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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

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

by Elspeth Attwooll, Luciana Sbarbati and Willy C.E.H. De Clercq

on behalf of the ELDR Group

on the Second UN World Assembly on Ageing

European Parliament resolution on the Second UN World Assembly on Ageing

The European Parliament,

- having regard to United Nations Resolution 46/91 of December 1991 on Principles for Older People, which supports the rights of older people to participation, dignity, independence, self-fulfilment and care,
 - having regard to the work of the Preparatory Committee for the Second World Assembly on Ageing,
 - having regard to its resolution of 17 May 2001 on the Commission Communication on safe and sustainable pensions,
 - having regard to the Stockholm, Göteborg, Laeken and Barcelona Conclusions on pensions and employment,
 - having regard to Article 13 of the Treaty, which outlaws discrimination on the grounds of age, and to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights,
- A. whereas the Second United Nations World Assembly on Ageing will be held in April 2002, and whereas this provides an opportunity for ageing issues to be recognised both in industrialised countries and in the developing world,
- B. whereas ageing of populations is poised to become a major issue in developing countries, whose populations are projected to age swiftly in the first half of the twenty-first century; whereas developed countries have been able to age gradually, but developing countries face the challenge of simultaneous development and ageing of the population,
- C. whereas the aim of the International Strategy for Action on Ageing 2002 is to ensure that people everywhere are able to age with security and dignity and to continue to participate in their societies as citizens with full rights, particularly through the use of new technologies,
- D. whereas the eradication of poverty in old age throughout the world, especially for women, who are more affected by poverty, is a fundamental aim of the International Strategy for Action on Ageing,
- E. whereas access to health care for all and a good standard of physical and mental health and social well-being is a basic human right,
1. Welcomes the recent initiatives of the Commission and the European Council in the fields of pensions, older workers and social exclusion;
 2. Calls on the Council and Commission to support the International Strategy for Action that

will be adopted at the World Assembly on Ageing and commit themselves fully to ‘a society for all ages’ by allocating sufficient resources, both political and financial, and by giving older people particular attention in EU development cooperation and social policies;

3. Calls on Member States to take action to increase participation in the labour force and integration of the entire working-age population through policies such as life-long learning, use of new technologies and on-the-job training, as well as adopting measures to encourage the increased participation of women in the labour market;
4. Calls on the Member States to assist older persons by promoting self-employment, for example by encouraging small and micro-enterprise development and ensuring access to credit for older persons, without discrimination relating to gender;
5. Calls on Member States to eliminate age barriers in the formal labour market and prevent the onset of disadvantages experienced by ageing workers in employment, for example by applying the principles of flexible retirement and age diversity in employment policies and practices or by removing disincentives to working beyond retirement age, such as protecting acquired pension rights;
6. Calls on the Member States to come forward with specific measures to reduce inequalities and poverty among older people themselves, in particular to improve the situation of older women in relation to inequality of pension payments, and the situation of the older senior citizens;
7. Calls on the Commission and the other European Institutions to abolish age limits in recruitment of their staff;
8. Draws the Commission’s attention, in the context of its communication on ‘health care and care for the elderly’, to the vital supportive role of carers for elderly people and the need for a major effort to recognise the role of family carers, and to give particular attention to the accessibility of health care for all and to the quality of services provided;
9. Draws attention to the particular problems of older migrants and refugees within the EU, in terms of social integration;
10. Calls on the Council, Commission and international agencies to address the growing problem of older people in developing countries living with HIV/AIDS;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States and the United Nations World Assembly on Ageing.