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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 Hughes, Karamanou, Gillig, DeRossa

on behalf of the PSE Group

on child labour in the football industry

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Resolution on child labour in the football industry

- having regard to the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child,
- having regard to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children in New York, 19-21 September 2001,
- having regard to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and notably Article 24 on the rights of the child,
- having regard to the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights,
- having regard to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights of Work adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 86th session on 18 June 1998,
- having regard to ILO Conventions No. 138 of 1973 and No.182 of 1999 on the effective abolition of child labour,
- having regard to the Commission communication to the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee entitled 'Promoting core Labour Standards and Improving Social governance in the context of globalisation' (COM(2001)416),
- having regard to the Commission communication and to its report on Corporate Social responsibility (COM(2001)366, A5-159/02),
- having regard to the "CHARTER OF INTENTS" adopted by the Organising Committee for the XX Olympic Winter Games (Torino 2006),
- having regard to the international day against the child labour celebrated each year on 12 June;

A. whereas, the use of child labour in the football industry is still common practice world-wide, despite the fact that FIFA and the sporting good companies committed themselves in 1998 in a contract, with a FIFA Code of Labour Practice included, prohibiting the use of child labour in its licensed products,

B. whereas, the FIFA admitted in 2000 that there was a problem to make sure that the "premium balls" featuring the company's brand name and the name of the event (in this case the 2002 World Cup) were only sourced from official FIFA-licensees,

C. whereas, despite the fact that FIFA, ILO, UNICEF, trade unions and civil society organisations have established social protection projects and monitoring systems to prevent and eliminate child labour in India and Pakistan, newly published reports show clear evidence of many children still producing footballs outside the main stitching areas in both countries,

E. whereas the World Cup Campaign was initiated in 2001 by the Global March, born out of

an international foot-march four years ago, when thousands of people took a journey over 80,000 kilometres, in four continents to mobilise world-wide action against child labour,

F. whereas the EU should clarify its positions on social governance in the framework of the new multilateral negotiations in the WTO and whereas, on that occasion, the positions of the European Parliament should be incorporated into the Community's strategy,

1. Condemns all forms of child exploitation and calls for the eradication of child labour, particularly in the football industry;
2. Stresses in particular the close relationship between policies to support education and those to combat child labour, and therefore calls on the Commission and the Member States to take action in this field, in order to make sure that all children removed from labour are rehabilitated and given the opportunity to receive an education,
3. Calls on FIFA to a) take full responsibility for the labour conditions in all the factories where FIFA licensed goods are manufactured, b) make sure that no child is employed in the production of FIFA-licensed sportswear and footballs c) sign and implement the FIFA Code of Labour Practice that was agreed upon by FIFA, ICFTU, ITGLF and FIET (now UNI) in 1996 and declare that code to be binding in all contracts with FIFA licenses and sponsors and c) agree on a transparent, credible and independent system for the monitoring and the verification of production of football industry;
4. Calls on all sporting goods companies to a) fully implement their contractual agreement with FIFA on child labour, b) disclose all the production sites of sporting goods and publish independently verified reports that their goods are produced in compliance with the FIFA Contract with the provision of living wages and c) implement a Code of Labour Practice of which the quality is not less than the agreement reached in 1996 between FIFA and the international trade unions;
5. Urges the ILO to develop a credible and independent inspection system in order to enforce and monitor the ILO labour standards in the sporting goods industry world-wide and based on the above inspection system, develop ILO models of co-operation between public and private sectors to build effective methods of labour inspection, assessment and accreditation mechanism of private auditing systems, et demande que l'ensemble de ces mécanismes soient rendus opérationnels pour les grandes manifestations sportives à venir (Jeux de Turin, etc...);
6. Calls on FIFA and the national football associations to make the World Cup 2002 championship, the first international event free of child labour and in compliance with fair labour standards;
7. Urges Footballers and their representative associations to seek to ensure that in the future sponsoring companies are not directly or indirectly using child labour in the production of their products;
8. Welcomes the initiative for a "CHARTER OF INTENTS" adopted by the Organising Committee for the XX Olympic Winter Games (Torino 2006), aimed at promoting effective commitments through a more direct involvement of the world of sport in the dissemination of a culture of global responsibility; stresses that sport can be an opportunity to educate people to the values of peace, tolerance, justice, freedom, solidarity and equality between people and individuals,

9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the European Council, the Commission, the FIFA, the ILO, the UNICEF, the World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry (WFSGI), the International Sports and Leisure (ISL) and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU).

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