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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

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

by Laura González Álvarez, Jonas Sjöstedt, Mihail Papayannakis, Christel Fiebiger, Armando Cossutta and Ilda Figueiredo

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the outcome of the Bonn Conference on Climate Change

European Parliament resolution on the outcome of the Bonn Conference on Climate Change

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) of December 1997 and the Sixth Conference of the Parties (COP-6) held in The Hague on 13 to 24 November 2000,
 - having regard to its resolutions on climate change, notably that of 5 April 2001 on the Kyoto Conference objectives and that of 5 July 2001 on the European Union's strategy for the Bonn Conference on Climate Change (COP-6, part 2),
- A. whereas climate change is an unprecedented threat to human wellbeing and survival, caused by increasing and inequitable unsustainable consumption patterns globally,
- B. whereas there is no alternative to the Kyoto protocol in seeking to combat global warming,
- C. whereas the United States, the world's largest producer of greenhouse gases, unilaterally decided in March to denounce the Kyoto Protocol and seriously threatened the prospects for the ratification of the treaty,
- D. whereas the Bonn 'Agreement', despite its obvious inadequacy, is considered a tactical victory and a step forward in the battle to protect the earth's climate,
- E. whereas the formal adoption of the political agreement in Bonn by representatives of 180 nations means that the Kyoto Protocol is ready for ratification,
- F. whereas full ratification and implementation are of fundamental importance in tackling the key problem of climate change and for the future of the world environment,
- G. whereas the EU delegation will have to play a major role in the process of finalising the legal details of the Bonn Agreement at the Seventh Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in Marrakech at the end of October,
1. Takes note of the minimalist agreement wrested in Bonn which, despite the major difficulties, constitutes a first step in the fight against global warming and considers that the Bonn Agreement, even with all its loopholes and flexibility mechanisms and concessions, should be seen not as the marks of failure but rather of the strategic retreat that made the deal possible;
 2. Welcomes the political declaration from the European Union (to which Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Canada and New Zealand are associated) reaffirming its political undertaking to make its contribution to the adaptation fund and to increase its financial aid to the developing countries;

3. Condemns the unilateral US decision to reject the Kyoto Protocol and welcomes the decision of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations which passed a unanimous amendment calling on the US to re-engage at COP-7;
4. Expresses its satisfaction that the Bonn agreement bans the use of nuclear power for obtaining carbon credits and provides an early start and streamlined procedures for small and renewable energy projects;
5. Regrets that the binding objectives set for the first period of commitment are not enough and only represent 'a first modest step' and that the rich countries are not legally required to meet the emission reduction targets within their own borders;
6. Regrets that the Bonn rules contain huge, scientifically dubious 'sinks loopholes' that allow high emitting countries to claim credits for forestry and vegetative growth;
7. Strongly regrets that, despite the promises of special funds for technology transfer, adaptation, and capacity building in the developing countries, the only actual cash fund by which the North will assist the South during the first budget period (2008 to 2012) is both embarrassingly small (€ 450 million per year) and strictly voluntary;
8. Urges the Member States to ratify the Protocol before the Rio+10 Conference in 2002; calls on all the other signatory countries to act accordingly;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, with the request that it be circulated to all the non-EU contracting parties.