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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 Robert Goebbels and Udo Bullmann

on behalf of the PSE Group

on the spring 2001 European Council: the follow-up to the Lisbon process,  
which will take place on 23/24 March 2001 in Stockholm

**European Parliament resolution on the spring 2001 European Council: the follow-up to the Lisbon process, which will take place on 23/24 March 2001 in Stockholm**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Conclusions of the Special European Council of Lisbon of 23-24 March 2000, of the Santa Maria da Feira European Council of 19-20 June 2000 and of the Nice European Council of 7-10 December 2000, including in particular the European Social Agenda,
  - having regard to the Commission communication on structural indicators (COM (2000) 0594),
  - having regard to the Commission synthesis report (COM (2001) 0079),
  - having regard to its resolution of 15 March 2000 on the Special European Council to be held in Lisbon on 23-24 March 2000,
- A. recalling that the ‘Lisbon strategy’ is based on a complementary approach of sustainable growth and structural reforms, full employment and social policies with cumulative gains for each of the policy fields,
- B. whereas it is vital to continue with Europe's policy co-ordination to improve the effectiveness of the Euro area; whereas a balanced process of liberalisation and regulation, including a gradual and controlled opening of markets, should aim to improve quality and prices for citizens and consumers,
- C. whereas the key challenge for the Stockholm European Council is to continue and develop the structural reform process initiated at Lisbon; at Stockholm, progress since Lisbon must be evaluated, new intermediate targets must be defined and the Lisbon strategy must be updated,

**GENERAL CONSIDERATION OF THE LISBON STRATEGY**

1. Welcomes the follow-up to the ‘Lisbon strategy’, which has to continue with a balanced and interconnected policy mix wherein progress in each policy field is mutually supportive; underlines in this context that it is still essential that we regain the overall aims of 3% growth and stable full employment with the support of macro-economic stability and galvanised growth factors;
2. Recognises in this context the usefulness of the integrated approach of the ‘synthesis report’ for all key economic and employment policy instruments, but regrets the lack of balance of the first ‘synthesis report’;

3. Stresses the need at the Stockholm European Summit to provide concrete evidence of the success of the 'Lisbon strategy' as well as concrete timetables for outstanding and necessary initiatives such as ambitious intermediate targets for a significant rise in the employment rate;
4. Considers that the economic and social approach of the 'Lisbon strategy' must include the environmental dimension for all policy fields concerned ('mainstreaming'); calls, therefore, for the development of a strong analytical basis for environmental effects in order to achieve sustainable development;
5. Expects that ample attention will also be paid to demographic tendencies and the situation of European labour markets by developing relevant national and European legislative and analytical frameworks for the modernising of pension systems, including legal, fiscal, insurance and social aspects as well as with a view to better reconciliation of working and family life;
6. Calls on the European Council and Member States to stick to the Commission's proposal of twenty-eight structural indicators plus seven general economic background indicators; however, calls for an annual update of all indicators and for more qualitative information which allows for a full picture of economic progress and social cohesion; expects, therefore, the development of a modular statistical accounting system in the near future;
7. Believes that the new method of open co-ordination based on fixed European and national guidelines, quantitative and qualitative indicators and benchmarks, combined with necessary legislative instruments, will constitute an appropriate way to achieve greater economic and social convergence;
8. Expects in this context that the key economic and employment policy instruments, notably the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines, the report on the functioning of the internal market (Cardiff report) and the European Employment Guidelines, will be revised in the light of the annual guidelines from the European Spring Council;

## ECONOMIC REFORMS

9. Considers that the introduction of the Euro – a common monetary policy – will give new impetus to the creation of competitive markets within the Union;
10. Believes therefore that public and private investment, providing high-quality infrastructure, is important in order to create a competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy;
11. Calls therefore for a European investment policy with concrete targets and recommendations on the use, quality and necessary redirection of public spending in its contribution to sustainable economic development and employment;
12. Calls for the creation of a favourable environment for service markets and for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, including the social economy and the

third sector, by promoting benchmark exercises in particular on the timing and the costs involved in setting up companies, simplified regulatory systems, business transactions by electronic commerce, fair tax competition and new emphasis on the promotion of risk capital and public/private partnership, which should not be hindered by inadequate competition rules;

13. Stresses the importance of services of general interest in promoting economic and social cohesion; recalls that the Nice European Council called for greater predictability and legal certainty in the application of competition law to services of general interest; urges that this concern be reflected in the Lisbon strategy;

## NEW EUROPEAN LABOUR MARKET

14. Calls, in accordance with the Lisbon commitments, for an ambitious strategy to intensify and improve the process of job creation; expects the increase in the employment rate, accompanied by better jobs and the significant reduction of social exclusion, to provide for greater social and regional cohesion and sustainable financing for public pension systems; expects and supports furthermore consistent efforts which ease the fiscal burden on labour, eliminate barriers to mobility and reduce unemployment, especially among the long-term unemployed, women, young people and older workers by appropriate measures;
15. Notes with interest the Commission's communication on the new European labour markets and the proposal that Stockholm should establish a high-level skills and mobility taskforce to propose a mobility action programme to the 2002 Spring Council;
16. Calls for a strategy to ensure equal opportunities and quality of work; reinforcing the Community legislative framework must be a priority, in order to combine flexibility and security in new forms of work (teleworking, home working, part-time, fixed-term contract and atypical work in general, including self-employment);
17. Strongly supports the development of new indicators for measuring productivity, income, quality of employment, the working poor and youth unemployment, as well as new indicators in the field of education and training;

## RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

18. Recalls the need to co-ordinate research activities and policies as the key component of the new economy with an active role for the Commission; concrete steps must be taken to develop a network of European centres of research and to facilitate the dissemination and exchange of research findings, including the potential of those 'frontier technologies' which contribute to the quality of life, as well as to increase the percentage of GDP spent on R&D to at least 3%;
19. Supports the measures in favour of the concept of lifelong learning as an instrument to provide the European economy with the human resources needed in a knowledge-based

society;

20. Stresses the importance of developing a comprehensive information, new technology and communication policy which promotes high quality infrastructure, encourages competitive growth, access and choice with the objective of avoiding a 'digital divide' in a dynamic knowledge-based society;

## SOCIAL COHESION

21. Stresses the need to define targets and reliable indicators for fighting social exclusion and poverty and for social transfers and social protection related in particular to exclusion from social security benefits and rates of replacement for the various types of benefits;
22. Calls furthermore for increased efforts to combat social exclusion and poverty in line with the European Social Agenda and within the new method of open co-ordination; recalls in this context the importance of good use of European resources devoted to this matter, including the European Structural Funds and the forthcoming Community Action Programme to combat social exclusion;
23. Expects regional and social disparities to be taken more properly into account in the improvement of economic and structural reforms and underlines the important role of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund, as well as the EIB, in enhancing the European economic and social situation;

## CONCLUSIONS

24. Expects furthermore that, in holding the first Spring Summit, the European Council, the Commission, the appropriate Councils and the Member States will take full account of the integrated 'Lisbon approach', including the guiding role of the European Council and the central preparatory role of the Commission;
25. Deplores the fact that there are so far no commitments or agreements on the participation of the European Parliament in the 'Lisbon strategy'; calls therefore once more on the European Council and the Commission to negotiate an interinstitutional agreement with the European Parliament for its full involvement; expects in this context as well improved functioning of the macro-economic dialogue;
26. Requests the European Council and the Commission to start, before every Spring Summit, a broad process of consultation which could take the form of a High Level Forum or of working parties on specified and limited themes in order to listen to the representatives of the social partners and of civil society in all Member States;
27. Calls on the social partners to play a key role in the implementation of this strategy by launching negotiations at the EU and national level; stresses furthermore the need to deliver quickly on the pending negotiations on temporary employment agencies and for the Commission to promote a social dialogue aiming at negotiations for guidelines on

lifelong learning;

28. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Parliaments of the Member States, the Social Partners and the applicant countries.