

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: Corrie, Van Hecke and de Sarnez,

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the famine situation in Ethiopia

Resolution on the famine situation in Ethiopia

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the recent appeal to the international community made by the FAO,
- A. whereas up to 16 million people are threatened by famine in the Horn of Africa, of which about 8 million are in Ethiopia,
- B. whereas the chronic shortage of food in the region has been aggravated by the recent drought, and whereas a further deterioration of the food situation is likely as the local farming production is dramatically reduced,
- C. whereas the continuing conflicts in the region, in particular between Ethiopia and Eritrea, are hampering relief operations, in particular the transport and the delivery of food aid,
- D. whereas the Commission envisages supplying 432.000 tons of food aid to Ethiopia in 2000, which represents more than half of the official Ethiopian request of 821.000 tons,
- E. whereas all food aid should be distributed through NGO's to make sure it reaches the starving population,
- F. whereas Ethiopia has been involved in a bloody border conflict with Eritrea since May 1998 which is diverting scarce resources for relief and development to the military effort,
- 1. Calls on the Commission to speed up the commitment and delivery of food aid to the Horn of Africa, and to mobilise immediately further resources in view of the likely deterioration of the current situation;
- 2. Calls on the Commission to monitor carefully the food requirements of the populations at risk and to coordinate closely food shipments and delivery with the other donors in order to avoid congestion of ports and access roads;
- 3. Calls on all the governments of the Horn of Africa, in particular those of Ethiopia and Eritrea, to cooperate fully in the transport and delivery of food aid, in particular by allowing deliveries through all the ports in the region, especially Massawa and Assab;
- 4. Calls on the Commission to implement, once the emergency is over, a comprehensive policy to strengthen food security in the region, in particular by increasing self-reliance based on local production;
- 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the UN and OAU Secretaries-General and the governments of the Horn of Africa.