

6 April 2000

B5-0337/2000

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council statement

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

by the following Members: Dybkjær, Thors, Ducarme, Rutelli and Mulder

on behalf of the ELDR Group

on the EU-Africa summit

B5-0337/2000**Resolution on the EU-Africa summit**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the conclusions of the Cairo Euro-African summit;
 - having regard to the Barcelona Declaration;
 - having regard to the co-operation and trade agreement between the EU and South Africa;
 - having regard to the next Lomé Convention and to the ACP/EU Joint Assembly report on future ACP/EU relations;
- A. whereas a new dialogue between Africa and the EU can only be based on mutual interest in human rights promotion, social, economic and cultural development of civil society and conflict prevention,
- B. whereas no stability or social welfare can be achieved without deepening of economic relations, by reducing customs duties and abolishing protectionist measures,
- C. whereas both the EU and Africa have to fully benefit from the opportunities offered by the globalisation process in the world economy,
- D. given the crucial role of women in African societies and the lack of equal access to education and economic opportunities in some African countries,
- E. given the need for reinforcement of an independent judiciary system, this being a crucial element in the democratisation process of Africa and the protection of human rights,
- F. whereas some African regions are still ravaged by war and lack regional co-operation to contribute to peaceful settlements,
- G. whereas the EU and Africa have to warn extremists of all kind that genocide and crimes against humanity will be punished no matter where or by whom these are committed,
- H. concerned at the role of EU Member States in the excessive purchases of weapons by African States,
- I. concerned at the plague of AIDS and malaria in African countries which threaten the human development of the continent and are causing immense suffering to the population,
- J. given the decision by the Arab Democratic Saharan Republic to refuse the invitation to the summit in order to avoid difficulties of inviting both Morocco and the Polisario authorities,
- K. deploring the fact that neither the European Parliament nor the African national parliamentary assemblies were invited to participate at the summit,

1. Welcomes the initiative to hold the first EU/Africa summit in Cairo, on 3 and 4 April and hopes that this initiative will contribute to a new dimension of strategic relations between Africa and the European Union in order to achieve peace, stability and respect of human dignity through economic and social progress;
2. Stresses the importance of basing the EU/Africa partnership on democratic values and on the respect of human rights;
3. Urges the EU and the Member States to take effective steps that would ensure coherence and integration of human rights concerns and commitments into its Common Foreign and Security Policy and its external relations, including development co-operation and humanitarian aid;
4. Notes with satisfaction the recent developments in Senegal, which prove the stability of the democratic institutions of that country and believes that a change of party in power is a crucial element in the democratic process of Africa;
5. Urges the Council and the Commission to upgrade the EU political presence in Africa by reinforcing European diplomatic action on that continent, by fully exploiting the instruments of the Common Security Policy, especially for conflict prevention and conflict settlement, and by better coordinating the activities of the EU Member States sitting in the UN Security Council;
6. Believes that the fight against poverty and the improvement of education facilities should become a priority of the EU/Africa partnership, and that the reinforcement of civil society is an essential element to achieve these objectives;
7. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to undertake a new initiative to assist the African countries with a gradual cancellation of their debt, with particular emphasis on the poorest countries
8. Calls on the Commission and the Council to speed up the improvement of access to the European market for African products and to work for the gradual establishment of free-trade areas between Africa and the EU;
9. Calls on the African states to undertake, where necessary, appropriate economic reforms in order to liberalise their markets and to provide further transparency in national budgets;
10. Asks the EU and African countries to take all measures to abolish sexual mutilation and all forms of discrimination against women, including economic segregation on cultural grounds;
11. Calls in particular on the Commission to provide technical and financial aid for the fight against AIDS and malaria and to ease the access to the relevant drugs in Africa by supporting drugs development programmes with the help of the European Union;
12. Calls on the EU and its Member States to support alliances of public and private sector partners, such as GAVI, to expand the reach and effectiveness of immunisation programmes;

13. Calls on the Commission to further enhance substantially the capacity of EMVI and AMVTN for the accelerated development and trial of urgently needed malaria vaccines, targeting the needs of populations in malaria endemic areas, by means of a fully-fledged malaria vaccine program spanning all the processes from post-discovery validation via limited GMP production to clinical trials in Europe and Africa;
14. Calls on the Commission and the EU Member states to co-operate to increase and ameliorate support for independent national judiciaries in Africa in order to assure the defence of human rights and the rule of law by credible institutions;
15. Believes that practice of good governance and fight against corruption must become a priority of the EU/African relations, also by implementing specific joint programmes to fight corruption and to train civil servants, politicians and members of the judiciary;
16. Deplores the lack of progress by the EU and the OUA to establish an adequate conflict prevention mechanism and believes that one of the main goals of a new EU/Africa partnership should be the reinforcement of regional co-operation;
17. Calls on the EU and the African countries to implement adequate measures so that the exploitation of natural resources benefits the whole population;
18. Urges both the EU and the African countries which have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court, and to co-operate fully with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda;
19. Urges all EU and OUA Member states to sign, ratify and implement the new child soldiers protocol after its formal adoption by the General Assembly, and to declare a minimum age of at least eighteen for voluntary recruitment;
20. Urges all OUA Member states who have not yet done so to ratify the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
21. Urges the OUA Member States, and in particular Sudan, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Angola, to co-operate to ensure that children who have been used as child soldiers are demobilised and receive proper support for their rehabilitation and social reintegration;
22. Considers that efforts against the arms trade must be a priority of the EU/Africa dialogue, this being a fundamental step for conflict prevention and for an increase in public expenditure for social purposes;
23. Calls on the EU and the Member States to reinforce the measures undertaken within the code of conduct on arms exports, also by tightening up the criteria by which Member States assess arms exports, and to link extension of development aid to measures against the accumulation and dissemination of weapons in African countries;
24. Welcomes the Security Council decision to dispatch a peace-keeping force of 5537 observers to monitor the ceasefire in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

25. Welcomes the positive approach to the summit by the Polisario Front and believes that a new EU/Africa partnership may contribute to finding a lasting solution to the Western Sahara conflict by implementing the UN-sponsored self-determination referendum in the country;
26. Regrets that the President of Ethiopia did not attend the Cairo summit and urges both Ethiopia and Eritrea to fully endorse the OUA peace plan package in order to find a lasting settlement to the Ethiopia/Eritrea conflict;
27. Warns the parties in conflict that countries which resume military operations will face appropriate sanctions by the EU;
28. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to expedite humanitarian aid to the regions of Ethiopia affected by famine to avoid a humanitarian disaster, and to continue the aid to Mozambique and other areas affected by natural disasters;
29. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity, the ACP/EU Joint Assembly and the Government of Morocco.