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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the debate on topical and urgent subjects of major importance

pursuant to Rule 50(1) of the Rules of Procedure

by Sérgio MARQUES and Miet SMET

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the situation in South Africa

307.311

Resolution on the situation in South Africa

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in South Africa, and particularly that of 15 March 2001 on the AIDS tragedy,
- A. whereas the new, democratic South Africa, free of systematic racial segregation and the affront which it represents to humanity, is a crucial element in the political stability and economic development of the African continent, and of subcontinental southern Africa in particular, standing as it does as proof that there is an alternative to underdevelopment, war, despotism, corruption and bad government,
- B. whereas South Africa is currently experiencing a number of very grave problems, to which the EU and international community cannot remain indifferent, ranging from the AIDS epidemic, which effects mostly young people and therefore a significant part of the active population, alarming unemployment levels and economic stagnation to extremely worrying levels of violent crime,
- C. whereas that despite the successful completion of the political changeover, the task of consolidation has to contend with the problems of poverty, unemployment and inequality,
- D. whereas the alarming crime levels' tragic impact is felt not only by the South African people themselves but also the European immigrant communities in the country, which find themselves even more exposed to the impact of crime thanks to their involvement in economic activity linked to trade,
- E. whereas these communities make a decisive contribution to economic development and job creation in South Africa,
- F. whereas figures for certain types of crime have fallen slightly in the last year, crime in general is tending to become a standard feature of city life,
- G. whereas the prevailing climate of serious insecurity is having a very negative effect on the process of economic recovery, which is essential to guarantee the stability of the new, democratic South Africa of the post-apartheid era, particularly the inflow in foreign capital,
- H. whereas South Africa must under no circumstances be allowed to become caught in a vicious circle in which growing insecurity means less economic development, thus engendering more poverty and more insecurity,
- I. whereas South Africa would have serious difficulties in overcoming these problems without the support and solidarity of the economic community, in which the role for the European Union is crucial, insofar as the Union and its Member States account of

70% of international aid to the country (EU cooperation with South Africa is scheduled at Euro 885 million to 2006, plus EIB funding of EUR 135 million per annum),

1. Calls on the South African Government for an even greater, straightforward policy commitment to fighting poverty, the aids epidemic and social inequalities and to creating jobs, since poverty, inequality and unemployment are all factors working against the consolidation of democracy;
2. Calls on the Member States, the Commission, the European Investment Bank and the international community to offer their assistance to the South-african government , within their respective established programmes with South Africa, to devise new measures to prevent and combat crime, and step up existing measures with a view to promoting the climate of greater security required for economic development and a peaceful society;
3. Believes that in the context of the budgetary debate, particular attention should be paid to forms of cooperation which are directly linked to combat aids and eradicating poverty and unemployment, and to measures for reforming the police system and training policemen;
4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and to the government of the Republic of South Africa.

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