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B5-0330/2000

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

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

by the following Members: Schori, Sauguillo Pérez del Arco, Sakellariou, Martínez, Van den Berg, Kinnoek and Veltroni

on behalf of the PSE Group

on the Euro-African Summit

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Resolution on the Euro-African Summit

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the conclusions of the Euro-African Summit held in Cairo on 3 and 4 April 2000,
 - having regard to the development and trade cooperation agreement with South Africa,
 - having regard to the report of the Joint Assembly on future ACP/EU relations,
 - having regard to the Barcelona declaration of November 1995,
- A. having regard to the broad scope of a meeting of this kind, which aims to raise international awareness of the importance and potential of the African continent, to promote its integration into the world economy and to develop an enhanced partnership strategy between the European Union and Africa,
- B. whereas more than half of the population of Africa is living in total poverty and the measures to combat this situation require a more determined European and international strategy,
- C. whereas faster economic growth and sustainable development are the basic conditions for eradicating poverty in Africa,
- D. noting with concern that Africa's external debt at national, regional and international level is still increasing rapidly,
- E. whereas the processes of regional cooperation and integration in Africa are both helping to maintain peace and political stability and contributing to economic growth,
- F. whereas democracy is an essential factor in development and is one of the bases for relations between the European Union and Africa, and the parliaments representing them, which are the tangible expression of democracy, should be involved in any initiative aimed at strengthening relations between the European Union and Africa,
- G. regretting that the organisers of the Summit did not in the end allow European and African non-governmental organisations to meet in Cairo,
- H. deploring the precedent set by the organisers of the Summit in preventing NGOs and representatives of civil society from meeting as they have done at all recent major European and international conferences,
- I. whereas AIDS is an enormous obstacle to lasting development because of its social and economic repercussions,

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1. Expresses satisfaction at the holding of the first Euro-African Summit and hopes that this initiative will help to define a new strategic dimension for traditional relations between the European Union and the African countries; to this end requests that summits be held regularly;
2. Calls for these relations to be based on shared values of democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as on peace, security, political stability and mutual trust;
3. Regrets that neither the European Parliament nor the African national parliaments were invited to take part in this meeting, the impact of which will be reduced by their absence;
4. Lays particular emphasis on the need for an integrated approach to combating poverty and reiterates its request that the necessary resources should be released to meet basic human needs and those of the social sector and hence reduce poverty by half by the year 2015;
5. Reaffirms that liberalisation of trade followed by an appropriate environment for internal policies is needed in order to benefit from the globalisation process and calls for a definition of the policies which will both increase the benefits for African countries and reduce their marginalisation in the international economy;
6. Calls on the Commission and the Council to step up the partnership with the African countries in order to modify the WTO rules and put an end to restrictive supranational rules which give priority to the liberalisation of trade rather than to reducing poverty and creating sustainable development;
7. Renews its appeal for a preparatory period of at least ten years with a view to a transition towards alternative commercial agreements, during which the EU should maintain and even improve the current non-reciprocal trade agreements;
8. Calls on the Commission, the Council and the Member States to take practical steps to reduce and, to a great extent, cancel the debt, by establishing a close relationship with programmes to promote social development in the countries concerned; calls in particular for more effective implementation of the initiative for the benefit of the highly indebted poor countries (HIPC initiative);
9. Calls for the launching of a large-scale programme for the transfer of technology on a non-commercial basis, accompanied by training programmes adapted to actual needs;
10. Stresses the importance of extending the Euro-African partnership to those active in development and in particular to representatives of civil society organisations, who should be consulted when development cooperation programmes are being drawn up and implemented;

11. Recognises that peace, security, stability and justice are essential and indispensable elements in any form of socio-economic development and expresses its full support for the efforts deployed by the OAU to prevent conflicts in Africa; also welcomes the initiatives taken to this end by ECOWAS, SADC, IGAP and the IGAD Partners' Forum.
12. Emphasises, nevertheless, that additional efforts are needed for conflict-prevention and recognises the need to step up the capacity of regional and international organisations to take immediate action to prevent major crises;
13. Expresses, in particular, its support for the UN Security Council's decision to deploy 5 537 peacekeeping troops on a mission to observe the cease-fire in the areas of conflict which are tearing the Democratic Republic of Congo apart; requests that urgent political and diplomatic steps be taken to settle other open conflicts;
14. Requests, in this connection, that development cooperation efforts be concentrated on strengthening democratic institutions and on the principles of good governance, establishing opportunities for peaceful settlement and supporting an active and well-organised civil society;
15. Recognises the paramount importance of human resources for sustainable and even development in Africa; supports the need to draw up national policies for basic education, assigning specific priority to young girls, training in the fields of science and technology and the promotion of local technologies;
16. Expresses strong disapproval of the fact that the organisers of the EU-Africa Summit did not allow non-governmental organisations, the forum for civil society, to meet in Cairo in order to follow the summit and collate the preparatory work they had carried out at meetings in Algiers, Cape Verde and Johannesburg, under the auspices of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the Commission;
17. Reiterates its support for non-governmental organisations, which are the tangible expression of civil society and assures them that it will take account of the conclusions emerging from their deliberations on the summit;
18. Welcomes the new Treaty between the ACP countries and the European Union, but calls for the EDF to be budgetised and hence to become more transparent and subject to control;
19. Supports the Summit's commitments concerning mine-clearance programmes and considers that in post-conflict situations, it is necessary to draw up programmes for rehabilitation, disarmament, demobilisation and the reintegration of former soldiers, in particular child soldiers;
20. Reaffirms that the elimination of discrimination between men and women and the rights of the child as formulated in the United Nations Charter are an integral part of the development of human resources;

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21. Supports any initiative for gender mainstreaming in macro-economic planning and calls for this issue to be taken into account when budgets are drawn up, including reproductive health in the fight against the HIV virus;
22. Calls on the European Union, in the context of development cooperation measures, to step up the technical and financial aid it gives the African countries to enable them to intensify their efforts in the sphere of health, in particular to combat the HIV virus; requests, in situations of national emergency, that priority be given to the local production and distribution of cheaper medicines for HIV in Africa and other developing countries;
23. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the OAU, the governments of the signatories to the Lomé Convention and the ACP/EU Joint Assembly.