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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 Roberta Angelilli, José Ribeiro e Castro and Jean-Charles Marchiani

on behalf of the UEN Group

on immigration and asylum policy

European Parliament resolution on immigration and asylum policy

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Title IV of the EC Treaty and Title VI of the EU Treaty,
 - having regard to the Vienna Action Plan adopted by the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 3 December 1998,
 - having regard to the principles of the Geneva Convention (1951) and the conclusions of the Tampere (1999), Laeken (2001) and Seville (2002) European Councils,
 - having regard to the Council's comprehensive plan to combat illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings in the European Union,
 - having regard to the ARGO programme for administrative cooperation in the field of external borders, visas, asylum and immigration adopted by the Council on 13 June 2002,
 - having regard to the Commission Communication to the Council and the European Parliament 'Towards integrated management of the external borders of the Member States of the European Union' (COM (2002) 233),
 - having regard to the Council conclusions of 14-15 October 2002 on the plan for the management of the external borders and the plan for the fight against illegal immigration,
- A. whereas the EC Treaty requires the adoption by the Council of measures on asylum and immigration within a period of five years after the entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam and whereas that transitional period is now almost over,
- B. whereas the measures that have been adopted by the Council have focused primarily on combating illegal immigration,
- C. whereas illegal immigration and criminal trafficking in asylum seekers are among the main preoccupations of the EU and require closer cooperation with third countries that are major immigration sources, so that immigrants can live in dignity with rights and duties in the same way as any other citizen of the EU,
- D. whereas the existence of common rules on immigration and management of external borders is an important step forward following the Seville, Laeken and Tampere conclusions,
1. Congratulates the Council on its rapid adoption of a comprehensive plan to combat illegal immigration and its plan on the management of external borders, and supports the speeding up of common rules on asylum;

2. Welcomes the intention of the Council and Commission to publish statistics on immigration and asylum;
3. Stresses the need to monitor, and to carry out analyses of, migratory flows;
4. Welcomes proposals for improving visa security, improving cooperation on the issuing of visas and creating a database on visas;
5. Calls on the Council to take measures to enable data to be exchanged between Member States and Europol, including data on Eurodac files, in order to fight smuggling effectively;
6. Asks the countries of origin of illegal immigrants to strengthen their efforts to control migratory flows, and calls on the Council to encourage them, as well as the transit countries, to tackle human trafficking and terrorism, and to take back asylum seekers whose claims are manifestly unfounded and economic immigrants;
7. Invites the Council to support technical and financial measures to aid these countries with regard to the readmission of illegal immigrants and suggests that aid to countries that persist in allowing free passage to illegal immigrants or refuse to take back failed asylum seekers could be cut;
8. Regrets that the Eurodac fingerprint system is not yet operational and calls for its rapid entry into force;
9. Calls on the Commission and the Council to verify the extent of the implementation and the effectiveness of the measures proposed for the management of the external borders and to involve the candidate countries fully in these measures;
10. Notes, in particular, that the measures aimed at combating illegal immigration, improving border controls and cooperation with third countries will require adequate financial resources, under both the Community budget and the national budgets of the Member States;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Parliaments and Governments of the Member States and candidate countries.