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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

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

by Cristiana Muscardini, Nicole Thomas-Mauro, José Ribeiro e Castro and
Luis Queiró

on behalf of the UEN Group

on the Thirteenth International AIDS Conference (Durban)

European Parliament resolution on the Thirteenth International AIDS Conference (Durban)

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the Thirteenth International AIDS Conference, which took place from 9 to 14 July 2000 and was the first such conference to be held on African soil,
 - B. whereas the African continent today appears to be divided into two parts, one wracked by open or concealed civil war and the other diligently applying the instructions of the international financial organs, but both of them ravaged by the AIDS epidemic,
 - C. whereas a state burdened by debt and measures imposed for debt repayment is no longer able to pay workers' wages and neglects education and transport, while the war economy, which has turned into a full-blooded alternative to peace, imposes its own priorities, which most certainly do not include action against epidemics or the protection of public health,
 - D. whereas AIDS has spiralled out of control and is continuing to threaten the existence and development of humanity, above all in sub-Saharan Africa, in which region two-thirds of those affected by the disease (34.3 m people) are to be found and, in 1998, the number of those killed by it rose by over 2 m (to reach 11.5 m), one-quarter of the victims being children,
 - E. whereas AIDS has become the leading cause of mortality in sub-Saharan Africa and is provoking a human development crisis, destroying and impoverishing families, creating thousands of orphans and breaking up the fabric of communities,
 - F. whereas health and education spending have suffered draconian cuts in the wake of constraints with major knock-on effects,
 - G. whereas HIV and AIDS affect the most active strata of the population and thus jeopardise the long-term sustainable development of the African continent,
 - H. whereas AIDS is not merely a public health problem but also poses a threat to international stability and peace,
 - I. whereas the main obstacle to access to treatment remains financial, since the countries of Africa cannot afford the antiviral drugs available in the industrialised countries,
 - J. whereas mandatory licensing rules will not prevent the production of drugs which are vital for the fight against AIDS, at more affordable prices for African consumers,
1. Calls for an action programme to fight AIDS grounded in the experiences acquired, the diversity of cultural and religious practices and tried and tested means of combating the epidemic, backed up by flanking social measures and prevention programmes;

2. Calls for a specific programme for the supply of HIV-free blood and an absolute ban on unchecked sales of blood by institutions or individuals;
3. Calls for a series of measures to improve the professional training of medical and paramedical workers, covering, in particular, the treatment of immune deficiencies, tuberculosis, viral infections and acute forms of pneumonia;
4. Calls for increased funding commensurate with the ravages of the disease and for measures to assist NGOs and recognised charitable associations in dealing with affected families and with orphans;
5. Recommends that information and consciousness-raising campaigns should focus on education, access to care for those affected, safe blood transfusion, prevention and the treatment of other sexually transmitted diseases;
6. Calls on the ACP-EU Council to dedicate one of its meetings to AIDS in the ACP countries, placing particular stress on scientific research and access to medicines;
7. Calls for the provision of means of financial access to treatment, via negotiated prices for medicines, WHO agreements on intellectual property in cases of health emergency, and technology transfers;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the WHO, the World Bank, the ILO, the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).