


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

5 FEB 22 P4 '00

SENATE  
P.S.R. No. 194

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Introduced by Senators  
Defensor Santiago, Villar, Biazon, Pimentel, Arroyo, Gordon, Lapid, Recto, Revilla,  
Magsaysay, Angara, Enrile, Estrada, Lacson, Lim, Madrigal, Flavier, Pangilinan

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RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PHILIPPINES SHOULD GIVE A NEW IMPETUS TO ITS ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES, IN PARTICULAR IN THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AREAS, AND TO STUDY FOR THAT PURPOSE THE POSSIBILITY OF FORMALIZING IN AN APPROPRIATE FORM THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article II, Section 7, provides: "The State shall pursue an independent foreign policy. In its relations with other states, the paramount consideration shall be national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest, and the right to self-determination";

WHEREAS, our national interest is embedded under the three pillars of our foreign policy, namely: (1) the preservation and enhancement of national security; (2) the promotion and attainment of economic security through the mobilization of external resources for economic advancement and social development; and (3) the protection of the rights, and the promotion of welfare and interest of Filipino overseas;

WHEREAS, the European Union (EU) is the biggest single economic trader in the world, its international trade relations accounting for twenty percent (20%) of global imports and exports;

WHEREAS, the EU is a significant economic actor in its own right on account of its sheer size in economic, trade, and financial terms, and its progressive adoption of a Common Foreign Security Policy (CFSP);

WHEREAS, the EU has a web of bilateral and multilateral agreements covering most countries and regions of the globe;

WHEREAS, our country's formal relations with the EU began in the 1970s and are conducted through bilateral dialogue and the ASEAN-EU dialogue based on the ASEAN-EC Cooperation Agreement of 1980, as well as interregional dialogue and cooperation within the framework of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM);

WHEREAS, our country's formal relations with the EU have thrived over the years through participation in various multilateral dialogues and implementation of trade-related projects and development assistance programs;

WHEREAS, the EU is the Philippines' third largest export market;

WHEREAS, the total Philippine trade with the EU in 2003 amounted to a total of \$8.8 billion, with exports amounting to \$5.8 billion, and imports to \$3 billion;

WHEREAS, the balance of trade was in favor of the Philippines by \$2.868 billion;

WHEREAS, the EU is home to approximately four hundred seventy thousand (470,000) to five hundred thousand (500,000) overseas Filipinos working in critical service sectors such as healthcare and nursing, education, information technology, food, restaurant and hotel industries, construction, tourism, retail, business, domestic help, and engineering; thereby contributing significantly to the Philippine economy through their regular remittances;

WHEREAS, our country's economic growth continues to require direct foreign investment from the trade with the EU;

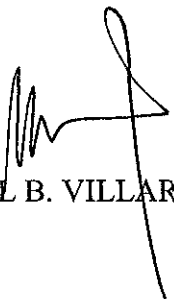
WHEREAS, many of our partners in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have been more successful than the Philippines in promoting their trade and attracting foreign direct investment from Europe;


WHEREAS, the aging population of Europe opens further employment opportunities in the health care and information technology sectors and our country should be ready to take advantage of this eventuality;


WHEREAS, correctly and creatively handled, foreign policy is an important factor in shaping the country's progress.

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to express the necessity to give a new impetus to our relations with the European Union and its Member States, in particular in the political and economic areas, and to study for that purpose the possibility of formalizing in an appropriate form the relations between the European Union and the Philippines.

Adopted,

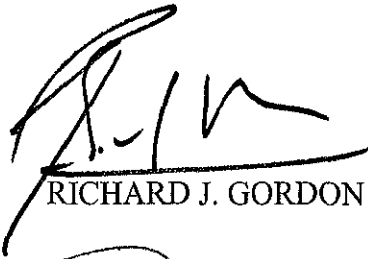
  
MANUEL B. VILLAR JR.

  
AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR.

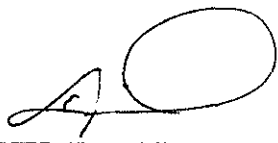
  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

  
RODOLFO G. BIAZON

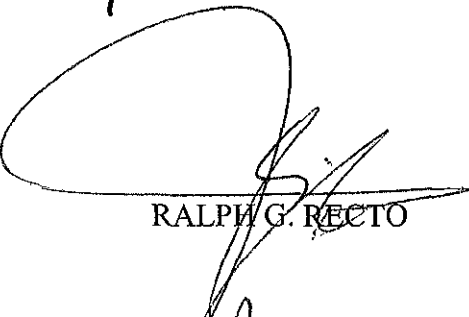
  
JOKER P. ARROYO



RICHARD J. GORDON



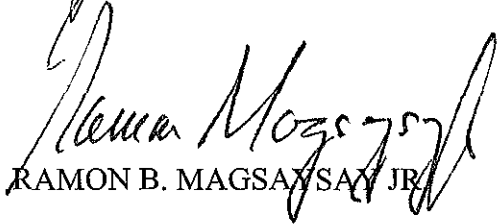
MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID



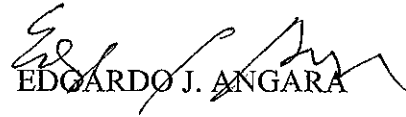
RALPH G. RECTO



RAMON BONG B. REVILLA JR.



RAMON B. MAGSAYSAY JR.



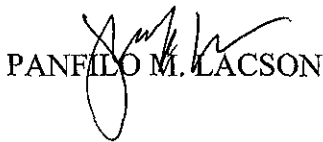
EDGARDO J. ANGARA



JUAN PONCE ENRILE



JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA



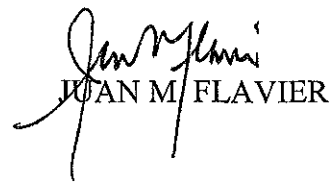
PANFILO M. LACSON



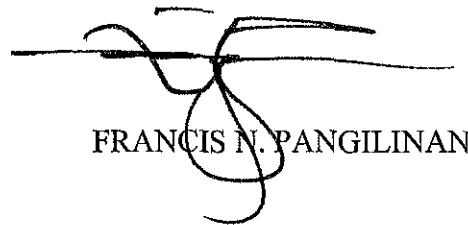
ALFREDO S. LIM



M.A. MADRIGAL



JUAN M. FLAVIER



FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN