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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

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on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on preparations for the Göteborg European Council of 15-16 June 2001

**European Parliament resolution on preparations for the Göteborg European Council of 15-16 June 2001**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the conclusions of the Nice European Council of 7-10 December 2000 and the Stockholm European Council of 23-25 March 2001,
  - having regard to the Commission communication on 'A Sustainable Europe for a Better World' (COM (2001) 264),
  - having regard to the proposal by the European Commission for a Sixth Environment Action Programme,
  - having regard to the European Parliament resolution on 'Environment policy and sustainable development: preparing for the Gothenburg European Council',
  - having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament 'Ten years after Rio: preparing for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002' (COM (2001) 53),
- A. whereas the Amsterdam Treaty of 1997 regards 'environmental integration' as a key principle; whereas the European Union has still not yet managed to get its economy on a sustainable path as called for in Article 6 of the Treaty; and whereas this requires an integrated approach to economic, social and environmental policy,
- B. whereas economic policy must be based on responsible and efficient use of natural resources, on respect for the environment, on modes of production that comply with the imperative requirements of public health and consumer safety and protection; whereas the 'polluter pays' and precautionary principles must be the fundamental policy guidelines,
- C. whereas in June 1998 the Cardiff European Council called on all formations of the Council to establish their own strategies for achieving environmental integration and sustainable development within their respective policy areas; whereas the Commission was invited by the Helsinki European Council in December 1999 to present a long-term strategy including economic, social and environmental aspects for the Göteborg Council in June 2001,
- D. whereas at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 governments agreed that the main challenge for industrialised countries is to change their unsustainable patterns of production and consumption; whereas governments, nine years after the Rio Summit, have not succeeded in halting the unsustainable trends, of which climate change is one of the most pronounced,

## General considerations

1. Welcomes the fact that the Commission's communication clearly identifies major threats to sustainable development in different areas like climate change, public health, poverty, biodiversity and transport, while rightly stating that few of these unsustainable trends are new and that immediate and far-sighted political leadership is needed to reverse this trend,
2. Emphasises that the EU Sustainable Development Strategy must be given priority in the EU policy agenda; urges putting this strategy on the same political level as the Strategy for the Internal Market and EMU;
3. Considers that the strategy to be deployed must be the result of an open process involving the citizens of Europe and that it is especially important that the strategy makes it clear what the benefits are for ordinary citizens and different stakeholders;
4. Welcomes the recognition by the Commission that the Cardiff environment integration process must continue and provide an environmental input to the EU Sustainable Development strategy;
5. Considers that global responsibility must be a key feature of the strategy, which must make an important contribution to the Rio +10 Summit to be held in Johannesburg in 2002; underlines the importance of a thorough public debate on the global dimension of sustainable development, involving civil society but also national parliaments and the European Parliament, to prepare the EU contribution at the Rio+10 conference; considers therefore that the Commission should present its communication on 'How the Union should contribute to sustainable global development' by the end of 2001;
6. Calls for specific and measurable environmental indicators and targets to be set for the follow-up and review of the sustainable development agenda established in Göteborg and as a complement to the Lisbon structural indicators; the monitoring of these indicators should be part of the regular reporting exercise to the spring European Councils;
7. Urges the active involvement of the candidate countries in the goals and procedures of the Lisbon process, including its assessment of the economic, social and environmental situation on the basis of improved structural indicators;
8. Calls on the Commission and the European Council to define and outline - in the context of the EU Sustainable Development strategy - the most urgent needs for reform of existing EU policies and set up a time-frame and general aims for these reforms (e.g. CAP, common fisheries policy, Structural Funds) during the Göteborg European Council;
9. Urges the Commission and the European Council to agree, before the Rio+10 conference, on some concrete first steps which can be easily and immediately put into practice - such as sustainability criteria for public procurement - to illustrate their vision of the Sustainable Development Strategy to the general public;

## **Economic dimension**

10. Welcomes the Commission's commitment to adopt, by 2002, the energy product directive and to aim at the full internalisation of external costs in the following two years, including an indexation of minimum levels of excise duties; reminds the countries currently blocking any progress in this question (Spain, Ireland, Greece) of the fact that taxation of energy has a pay-off for the environment and for the economy alike, since energy efficiency will be pushed and environmental damage diminished;
11. Welcomes the Commission's commitment to phase out subsidies to fossil fuel production and consumption and urges the Council to follow the Commission's lead; asks the Commission, however, to shorten the deadline for the final phase to 2005 and to extend the strategy to any environmentally harmful subsidies, including subsidies to nuclear power; therefore asks the Commission to establish an inventory of environmentally negative subsidies by 2002;
12. Welcomes the Commission's statement that public procurement policies are a means to accelerate the spread of cleaner technologies; asks the European Council to reach a political agreement that public procurement should support environmental and social purposes and that environmental and social criteria should be integrated in procurement legislation;
13. Is aware that any sustainability strategy needs to address global issues; believes the EU should press for the World Trade Organisation to be subordinated to the objectives of sustainable development and international commitments to protect the environment; proposes, therefore, creating a new institution of global environmental governance under the auspices of the UN;
14. Urges the European Council to instruct ECOFIN to set itself a clear timetable for the adoption of the various parts of the 'Monti tax package' as well as for the adoption of the EU framework for energy taxation;

## **Social dimension**

15. Maintains that social inclusion is an essential element of sustainable development and that a minimum income and the ability to have access to essential services of general interest (such as water and energy) are key elements in such development; therefore requires that these factors be taken into consideration in any further liberalisation of services of general interest;
16. Underlines the significance of measures to promote and encourage quality of life, including the development of more and better jobs; stresses in this context the importance of the Social Agenda as an element in a Sustainable Development Strategy;
17. Emphasises that a resource-efficient sustainable economy also means enabling people to work efficiently through effective consultation and participation in the workplace, reduced working hours and good-quality work in safe working conditions supported by an effective system of social security; calls for rapid progress to be made on the initial steps taken in this direction at the Stockholm Summit;

## **Environmental dimension**

### *On climate change and clean energy*

18. Welcomes the clear statement by the Commission that a post-Kyoto CO<sup>2</sup> reduction target is needed and stresses the importance of a long-term aim of cutting CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by 30-40% by 2020 compared with 1990<sup>1</sup>,
19. Rejects the idea of nuclear power being part of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy and asks for an adjustment of research funds in the Sixth Framework Research Programme to ensure that non-nuclear energy receives at least the same amount of money as nuclear energy;
20. Highlights the importance of increasing energy efficiency for achieving overall sustainability of the EU economy; urges, therefore, a binding commitment to reduce final energy intensity by 2.5% per year, which should become part of the Lisbon targets and should be reviewed every year<sup>2</sup>;

### *On public health*

21. Takes the view that a new single system based on the precautionary and substitution principles should be in place in 2004 for the testing, evaluation and risk management of new and existing chemical substances, and that they should be tested by 2012; considers that a separate strategy for pesticides is also necessary and that the goal must be to eliminate gradually the use of chemicals (e.g. those which are persistent, bio-accumulative or toxic) on their own or in other products, so that the environment can be rid of these substances as far as possible by 2020;
22. Welcomes the Commission's proposal to phase out subsidies for tobacco growing and urges the European Council to endorse this line in its Presidency Conclusions;

### *On management of natural resources*

23. Calls upon the Commission to come forward with proposals for programmes and regulation which aim to increase the resource and energy efficiency of production and consumption by a factor of 4 by 2010 and by a factor of 10 by 2025 and to make concrete proposals for an EU ecological footprint indicator<sup>3</sup>;

### *On mobility and land use*

24. Calls for a change in transport policy to reduce long-distance transport by road along with an increase in investment in public transport and rail systems and for the adoption, as a first step, of a stabilisation goal of CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by the transport sector by 2008-2010 in the context of the 8% EU overall reduction target<sup>4</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> see first reading, Myller report, 31.5.2001

<sup>2</sup> see EP resolution on Wijkman report, 14.3.2001

<sup>3</sup> see EP resolution on Hulthén report, 31.5.2001

<sup>4</sup> see first reading, Myller report, 31.5.2001

25. Calls for the introduction of a binding environmental impact assessment for all decisions and legislative proposals by the European Commission and publication of the results;

### **The institutional dimension of sustainable development**

26. Welcomes the proposal by the Commission to further develop the spring Councils to become 'sustainability Councils', embracing the three dimensions - environmental, social and economic - of sustainable development, and insists that sustainability indicators should be introduced in addition to the existing structural indicators for social and economic policies;

27. Stresses the importance of creating an independent 'Sustainability Round Table' with the mandate of monitoring, evaluation and follow-up on the basis of political priorities and sustainability indicators; this consultation body should reflect the different stakeholder interests in the European Union and in the accession countries and report regularly to the Council, Parliament and the Commission; the EP should be represented in this body and consulted on the nomination of its members;

28. Calls for equal rights for the environment in institutional terms, with the Council of Ministers of the Environment setting up a committee on an equal footing with the Council of Ministers of Economic and Financial Affairs and the Council of Ministers of Employment and Social Affairs to concentrate on preparations for the spring Council meetings, and for a decision to set up that committee to be taken in Göteborg;

29. Calls on the Council and Commission to negotiate an interinstitutional agreement with the European Parliament for its full involvement in the 'Lisbon strategy' and the subsequent Sustainability Strategy; asks to be fully associated in the preparation and the follow-up of this process, in order to overcome the prevailing intergovernmental approach on the issue;

30. Instructs its President to review Parliament's own methods of working with a view to devising working practices which promote sustainable development and to organise a yearly plenary debate on sustainable development; asks Parliament's committees to regularly monitor the progress of the implementation of sustainability in EU policies, i.e. each parliamentary committee should be involved in a yearly sustainability assessment exercise on the policies for which it is responsible;

31. Requests that adequate budgetary means be made available for actions implementing and monitoring the future sustainable development strategy and the Cardiff environmental integration process;

32. Calls on the Göteborg European Council to identify a summit during the Danish Presidency in 2002 to follow up the Cardiff integration process;

## **EU enlargement**

33. Welcomes the progress in accession negotiations, which has shown the viability of the Commission's so-called road-map, endorsed by the Nice summit, and of the principles of catch-up and differentiation, eventually making it possible to overcome the stalemate in negotiations and the initial premature grouping among candidate countries; recalls that in order to maintain a steady path in negotiations, now when the most difficult final phase is entered into, all actors must refrain from posing additional conditions for accession;
34. Stresses the crucial importance to the Union's cohesion of the principle that Member States have equal rights and equal obligations; insists on the defence of this principle in particular with regard to the future Member States' participation in the Union's economic and social cohesion policy;
35. Advises the Commission to speed up the process of decentralisation of pre-accession funds, under the conditions of application of the partnership principles, EIA and citizens' access to information, so as to support the candidate countries' preparations in this regard; requests the Commission to make and publish environmental impact assessments of all EU-financed pre-accession projects and plans, including loans from the EIB, prior to putting these funds into operation; and demands that in making such loans within the candidate countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the EIB greatly improve the transparency of its practices and general policies on providing information to the public;
36. Deplores the Commission's proposal on transitional periods for the application of freedom of movement of workers vis-à-vis all Central and Eastern European candidate countries, insofar as this proposal does not take into account the specificity of the labour market situation in the various applicant countries and does not sufficiently provide for a gradual adjustment of EU national labour markets; asks the Commission and the Member States to propose a EU-wide regulatory framework for a gradual opening of the EU labour market immediately on the accessions;
37. Deplores the Member States' and the Commission's rejection of Parliament's request for better insight into the negotiations; considers this rejection damaging to the spirit of cooperation between the institutions;

## **The debate on the future of the EU**

38. Stresses the fact that organising a public debate on the future of the European Union is a big challenge that has to be prepared carefully and should not result in a mere sum of fifteen separated debates organised on a national basis; underlines that in this debate for the first time the European public is addressed, questioned and involved; if this historic experiment is ambitiously organised and evaluated it can be a central contribution for the establishment of a European democracy; calls, therefore, on the Commission to make a proposal on how it could be best possibly led;
39. States that there must be a clear distinction between the Convention itself and the wider public debate; the mandate of the Convention should be to elaborate a proposal that will constitute the framework and the guideline within which decisions in the IGC are to be taken;

## **EU-US summit**

40. Requests the European Council to urgently invite the US government to give up its resistance to the current Verification and Monitoring Protocol to the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention and to other international treaties such as the Kyoto Protocol, the Global Convention Against Landmines, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
41. Reiterates its position that the US should put a radical stop to its plans for the deployment of the so-called Missile Defence System on its European allies, and requests the European Council to take up this issue in this perspective with the US President;
42. Requests the European Council to press the US Government to give up its resistance to full ratification of the statute of the International Criminal Court;

## **Conflict prevention**

43. Invites the European Council to adopt a strong and efficient programme on the dimension of conflict prevention through its Common Foreign and Security Policy; underlines that such a programme must be implemented without delay and must focus on structural aspects of conflict prevention as well as on civil crisis management;
44. Underlines that such a programme should be based on full interinstitutional cooperation, cooperation with the UN and the OSCE and full involvement of the NGO community, both international and local;

## **The Middle East**

45. Expresses its solidarity with the victims and the families of the victims of the terrorist attacks perpetrated against the civilian population by Palestinian extremist groups, and firmly condemns all the terrorist acts; urges both parties, with regard in particular to the Palestinian National Authority, to isolate and stop extremist groups;
46. Believes that collective punishments and extrajudicial killings contribute to aggravating the situation without showing any effectiveness in coping with violence;
47. Calls on the parties to respect the ongoing truce with a view to facilitating the resumption of dialogue and the implementation of the recommendations of the Mitchell report and urges the Council and the EU High Representative for the CFSP to make all efforts in cooperation with the US and the UN so as to bring back the parties to dialogue, set up ad hoc confidence-building measures and restart negotiations;

## **Macedonia**

48. Expresses its deep concern about the escalation and spread of the conflict in the region, and urges the Commission to provide the necessary aid in full cooperation with the Macedonian government, so as to assist the refugees and the civilian population involved in the conflict; urges the KFOR in Kosovo to strengthen the controls in the area bordering with Macedonia so as to stop the arms supplies to the guerrillas;



49. Welcomes the efforts to broaden the governing coalition to the major ethnic Albanian parties and supports the political initiatives taken by the Council, the EU High Representative for the CFSP and the Commission to facilitate the dialogue between the parties with a view to making all the reforms necessary to grant full rights to the ethnic Albanian community;
50. 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.