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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

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

by Ilkka Suominen, Francesco Fiori, Giles Bryan Chichester and Karl-Heinz Florenz

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the problem of nuclear safety fifteen years after the Chernobyl accident, and its health consequences

European Parliament resolution on the problem of nuclear safety fifteen years after the Chernobyl accident, and its health consequences

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its earlier resolutions, and in particular its resolution of 18 April 1996 on the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl accident,
 - A. whereas 26 April 2001 marked the 15th anniversary of the nuclear disaster at the Chernobyl site,
 - B. whereas the Community and the Member States have paid a total of EUR 430 m into the Chernobyl Shelter Fund, which makes the EU the largest provider of financial assistance for this operation,
 - C. whereas in December 2000 Euratom approved a loan to the Ukrainian National Nuclear Power Company for the equivalent of US \$ 585 m to finance Ukrainian alternative nuclear energy solutions,
 - D. whereas in March 2001 a EUR 33 m contract for the construction of a radioactive waste management facility was signed by Ukraine,
 - E. whereas the Chernobyl nuclear accident has already caused a considerable number of casualties and will still have disastrous effects on health for years to come, both for those exposed to radiation at the time of the accident and for future generations,
1. Note with great relief that the Chernobyl nuclear power station was finally closed on 15 December 2000,
 2. Stresses once more the absolute need for Ukraine to have a long-term coherent and sustainable energy policy, in which efficiency and saving measures with tough targets, elimination of losses in energy transmission and distribution and the implementation of proper market mechanisms are to be of fundamental importance; considers that the EU, in particular through the TACIS programme, can help Ukraine to achieve its much needed objectives in the energy field;
 3. Stresses that the area of Ukraine and Belarus which is contaminated for tens of thousands of years to come is a serious threat to the health of future generations;
 4. Notes that, although one of the most radioactive areas in the world, this region is still inhabited, and that cancers, particularly thyroid cancer, leukaemias and other serious and often fatal illnesses are still occurring there 15 years after the accident;
 5. Demands continuous measurement of radioactivity to enable the effects of radiation on soil, air, water, flora and fauna to be assessed scientifically, and hopes that the consumption of food from this region will be strictly prohibited;

6. Calls on the EU, in close cooperation with the national authorities of the candidate countries, as well as with the other countries concerned, to learn all the lessons from this disaster and give its full support to the precautionary principle, which dictates that it is essential to close and dismantle nuclear power stations at risk in these countries;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission and to the Governments of Ukraine and Belarus.