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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Annex IV(6) to the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members: Francis Wurtz, Fodé Sylla, Pernille Frahm, Emmanouil Bakopoulos, Roseline Vachetta, Pedro Marset Campos, Joaquim Miranda, Ilda Figueiredo, Sylviane H. Ainardi, Yasmine Boudjenah, Dimitrios Koulourianos, Luigi Vinci, Helmuth Markov, Lucio Manisco, Jonas Sjöstedt, Christel Fiebiger, Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, Armando Cossutta, Alain Krivine, Efstratios Korakas, Erik Meijer, Herman Schmid, Salvador Jové Peres, Giuseppe Di Lello Finuoli, Luisa Morgantini, Alexandros Alavanos, Ioannis Theonas, Marianne Eriksson, Esko Olavi Seppänen, Fausto Bertinotti, Feleknas Uca, Hans Modrow and Konstantinos Alyssandrakis

rejecting the draft general budget for the financial year 2001

B5-0811/2000*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999 and the financial perspective for 2000-2006,
- having regard to its resolution of 3 March 2000 on the budget guidelines for 2001 and its resolution of 5 May 2000 on the conciliation procedure, which called for a revision of the financial perspective and discussion thereof before the Council's first reading,
- having regard to the opinion of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on the 2001 budget, which called for the expenditure ceiling for external actions to be raised,
- having regard to the speech by its President, Mrs Nicole Fontaine, at the Informal Biarritz Summit, in which she stressed that 'it will not be enough to shuffle aid around like dominoes, chopping a little bit here to add a little bit there. What is needed is a more whole-hearted commitment to revising the financial perspective in the field of external action ... exceptional circumstances demand exceptional decisions ...',
- whereas the EU should have the proper financial resources to fulfil its ambitions and the new commitments entered into by the Council at various summits should be matched by the necessary financial resources,
- whereas the Council has submitted the smallest budget of the last decade in relative terms - 1.05% of GNP - because the Member States are trying to moderate their national contributions due to fulfilment of the monetary stability pact,
- whereas the financial perspective adopted in Berlin left an insufficient margin under heading 3 (internal policies) and heading 4 (external policies), which is tantamount to a policy of expenditure redeployment and a downward revision in relation to European Parliament proposals in most of the codecision programmes,
- whereas the EU has special responsibilities towards and a political commitment to the Western Balkans, particularly with regard to the reconstruction of Serbia and the Kosovo region,
- whereas the EU has a political commitment to strengthen partnership with the Mediterranean region and cooperation with the entire southern hemisphere, namely Asia, Latin America and Africa,
- whereas, in the budget for the financial year 2000, the Council refused to accept a revision of the financial perspective, which led to further redeployment in the cooperation and development policy chapters,

- whereas the Council has presented a draft budget including proposals for cuts of EUR 200 m in the Balkans, EUR 150 m in the Mediterranean (MEDA) and EUR 20 m for the Russia and Central Asia (TACIS) policy areas,
 - whereas the Commission and the Council proposals have not made provision for funds to assist Serbia and whereas the Council even cut funds for the Kosovo region and now has to honour its commitment after the election result in Serbia,
 - whereas the Council refuses to negotiate with the European Parliament on a revision of the financial perspective covering the whole period, preferring to settle the matter in a yearly debate, thereby rejecting a multiannual approach to the need for cooperation with third countries and reconstruction in the Western Balkans,
 - whereas there will be a shortfall of about EUR 400 m if the 2001 budget maintains heading 4 at the level of the financial perspectives for 2000,
 - whereas, at first reading, the European Parliament has failed to make a clear political statement regarding Serbia by not clearly demanding a revision of the financial perspective and by implicitly accepting further redeployment or a 'patched together' solution for 2001,
 - whereas the European Parliament has made the MEDA programme a 'hostage' of its strategy for the first reading, despite the fact that this is traditionally one of Parliament's priorities, this programme having been steadily cut back since 1999, largely as a result of subsequent developments in the Balkans,
 - whereas this strategy will lead to a choice being made between Serbia and the Mediterranean in the period between the two readings of the budget, irrespective of the summits to be held in November,
 - whereas the implementation of the budget must be in line with the real needs of the beneficiaries and should not be determined by unilateral decisions to cut appropriations,
 - whereas some redeployment was made in heading 3 in respect of the employment initiative, the environment, the trans-European networks, the audiovisual media and culture and other social operations,
 - whereas the European Parliament's first reading makes no qualitative change to the budget guidelines and strategy for 2001,
1. Rejects the policy direction and strategy for the budget for 2001 and stresses that the problem of financing will continue if there is no revision of the financial perspective, particularly in heading 4;
 2. Rejects the draft budget for the financial year 2001.