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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 Sergio Berlato and Liam Hyland

on behalf of the UEN Group

on the conclusion of the World Food Summit (FAO), Rome, 10/13 June 2002

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European Parliament resolution on the conclusion of the World Food Summit (FAO), Rome, 10/13 June 2002

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the United Nations World Food Summit held in Rome, Italy, between 10 and 13 June 2002,
- having regard to Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- having regard to Articles 24 and 27 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,
- having regard to the G-8 Summit in Kananaskis, Canada, between 26 and 28 June 2002, which will focus on G-8 cooperation with Africa,
- having regard to the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,
- having regard to the conclusions reached by 185 nations attending the World Food Summit in 1996 in Rome - including a commitment to halve the number of undernourished people by 2015,
- having regard to its resolution of 4 May 2000 on the proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion on behalf of the European Community of the Food Aid Convention 1999,
- having regard to its resolution of 1 March 2001 on the European Community's development policy as well as to previous resolutions on debt reduction for developing countries and the coherence of EU policies, particularly its resolutions of 7 February 2002 and 25 April 2002 on the Monterrey Summit,
- having regard to the Marrakesh agricultural agreements, the resumption of agricultural negotiations since 1 January 2000 and the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the 4th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Doha,
- having regard to the Development Council Declaration of 8 November 2001 on the Preparations for the UN Conference on Financing for Development (FfD), confirming 'the great importance which the European Union attaches to the success of FfD and the World Summit for Sustainable Development' to be held in Johannesburg in September 2002,
- having regard to the conclusions reached at the UN Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey, Mexico, between 18 March and 22 March 2002,
- having regard to the OECD documents on the role of development cooperation on the threshold of the 21st century, the UN Millennium Declaration, the G-8 report on poverty reduction and economic development, and the resolutions adopted at the Politicians' and

Governors' Jubilee Assembly,

- having regard to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly's resolution on security of food supplies adopted on 1 November 2001,
- 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 water and biodiversity must be considered inalienable public assets,
- C. whereas 'food security and sustainable rural development strategies' are one of the six priorities of the European Union's development policy and should be promoted by all international economic and financial institutions,
- D. whereas hunger and malnutrition do not result from the fact that there is simply not enough food in the world, but whereas they are above all the consequences of poor distribution and supply systems,
- E. whereas the 1996 World Food Summit in Rome set the deadline of 2015 by which to halve the number of people in the world - currently estimated at 815 million - who suffer from hunger,
- F. whereas that number has not decreased after the commitments given by the States in 1996 in Rome, which makes it more difficult to achieve the objective of halving the number of undernourished people by 2015,
- G. whereas the need for access to food, water and increased sustainable agricultural production is critical since, according to estimates by various international agencies:
 - 1.2 billion people - three-quarters of whom live in rural areas - survive on less than USD 1 per day,
 - 815 million people are suffering from chronic malnutrition,
 - more than 80% of global consumption is accounted for by 20% of the world's population,
 - the global population is predicted to increase by about 2.5 billion between 1990 and 2020, with almost 90% of this increase taking place in the developing countries,
 - 60% of the poorest people live in ecologically fragile areas, and agriculture is the largest consumer of water, accounting for 72% of the total usage worldwide,
 - global demand for water is estimated to have risen sevenfold from 1900 to 1995, more than double the rate of population growth, with 1.1 billion people without access to safe drinking water,
- H. whereas the 1996 World Food Summit set four priorities for action:
 - food security;
 - international agricultural trade;
 - sustainable management of natural resources;
 - rural development;

in order to improve production and guarantee equal and stable access to food,

- I. whereas patents on seeds and genetic resources for use in food production and agriculture threaten sustainable agricultural practices and increase the monopolies of transnational corporations on technologies, seeds, genes and medicinal products,
- J. whereas the 2002 World Food Summit had to highlight the need for a global water partnership and for additional contributions to the Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety in order to reach its initial target of US\$ 500 million,
- K. whereas, at the World Food Summit, the Commission should have committed itself to a coherent EU strategy as regards its agricultural and fisheries policies, its development policy and its trade policy within the framework of the WTO,
- L. whereas the campaign to eradicate hunger calls for the involvement of all the sectors of the society, from governments to the private sector, which should play an important role in a more coordinated strategy,
- M. whereas developing countries should have freedom of choice in the area of agricultural technologies,
 - 1. Reaffirms that the FAO has a major role to play in assisting countries to implement the provisions of the WFS Plan of Action within its mandate and to determine and implement the international legal instruments required for the management and control of the exploitation of shared resources;
 - 2. Calls on the FAO , in conjunction with international research institutes, to promote agricultural research and research into new technologies, including biotechnology, which should be adapted to local conditions to help improve agricultural productivity in developing countries;
 - 3. Reaffirms that the decisions taken at Monterrey should lead to a renewed effort by all the nations which attended the World Food Summit in Rome and calls on all members of the WTO to implement the findings of the Doha Conference, especially the commitments regarding the reform of the international agricultural trading system;
 - 4. Reaffirms its commitment to poverty eradication, sustainable development and the achievement of the development goals set at the Millennium Summit and at the UN conferences but is greatly worried that current data indicates that the number of undernourished is falling at an average rate of only 6 million per year - far below the rate of 22 million per year needed to reach the World Food Summit target;
 - 5. Urges the European Council and Commission to ensure that decisions taken at the UN Conference on Financing for Development, the World Food Summit and the World Summit on Sustainable Development are consistent and lead to concerted international action to eradicate hunger, poverty and disease;

6. Urges EU governments to review their ongoing national food security policies with a view to filling gaps, identifying new initiatives, removing implementation obstacles and streamlining interministerial and interdepartmental policy initiatives,
7. Warns that the global cost of not eradicating hunger - in terms of conflict, recurrent emergencies, international crime, the drugs trade, economic stagnation, illegal immigration and premature death - is enormous;
8. Calls on the Council, Commission and EU Member States to help finance the Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety, which also needs voluntary contributions from the private sector and from all the other partners involved in the strategy for the eradication of hunger;
9. Reaffirms that food aid must be reserved for emergencies and must be granted solely in the form of donations, with supplies being purchased locally whenever possible, while respecting food balances and habits, and that such food aid must be accompanied by measures which allow this aid to be withdrawn while encouraging the reconstruction of the productive potential of the regions affected;
10. Reaffirms the important role to be played by the Codex alimentarius, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the International Office of Epizootics (OIE) in providing effective, science-based, internationally-accepted standards of food safety, plant and animal health, as well as to facilitate international food and agricultural trade in accordance with their roles in the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures;
11. Welcomes the reiterated invitation in the final declaration of the FAO Summit to urge developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts towards meeting the target of devoting 0.7% of gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries, and 0.15% to 0.20% of GNP of developed countries to least-developed countries, by encouraging developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that ODA is used effectively to help achieve development goals and targets;
12. Calls on the industrialised nations to explore new and innovative ways to promote cooperation and technology transfer in the areas of agriculture, water management and sanitation, whilst developing nations should be free to choose which technologies to apply;
13. Welcomes the signature of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and hopes that the governments which have not yet signed and ratified it will do so so that it may enter into force as soon as possible;
14. Considers it essential to translate into deeds the important commitments given by the Governments at the Summit in Rome since, if the current trend continues, the objective of halving the number of undernourished people by 2015 will not be met;
15. Urges in this respect the Council, Commission and EU Member States to support proposals set out in the Final Declaration of the FAO Summit in Rome - which seek to

ensure:

- the translation of commitments into action;
- food security and to recognise the economic, social and political cost of not eradicating hunger;
- the place of food security in poverty reduction strategies;
- efficient resource allocation so as to tackle short-term shortages, with longer-term investments focusing on sustainable agricultural development;

16. Express its full commitment to use its political powers in ensuring that the activity of all the participants in the strategy for the eradication of hunger is consistent with their commitments expressed in the Final Declaration of the FAO Summit of Rome;
17. Instructs the European Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the EU Member States and applicant countries, the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the Secretaries-General of the United Nations, African Union, Commonwealth, OECD and Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly, United Nations Security Council, United Nations Economic and Social Council, European Investment Bank, World Bank and International Monetary Fund, and the Directors-General of the Food and Agriculture Programme (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).