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Results of the elections in Palestine and situation in the Middle East, and the Council's decision not to publish the report on East Jerusalem

European Parliament resolution on the result of the Palestinian elections and the situation in East Jerusalem

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Middle-East and in particular that of 27 January 2005¹,
 - having regard to the results of the Palestinian legislative elections of 25 January 2006,
 - having regard to the statement of the European Union Election Observation Mission and the statement of the Parliament's observers' delegation,
 - having regard to the statement of the Middle East Quartet (comprising the United Nations, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the European Union) issued on 30 January 2006,
 - having regard to the Council's conclusions on the Middle East peace process of 30 January 2006,
 - having regard to Rule 103(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Palestinian legislative elections were held in a very satisfactory manner, with a large turnout and respect for the rules provided for by the Palestinian electoral law, and under the aegis of the Palestinian Central Elections Commission (CEC),
- B. whereas there was full commitment from the international community, the Quartet and the European Union to hold the elections,
- C. whereas these elections, according to the European Union Election Observation Mission, 'marked another important milestone in the building of democratic institutions' under the efficient, professional and independent administration of the CEC,
- D. whereas the conduct of the elections has provided a model for the region and has clearly demonstrated the commitment of the Palestinian people to democracy,
- E. whereas support from the EU and other international donors is essential to satisfy the basic needs of the Palestinian people,
- F. whereas it is important to strongly encourage all parties concerned by the post-election situation to refrain from any action that could lead to increasing tension,

¹ OJ C 253 E, 13.10.2005, p. 35.

- G. whereas the Council decided not to publish the report on East Jerusalem drafted by the EU Heads of Mission in Jerusalem and Ramallah,
1. Welcomes the smooth and peaceful running of the election process and notably the high turnout of voters; considers that this high level of participation in the elections is proof of the will of the Palestinian people to shape their own future by democratic means;
 2. Considers that the electoral campaign and the election day operations respected international standards and welcomes the monitoring work of the European Union Election Observation Mission;
 3. Respects the results of the elections and takes note of the commitment of the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, to act to form a new government which respects international rules and rejects violence; calls on the new Palestinian Legislative Council and the future government to clearly recognise the state of Israel's right to exist, to renounce all forms of terrorism, to commit themselves to the principle of peaceful negotiation aiming at a two-state solution and to work in cooperation with the Quartet;
 4. Calls on the new Palestinian Parliament and future government and the Israeli Parliament and government to assume their responsibilities in this situation;
 5. Asks for a strong and urgent initiative by the Quartet in order to promote a dialogue and negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis; considers that the 'Roadmap for Peace' remains a constructive base, but stresses the need to achieve positive and concrete results;
 6. Points out that the results of the elections, which have provoked a profound change and radicalisation of the political arena in Palestine, are primarily an expression of the Palestinian people's desire for thorough reform, and also are a consequence of their difficult living conditions under occupation and strongly reflect criticism and grievances against the past administration;
 7. Considers that, in order to prevent further radicalisation, the international community should focus on the many unsolved issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;
 8. Reaffirms that its commitment to remain the biggest aid donor to the Palestinian Authority and to continue assisting Palestinian economic development and Palestine's democratic process will be dependent on the new government's clarification on denouncing violence and recognising Israel; reaffirms also its determination to work for peace and to cooperate with any government which is ready to work by peaceful means;
 9. Expresses its support to the present ESDP mission in Gaza to implement the Agreement on Movement and Accession, signed by the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, the aim of which is to secure and manage in an orderly fashion the border with Egypt, and decides closely to monitor this border mission;
 10. Notes the conclusions of the report on East Jerusalem drafted by the EU Heads of Mission in Jerusalem and Ramallah, which describes the situation in East Jerusalem, in particular the consequences of the building of the wall, and brings forward concrete recommendations for confronting the present problems; regrets that Parliament was not informed about its content;

11. Reaffirms that the dispute over East Jerusalem is part of the conflict as a whole and remains an issue for negotiations, especially as between the two sides; calls for a stop to the discriminatory treatment of Palestinian residents and for the re-opening of Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the President of the Palestinian Authority and the newly elected Palestinian Legislative Council, the Prime Minister of Israel and the Knesset, the US government, the government of the Russian Federation and the UN Secretary-General.