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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Seán Ó Neachtain

on behalf of the UEN Group

on the outcome of the 5th WTO Ministerial Conference (Cancun 10-14 September 2003)

B5-0405

European Parliament resolution on the outcome of the 5th WTO Ministerial Conference (Cancun 10-14 September 2003)

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas the failure of the 5th WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun (Mexico) is a serious setback for the WTO and all the parties involved,
 - B. whereas this failure is due in part to inappropriate WTO rules and working methods,
 - C. whereas it is now essential to hold constructive discussions with a view to deciding on the best way to give new impetus to the Doha Development Round,
 - D. whereas the work of the European Union's Cancun delegation – which showed a clear desire to make the round a success by its active participation, willingness to adjust its proposals, openness and transparency – cannot be faulted,
 - E. whereas the Singapore summit issues continue to be very important in terms of appropriate regulation of world trade, fighting corruption and hence of reducing poverty in the developing countries,
 - F. whereas the European Union played a very constructive role in relation to the Singapore summit issues, demonstrating a willingness to make an effort with regard to the timetable, their extent and their content,
 - G. whereas the European Union took account of the initiative of Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad and Benin on cotton, and indicated its willingness to eliminate the most anti-competitive measures in this sector,
1. Regrets that the 5th WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun was a failure;
 2. Takes the view that the failure to reach agreement in Cancun represents a serious setback for the WTO;
 3. Reaffirms its conviction that a multilateral world trade system based on common rules is the only way to guarantee free trade that is fair to all countries, developed or otherwise;
 4. Reaffirms its conviction that the Doha Development Round, if it were to reach a successful conclusion, would bring advantages for all the WTO members, and that it could, in particular, bring the least developed countries out of poverty, disease and corruption;
 5. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to take all possible initiatives – including bilateral contacts with regional groupings such as the ACP, the Group of 21 and the African Union – likely to ensure that the Doha Development Round timetable is reinstated;

6. Calls on the Commission to make a statement as a matter of urgency on the need to extend the 'peace clause' and to avoid the creation of a situation which would make it more difficult to relaunch the round;
7. Wonders about the advisability of continuing to negotiate towards a complete package of measures, given that the developing countries would then have no way of disputing the terms of the agreement other than rendering the whole negotiation null and void;
8. Calls on the Commission, in consultation with the European Parliament, to come back with concrete proposals which would allow the establishment of a more effective system of rules and procedures within the WTO and to be sure that this new system is accepted by all the Organisation's members before a new round is launched;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Member State parliaments and the WTO Director-General.