

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

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

by the following Members: Lannoye, Auroi, Gahrton, Kreissl-Dörfler, Lucas, Ilka Schroeder and Turmes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on the Ministerial Conference in Seattle (30.11-3.12.1999)

B5-0325/1999

Resolution on the Ministerial Conference in Seattle (30.11-3.12.1999)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the communication from the Commission on the EU approach to the WTO Millennium Round (COM(1999)0331-CS 0155/1999 - 1999/2149(COS)),

- having regard to its resolution of 18 November 1999 on that communication¹,

- A. whereas the WTO Ministerial Conference in Seattle collapsed after four days of talks without reaching any agreement on a new round,
- B. whereas the existing WTO structure has proved incapable of managing its activities in a transparent way,
- C. whereas the developing countries in particular have publicly expressed their disagreement with the procedures used to conduct the Ministerial Conference which lacked both transparency and equitable participation in the negotiations, and therefore announced their unwillingness to join in a so-called consensus,
- D. whereas at the same time as the WTO conference in Seattle, WTO deputy director general Miguel Rodríguez Mendoza pointed out during the ACP Summit in Santo Domingo that no WTO provision makes it compulsory to transform preferential agreements into free-trade agreements, thus undermining the EU argument that the Lomé Convention must be brought to an end,
- E. whereas the Commission disregarded the Council mandate as well as the opinion of the European Parliament in producing a proposal for a Declaration including a working party on biotechnology and giving up some of the EU key demands on consumer, social and environmental protection,
- F. whereas the EU-supported project of a comprehensive Millennium Round has proved impracticable,
- G. whereas the massive demonstrations throughout the conference have shown the high degree of popular dissatisfaction with WTO-led globalisation, especially concerning loss of jobs and income, food and water insecurity, environmental degradation and non-accountability of WTO decisions,
- H. whereas there is a clear need for new and democratic international structures to deal with such problems,

¹ See "Texts Adopted" of that Sitting, Item 3.

- I. whereas the brutal response by police to those demonstrations was totally inappropriate and not acceptable,
1. Considers the failure of the WTO conference in Seattle to be a strong signal to stop the negotiations on trade liberalisation and to engage in an in-depth reform of the rules of the WTO, and rejects any attempt to ignore public mobilisation and return to business as usual;
 2. Shares the view that there should be a moratorium on all new WTO negotiations, as long as due respect for the procedures and conditions of transparency, openness and participation permitting adequately balanced results in respect of the interests of all member countries do not exist;
 3. Asks the ACP and the EU to avoid any dismantling of the present partnership agreement and introduce rapidly to the WTO secretariat a request for renewal of the derogation to WTO rules;
 4. Demands a new approach to the regulation of trade-related issues, including a study of the need for new and democratically accountable institutions, under the auspices of the United Nations, to deal with social, environmental and other issues of international concern;
 5. Is convinced that, besides an in-depth reform of the rules, a full evaluation of the social and environmental impact of existing WTO-led liberalisation in all WTO member countries should be carried out as a precondition for further WTO agreements;
 6. Strongly criticises the EU negotiators for their attempt to produce an agreement at any cost, and criticises most of the EU governments for their weak presence at the WTO Ministerial Conference; nevertheless supports the Environment Ministers for their opposition to lack of environmental concern in the Commission negotiations;
 7. Asks for full information on the working plan for the inbuilt agenda in Geneva from January 2000 on and calls for full, regular and timely consultation on progress in negotiations concerning the inbuilt agenda as well as any extension of the programme;
 8. Strongly disapproves of the reaction of the police to public demonstrations in Seattle and asks for indemnification of physical or material damage caused by the police to demonstrators;
 9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the Secretariat of the WTO.