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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

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

by Mr Sergio Berlato and Mr Liam Hyland

on behalf of the UEN Group

on the World Food Summit (FAO)

European Parliament resolution on the World Food Summit (FAO)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 25 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights,
 - having regard to Articles 24 and 27 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the World Food Summit which took place in Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean which took place in Havana from 22 to 26 April 2002,
 - having regard to the resolution of the European Parliament of 25 April 2002 on the financing of development aid,
- A. whereas every human being has the right to have access to healthy and nutritional food and a fundamental right to be protected from famine,
- B. whereas the right to food includes all areas of human rights,
- C. whereas civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights must be considered interdependent, complementary, indivisible and of equal importance,
- D. whereas all states have an obligation to guarantee that their inhabitants are not victims of undernourishment,
- E. whereas according to the principle of solidarity each state must contribute towards the elimination of famine in the world,
- F. whereas, in the conclusions of the World Food Summit in Rome in 1996, the leaders of 185 countries and the European Community have reaffirmed their willingness to reduce by half the number of undernourished persons by 2015, and whereas the forthcoming summit intends to adopt the same conclusions,
- G. whereas the elimination of famine in the world is strictly connected with the adopting of international policies in the fields of agriculture, trade and development which are respectful of the needs of the least developed countries,
- H. whereas in spite of the good intentions demonstrated by governments during various summits and the efforts which have led to a measure of success in some countries, famine remains a grave problem,

- I. whereas many underdeveloped countries have witnessed a depopulation of their rural areas with a consequent abandoning of cultivated land and reduction in agricultural production,
 - J. whereas according to recent statistics 7 out of 10 poor people live in rural areas and the governments of underdeveloped countries have not sufficiently invested in agriculture,
 - K. whereas many today live on under a dollar a day, while one in five have no access to drinking water and one child in three is undernourished,
 - L. whereas the objective of reducing by half the number of undernourished persons by 2015 is far from attained if one considers the most recent statistics which show that the number of undernourished human beings has declined by 6 m per year, which is greatly below the figure of 22 m per year set by the World Food Summit,
1. Welcomes the organising of the Summit, which will serve to bring the issue of eliminating hunger back on to the international agenda;
 2. Hopes that each state will consider the elimination of hunger in the world as a major issue for humanity which must concern all countries;
 3. Invites all states and all members of the FAO to take up their responsibilities deriving from international law and their membership of the organisation;
 4. Welcomes the decision of the European Union to grant unlimited access to EC markets for all products of the Less Developed Countries with the exception of arms and munitions; invites, in this context, the other industrialised members of the FAO to follow the example of the EU;
 5. Recognises the important role played by the FAO over the years in the fight against hunger, and in this regard invites the states to give their financial support to the FAO so as to allow it to carry out its work under the best conditions;
 6. Stresses that issues such as the fight against poverty, health and education cannot be dealt with without first of all resolving the problem of hunger;
 7. Invites the governments of the Least Developed Countries to consider rural development as a priority in their political and economic strategy;
 8. Calls on the industrialised countries to explore new ways of promoting technological cooperation and technology transfer with the developing world, in particular with the least developed countries, in order to allow them to catch up in the agricultural domain;

9. Believes that food safety must be a priority of any agricultural policy, and supports any measure which can improve food quality, guarantee equal access to food and guarantee the stability of that access; in this context, supports the FAO action to bolster its 'Special Programme for Food Safety' in many countries;
10. Believes that the most advanced agricultural production technologies need to be regulated, and in this respect looks favourably on the 'Codex Alimentarius' developed by the FAO in cooperation with the WHO for the verification of food quality;
11. Believes that, as a result of the current and persistently serious situation with regard to undernourishment in certain countries, it is necessary for the members of the FAO to intervene with massive and immediate aid within the framework of a sort of Marshall Plan for the development of agriculture in the poorest countries;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Director-General of the FAO, the Bureau of the World Food Summit, and the member governments of the FAO.