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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

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on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on the fight against hunger

European Parliament resolution on the fight against hunger

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the declaration of the World Food Summit: Five Years Later,
 - having regard to the European Parliament's resolution of 16 May 2002,
 - having regard to the final declaration of the NGO Forum on Food Sovereignty,
 - having regard to the declaration of the Seville European Council stressing that food security is vital in combating poverty,
- A. whereas the right to a sufficient amount of food, which is inextricably linked to the dignity of the human person, is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and recognised in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,
- B. whereas the number of persons suffering from malnutrition, which was 840 million in 1996, was still 800 million in 2001 (i.e. a reduction of 8 million per year),
- C. whereas the commitment given at the World Food Summit in 1996 to cut by half the number of persons suffering from hunger (i.e. 20 million per year) is far from being met,
- D. whereas hunger and malnutrition are not due to the fact that there is simply not enough food in the world, but are the consequences of economic, agricultural and commercial policies which are promoted by international economic and financial institutions and implemented by the European Union and other organisations,
- E. whereas consistency in the Community's agricultural, commercial and development cooperation policies is a vital prerequisite if each policy is to be effective, and this approach must have as its ultimate objective food security and the elimination of poverty,
- F. whereas the struggle against poverty and food insecurity must address the structural causes of the impoverishment of the population of developing countries and access to the sources of production is one of the best means of ensuring the right to food,
- G. whereas the use of food aid, which is necessary in emergencies, has been shown to have a number of adverse effects, in particular local products are replaced and local markets are disrupted, and under no circumstances can it therefore provide a lasting solution to the problems of food insecurity,
1. Deeply regrets the failure by most heads of state and government of the donor countries, in particular the Member States of the European Union, to attend the World Food Summit in Rome from 10 to 13 June 2002, revealing a certain indifference on the part of western countries to the scourge of hunger in the world;

2. Deplores the fact that the end of the summit was brought forward by two hours because of a football match, a further indication of this indifference;
3. Points out that, contrary to the views expressed by the Italian Prime Minister, the industrialised states and international economic and trade organisations are to a large extent responsible for the extreme poverty, famine and malnutrition suffered by the developing countries, as a result of their programmes and their economic, agricultural, commercial and fisheries policies, which are pursued in an unfair manner inconsistent with the goals of redistribution and food security;
4. Calls on the European Union to overhaul its common agricultural and common fisheries policies, so as to respect the principle of food sovereignty and help provide healthy and sufficient food for all;
5. Condemns the growing protectionism practised by the developed countries in favour of their own agricultural products and to the detriment of products from the developing countries, which runs counter to the WTO rules on free trade;
6. Is critical in this respect of the United States federal law on agriculture recently adopted by Congress, which seeks to increase exports subsidies for American producers, thereby creating unfair competition vis-à-vis unsubsidised producers from the South and contributing to a fall in the price of agricultural products on the exchange market and thus to the impoverishment of rural populations in the developing countries;
7. Is also critical of the position adopted by Europe at the WTO ministerial conference in Doha, where it refused to include a reduction in export subsidies on the agenda for the new round of negotiations;
8. Points to the paradoxical stance adopted by the western countries, which support free trade and extending the sphere of competence of the WTO, but do not themselves comply with its rules; calls therefore for extensive reform of the WTO, particularly its decision-making system and its terms of reference; calls in particular for agriculture to be withdrawn from the WTO's sphere of competence;
9. Stresses that Europe's 'Everything But Arms' initiative will have only a very limited impact on exports from the less-developed countries and that furthermore it is incompatible with the regional economic partnership agreements to be negotiated between the EU and the ACP countries from September onwards; calls therefore on the Commission and the ministers of the ACP countries to make food security and access to resources the main focus on their negotiations on the future ACP-EU trade system;
10. Considers that only fair trade, ensuring a fair price (reflecting internal and external production and distribution costs, while complying with social and environmental standards) on the world market for developing countries' products and a decent income for producers in developing countries, can help these populations of these countries to meet their essential needs, including food;
11. Expresses satisfaction that the United States proposal to promote biotechnologies to

'resolve world food problems' was not included in the final declaration;

12. Calls for an immediate ban on restrictive technologies such as the use of Terminator and other similar genetic techniques and an immediate end to the sending of food produced with GMOs as part of food aid;
13. Calls for an end to the embargoes against Cuba and Iraq and to the use of food as a means of blackmail;
14. Regrets the failure to take into account the impact of climate change, which has consequences on the impoverishment and degradation of soils and thus on the quality and quantity of crops;
15. Deeply regrets the omission from the declaration of the concept of food sovereignty, which is the right of peoples, communities and nations to define for themselves agricultural, employment, fisheries and food, and land ownership policies which are environmentally, socially, economically and culturally appropriate to their individual situation;
16. Calls on the states taking part in the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg to make food sovereignty the main focus of a policy on food and agriculture and to adopt a food sovereignty convention incorporating the following principles:
 - priority given to food production for national and local markets;
 - possibility for developing countries to protect domestic markets from imports of subsidised products at low or loss-making prices;
 - guaranteeing fair prices for small producers;
 - the rights of workers to organise, bargain collectively, and secure safe and decent working conditions and a wage;
 - access to land, water, forests, the sea and genetic resources via genuine redistribution;
 - local communities and indigenous peoples to enjoy rights and control over their own production resources;
 - recognition and promotion of the role of women in the production of food products and with regard to fair access to and control over production resources;
 - protection of seeds, which are the basis of food and of life, allowing free trade and use by small producers, in other words 'non-patentability' of living things;
17. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the FAO and the WTO.