

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Session document

10 February 2000

B5-0118/2000

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

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

by Mr Souchet

on behalf of the UEN Group

on the consistency of the Union's various policies with development policy

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PE 288.608

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B5-0118/2000**Resolution on the consistency of the Union's various policies with development policy**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the ACP-EU Joint Assembly resolutions on the Lomé Convention and the WTO,
- A. having regard to the old-established nature and effectiveness of the channels of cooperation between the various Member States, the European Union and developing countries,
- B. having regard to the obvious contradictions that exist between the Union's external economic policy and its own and its Member States' development policies, which are based on preferential trade arrangements,
 1. Wishes to see the Commission and the Council continue to reflect upon the need for consistency, in particular by considering the impact of the Union's external trade policy on the poorest developing countries;
 2. Emphasises the concern expressed on several occasions by the ACP-EU Joint Assembly as regards the impact of the WTO process on the Lomé Convention and its system of preferential trade arrangements;
 3. Points out that the commitments entered into by the European Union concerning the liberalisation of trade, and in particular the Marrakech Agreement, are in no way legally superior to those it has made, with its Member States, vis-à-vis its ACP partners;
 4. Emphasises the major inconsistencies that exist between the Union's external trade policy and the commitments of the Union and of its Member States to promoting sustainable development which conforms to certain social and environmental standards;
 5. Hopes that the quest for improved consistency between the Union's various policies and its development policy will not be used as a pretext for dismantling the CAP and the CFP; points out that both these common policies already include components providing for support for the relevant sectors in developing countries and calls on the Commission to uphold such provisions during the WTO negotiations;
 6. Stresses that, whilst consistency requires that the Union's development aid policies supplement, where necessary, the cooperation policies pursued by Member States, it does not in any way imply that the Union's policies will replace them;

7. Stresses also the need to more effectively ensure the financial transparency of operations associated with development programmes financed by the European Union;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the ACP/EU Council of Ministers and the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Assembly.