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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statement

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

by Roseline Vachetta, Luigi Vinci and Lucio Manisco on behalf of the
GUE/NGL Group

on the Seoul ASEM 3 summit

European Parliament resolution on the ASEM 3 summit in Seoul

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas once again the principle of balance between the ‘three pillars’ of the ASEM process (economic, political and cultural) has not been adhered to: apart from the situation in the Korean peninsula, the Seoul ASEM 3 summit concerned itself mainly with economic matters,
- B. whereas in the economic area the European Union representatives attempted increasingly to impose an unequal form of liberalisation on the East Asian states, and to promote a new cycle of negotiations in the WTO in this context,
- C. whereas in the political area, apart from the support given in Seoul to open dialogue between South and North Korea, the EU mainly shows an interest in so-called ‘security’ matters, which appear to be essential from a ‘power Europe’ point of view,
- D. whereas the social and democratic demands made by the ‘ASEM 2000 People’s Forum’ – an alternative international forum that met in Seoul, comprising a large number of delegations of trade unions, associations and NGOs – and by the mobilisation of South Korean movements, particularly at the 20 October demonstrations, were not included in the official ASEM process, in spite of some meetings between representatives of the forum and of the foreign ministers,
- E. whereas the ASEM process is still profoundly undemocratic, to the point where even the elected assemblies were only imperfectly and belatedly informed of the arrangements and issues at the Seoul summit,
- F. whereas an interparliamentary meeting took place on 18 October at the National Assembly, between representatives of the two main South Korean parties (the Millennium Democratic Party and the Grand National Party) and MPs from the European Parliament, Ireland, Thailand, Malaysia and Burma (the parliament in exile),
- G. whereas Parliament expressed its determination, before the Seoul summit, to resume the ASEP process (Asia-Europe parliamentary meetings) and whereas it launched an appeal to that effect following the interparliamentary meeting of 18 October at the Korean National Assembly,
 - 1. Considers that the ASEM process must be democratic both in its form (with the information and intervention of elected assemblies and civil society) and its content (with, in particular, recognition of social and human rights);
 - 2. Undertakes therefore to prepare actively for the ASEM 4 summit and requests the national parliaments concerned in Europe and Asia to do likewise, so as to breathe new life into the ASEP process;

3. Points out that the importance of the economic ‘pillar’ must not overshadow that of the political and cultural ‘pillars’, and that the right of every people to choose its own paths of development must be fully recognised – which implies some criticism of the neo-liberal international order embodied by the WTO and the IMF;
4. Considers that the main aim to pursue under the political ‘pillar’ must be to invest the ASEM with the democratic character that is missing at present, by ensuring that the process is transparent, by opening intervention to the elected assemblies and by taking full account of the demands of civil society; calls, in particular, for a social forum to be set up in which such demands can be freely expressed;
5. Notes that such democratisation of the economic and political ‘pillars’ of the ASEM process would help to invest the cultural ‘pillar’ with the same energy and breadth;
6. Points out that the next summit (ASEM 4, in Denmark in 2004) must be prepared in totally different conditions from those that applied to ASEM 3, to ensure that such aims can be fulfilled;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the governments and parliaments of the countries concerned by the ASEM process.