

5 September 2000

B5-0761/2000

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

further to the Council and Commission statements

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

by Hanja Maij-Weggen, Antonio Tajani, Anders Wijkman, Mario Mantovani and Guido Viceconte

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the thirteenth international AIDS conference in Durban

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**Resolution on the international AIDS conference in Durban (South Africa)**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the HIV-AIDS disease,
  - having regard to the United Nations Global Compact signed by business, trade union, human rights and conservation groups in New York on 26 July 2000,
  - having regard to the conclusions of the G8 Okinawa (Japan) meeting on 22-23 July 2000,
  - having regard to the conclusions of the EU-US Summit in Quelez (Portugal) on 31 May 2000,
- A. whereas the XIIIth International Conference on AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases in Africa took place from 9 to 14 July 2000 in Durban,
- B. recalling that the UN Security Council in New York on 17 July 2000 adopted the Council's first ever resolution (1308/2000) on a health issue which focussed on the crisis of HIV/AIDS and the impact this has on international peacekeeping operations,
- C. noting continued efforts by UN agencies to work with governments in developing nations, donor countries, and other international organisations including the European Union to further an International Partnership against AIDS in Africa,
- D. whereas HIV-AIDS has reached pandemic proportions in the world's hardest hit regions (every minute five people die in Africa from the disease) and created over 13.2 million orphans,
- E. whereas HIV-AIDS is the main cause of death in sub-Saharan Africa as 18.8 million - including 3.8 million children - have died of AIDS worldwide, reversing years of declining death rates with life expectancy in Africa now likely to fall below 45 years by 2015,
- F. whereas the continued rapid spread of HIV-AIDS poses a direct threat to all development efforts by undermining political, social and economic structures across the developing world - with nations like Zambia seeing over 1300 much-needed teachers die in 1998 alone,
- G. whereas the AIDS crisis has for too long been underestimated by most African governments, with some cultural and religious traditions posing obstacles to the effective implementation of anti-AIDS measures,
- H. whereas in some countries HIV-AIDS-related costs will soon absorb over half the health budgets as four million people in sub-Saharan Africa were newly infected with HIV in 1999,

- I. whereas EU Member States should speed up the writing off of debt for developing countries that are increasing investment in public health and education,
  - J. whereas pharmaceutical companies must look at ways to reduce costs since nations in Africa cannot afford the cost of anti-viral drugs available in the industrialised world,
  - K. warning that the situation can only deteriorate unless the international community invests far more in prevention efforts as well as programmes to address the social and economic consequences of the HIV-AIDS pandemic,
  - L. calls for future policies on HIV-AIDS to be based on the better use of available funds by fully involving civil society and non-governmental and private sector organisations,
  - M. whereas HIV-AIDS hits the most active section of the population, but the long-term sustainable development of Africa is also hit by the increase in deaths from Malaria and Tuberculosis,
  - N. whereas the Commission and EU Member States must ensure that much-needed development aid is targeted on the fight against HIV-AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis and not wasted on needless duplication of effort or bureaucracy,
  - O. whereas the Commission and EU Member States should work closely together with other developed countries and international bodies like the UN to create an integrated programme to combat the global threat posed by the sharp rise in HIV-AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis cases,
  - P. whereas the Commission and EU Member States should promote cooperation with other developed countries and international bodies like the UN by establishing an integrated financial and technical framework to fight HIV-AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis,
1. Believes that a global approach to HIV-AIDS is urgently needed in sub-Saharan Africa if the spread of AIDS is to be halted and reversed by 2015;
  2. Recognises and supports the work being done by the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV-AIDS and urges the Commission and EU Member States to cooperate closely with UNAIDS;
  3. Calls on the different international donors who are active in the fight against AIDS, such as the World Bank, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNDCP, UNESCO, WHO and the EU, to co-ordinate policies and adopt a uniform approach so as to avoid wasting resources and ensure that structural adjustment programmes take the HIV-AIDS pandemic into account;
  4. Calls on world leaders at the end of the Millennium Summit in New York on 8 September to agree a renewed initiative to fight HIV-AIDS;
  5. Calls on business leaders attending the World Economic Forum in Melbourne between 11 and 13 September 2000 to build on the United Nations Global Compact and agree funding for the fight against HIV-AIDS;

6. Asks economic and business leaders to work with the International Partnership Against AIDS to address jointly the social, economic and political problems brought about by AIDS;
7. Will monitor closely whether the Commission and EU Member States are effectively cooperating and sharing expertise - as well as political and financial commitments - with other international organisations;
8. Urges the Commission and EU Member States to help developing nations finance the fight against HIV-AIDS - as well as malaria and tuberculosis - by reducing developing countries' debts, since Africa alone pays the world's richest nations annually USD 15 billion in debt repayment whilst total domestic and international spending on AIDS is just USD 300 million;
9. Notes that the G-8 developed nations want to reinforce moves by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to improve official development assistance;
10. Welcomes the announcement that the World Bank is establishing a USD 500 million fund to help African governments pay for expanded AIDS programmes and urges the European Investment Bank and Commission to cooperate with this new initiative;
11. Calls on the Commission to monitor closely the human trials in Britain of a new AIDS vaccine and to encourage EU research into other potential vaccines against AIDS;
12. Stresses the need for continued research, in particular as regards the development of vaccines, in addition to any operational activities in the fight against AIDS;
13. Calls on the Commission, the WTO and the WHO to support the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, and to investigate ways of making anti-AIDS drugs available at lower prices in the developing countries and to draw on the Council of Europe's experience in licensing drugs;
14. Warns of the need for a change of attitude on the part of both donors and national governments so that the fight against AIDS becomes a genuine priority for development policy;
15. Wants the global community, and particularly the EU, to increase resources in order to meet the growing challenges and the human development crisis posed by the AIDS pandemic in Africa;
16. Highlights the new move by Kenya to launch a sex education programme in primary and secondary schools, and calls on the European Union to fund the mainstreaming of AIDS education into basic education and into non-formal education programmes in developing countries;
17. Stresses the fact that the AIDS pandemic is not only a health problem but a major factor contributing to the economic, social and political crisis facing many developing nations;

18. Notes that HIV-AIDS is causing dramatic shifts in demographics and contributing to increased migration as the economies in developing countries like Botswana, South Africa, Zambia and Jamaica collapse with the reduced cultivation of cash crops and food products;
19. Calls on the Commission to ensure African governments put in place over the next five years comprehensive national AIDS programmes, and for the European Union to encourage regional cooperation so that migrant populations have access to basic health and education services;
20. Urges the Commission and EU Member States to help developing nations strengthen legislation which protects against HIV-related discrimination;
21. Considers that EU funds must be spent on improving primary health care and public education in order to fight not only HIV-AIDS but also other diseases like malaria and tuberculosis;
22. Stresses the importance of the EU HIV-AIDS programme for developing countries and the need for the EU to allocate sufficient human and financial resources to combating HIV-AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis;
23. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the UN Secretary-General, the Member States of the Lomé Convention, the World Health Organisation, the World Trade Organisation, the UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDCP, UNESCO, the World Bank, OECD, the Council of Europe, European Investment Bank and the World Economic Forum.