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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Oral Questions B5-0258/2002, B5-0259/2002, B5-0446/2002 and B5-0447/2002

pursuant to Rule 42(5) of the Rules of Procedure

by Carles-Alfred Gasòliba i Böhm, Marieke Sanders-ten Holte and Willy C.E.H. De Clercq, on behalf of the ELDR Group

on Mercosur

European Parliament resolution on Mercosur

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Latin America and, in particular, those of 15 November 2001 on a global partnership and a common strategy for relations between the European Union and Latin America and 15 May 2002 on the Second European, Latin American and Caribbean Summit,
 - having regard to the political declaration included in the Madrid commitment adopted by the Second Summit of Heads of State and Government of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean,
 - having regard to the meetings between the Community troika and the member countries of Mercosur,
- A. whereas the Mercosur economies, especially the smaller ones, have been hit hard by the Argentinian crisis and find themselves in a downward spiral and at the mercy of corruption,
- B. whereas peoples' basic social and economic rights are being seriously undermined,
- C. whereas the EU is Mercosur's major trading partner and main direct investor, and is currently negotiating a new bi-regional association and free trade agreement with Mercosur, to be concluded in 2003,
- D. whereas good governance is a prerequisite for sustainable economic and social development,
1. Profoundly regrets the current political, economic and social crisis in the Argentine Republic and its repercussions on other Mercosur countries;
 2. Calls on the Mercosur countries concerned to implement the necessary reforms to dig themselves out of the economic and social holes they are currently in;
 3. Considers that the stability of these economies has also suffered from movements of capital and acknowledges the need to find a swift resolution to the serious debt crisis;
 4. Notes the different treatment of the four members of Mercosur by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), whose efficiency in this regard has met with some criticism;

5. Calls for a strengthening of the association process which should stimulate the development of the Mercosur countries and contribute to the reduction of disparities between them and the EU;
6. Recalls its commitment to seeing a Euro-Latin American economic free trade area created by 2010;
7. Calls for a strengthening and deepening of political dialogue with the Mercosur countries on matters of mutual interest on the international agenda, in particular: promotion and protection of human rights, democracy, good governance and the rule of law, conflict prevention, and combating drug trafficking, money laundering and related crimes;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments of Latin America, the WTO, the IMF, the World Bank and the UN.