europe's Role

Year and

Congress:

June 1998,
Copenhagen

Category:

Foreign Affairs –

Foreign &
Humanitarian Policy

Page:

3

16. Calls on the Council to make completely clear that it will not tolerate any ethnic cleansing in Kosovo and that it is prepared to support the use of whatever force is necessary to prevent such practices;

17. Calls on the Council to take measures to indemnify neighbouring countries from the effects of economic sanctions and any other measures taken to isolate Serbia internationally;

18. Repeats its call on the EU, OSCE, NATO and WEU to make preparations for the dispatch of a preventive deployment force to the region;

19. Appeals to Russia as a democracy not to condone repression and to cooperate in stopping the war in Kosovo;

20. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and to Mr Ibrahim Rugova.

Resolution:

Peace and
Reconciliation in the
Balkans –
Strengthening
Europe's Role

Year and

Congress:

June 1998,
Copenhagen

Category:

Foreign Affairs –

Foreign &
Humanitarian Policy

Page:

4