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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

by Pedro Marset Campos, Giuseppe Di Lello Finuoli, Laura González Álvarez,  
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on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the summit of EU, Latin American, and Caribbean Heads of State or  
Government to be held in Madrid on 17 and 18 May 2002

**European Parliament resolution on the summit of EU, Latin American, and Caribbean Heads of State or Government to held in Madrid on 17 and 18 May 2002**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the declaration adopted in anticipation of the second summit by the civil society conference in Alcobendas in early April 2002, entitled ‘In support of a partnership founded on solidarity’,
- having regard to the conclusions of the first European Union–Latin America and Caribbean trade union summit, held in Madrid on 17 April 2002,
- A. having regard to the second summit of European Union, Latin American, and Caribbean Heads of State or Government, which will be held in Madrid on 17 and 18 May 2002,
- B. whereas a similar summit took place in Rio in June 1999; whereas that summit charted 54 priorities for an action plan, most of which have gone unheeded, as have the demands of social organisations and NGOs, even though they were included in the official declaration,
- C. whereas 41% of the Latin American population are living below the poverty line and whereas social inequalities are more acute in Latin America than in any other part of the world,
- D. whereas social forces throughout Latin America, and especially in Colombia, Guatemala, Brazil, and Mexico, are increasingly being penalised and repressed when they employ peaceful means to call for a reduction in inequalities and an end to the policies that engender poverty,
- E. whereas the social strife and the armed conflict in Colombia are escalating because the peace accords have foundered and Plan Colombia, an essentially military US-funded scheme, is being put into effect,
- F. having regard to the attempted *coup* in Venezuela against the democratically elected President and Parliament,
- G. deploring the ongoing severe crisis in Argentina, which has reduced over 50% of the population to absolute poverty,
- H. whereas the economic situation in Argentina has been brought about by the burden of an unfair and unpayable debt, contracted largely under the military dictatorship, and aggravated by the diktats of the IMF and the World Bank regarding monetary policy, privatisation, ruthless market liberalisation, and other elements of the structural adjustment plans that hit the most vulnerable strata of society,
- I. whereas the Argentine crisis demonstrates the consequences of the economic policies

imposed on most Latin American countries as well as Argentina and whereas, therefore, the policies in question need to be assessed as a matter of urgency before other countries suffer the same plight,

- J. whereas the United States is proposing to accelerate liberalisation in Latin America by establishing a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) but is at the same time adopting various new protectionist measures,
- K. whereas the outflow of capital is posing a serious problem for the Latin American economies,
- L. whereas, responding to the need to create new forms of economic integration and trading and financial relations, the (second) Porto Alegre World Forum put forward numerous alternative proposals,
- M. whereas economic corruption is taking place on a very large scale and those responsible enjoy a high degree of impunity,
- N. having regard to the persecution of minorities, in particular Indian and black minorities,
  - 1. Calls on the European Heads of State or Government to lay down a strategy towards the Latin American and Caribbean countries radically different from the US approach, focusing on human rights and the consolidation of peace and democracy, to be achieved by reducing social inequalities and eradicating poverty;
  - 2. Calls for an impact study to be conducted on the effects of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), which is arousing strong popular opposition and being condemned as a US attempt to annex Latin America economically, the consequence of which would be to worsen the economic situation in the Latin American countries, especially where the poorest groups and minorities were concerned;
  - 3. Calls on the EU and Latin America to build an economic cooperation strategy different from the US strategy, focusing on genuine economic cooperation, better public services, and fair trade;
  - 4. Notes that the trade agreement signed with Chile includes a procedure allowing civil society organisations to exercise vigilance; calls, however, for the social organisations to elect their own representatives; deplores the fact that, under the agreement, further sensitive sectors from the development point of view, for example services, public procurement, and investment, are to be liberalised;
  - 5. Calls for the findings of the impact study (SIA) now being carried out to be sent to Parliament before it gives its assent to the association agreement with Chile;
  - 6. Calls for the Madrid summit to make significant progress in order to give real substance to the democratic clause and make it genuinely operative;
  - 7. Calls in particular for the rights of minorities to be taken into consideration when the application of democratic clauses is reviewed;

8. Calls for Parliament to be kept informed throughout the process whereby agreements with Latin America come into being, from the time when negotiating briefs are drawn up and impact studies assessed until the negotiations proper are under way, and to play a role in the implementation of the agreements;
9. Calls on the Union to submit proposals at the summit with a view to cancelling the debt of the Latin American countries;
10. Categorically condemns any attempt to undermine Venezuela's democratically elected institutions in any way whatsoever;
11. Condemns the attitude of the Spanish Presidency of the Union, which expressed its confidence in the perpetrators of the attempted *coup* in Venezuela against the democratically elected President and Parliament, and the silence of the High Representative for the CFSP; applauds the swift reaction of the Rio Group and the Venezuelan people, who have restored the democratic institutions and averted the threat of a civil war;
12. Calls on those attending the summit to take steps to enable the peace talks to resume in Colombia;
13. Deplores the repeal of the 'Economic Subversion Act' by the Argentine Congress, which will serve to ensure that those responsible at national and international level for the economic disaster will suffer no ill consequences; calls on the Argentine Government to do away with impunity for the economic crimes which have blighted Argentina since the time of the dictatorship;
14. Calls for practical steps to be taken to seek economic alternatives, including those proposed by the Porto Alegre Social Forum; calls in particular for the unjust and insurmountable external debt to be written off; calls for a tax to be levied on capital transactions so as to reduce speculation; calls for the activities of multinationals to be subjected to more searching scrutiny;
15. Welcomes the fact that the 2002 budget makes provision for contact points for the OECD 'Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises' to be set up within Commission delegations for the purpose of ascertaining how transnational European companies are implementing labour and environmental laws;
16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission and the governments of all countries attending the Madrid summit.