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Strasbourg, 13 January 2003

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the debate on topical and urgent subjects of major importance pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by *Graham Watson, Cecilia Malmström, Ole Andersen*
on behalf of the ELDR Group

on the famine in North Korea

The European Parliament

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the KEDO programme and most particularly to its resolution adopted on 7 November 2002;
 - having regard to its resolution of 5 September 2002 on the Commission Communication on Europe and Asia: a strategic framework for enhanced partnerships (COM (2001) 469);
 - having regard to the fourth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), which took place in Copenhagen on 22-24 September 2002,
 - having regard to the Republic of Korea-EU joint communiqué issued after the first EU-Republic of Korea Summit, which took place in Copenhagen on 24 September 2002,
 - having regard to the Resolution of the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors of 6 January 2002 regarding the DPRK's nuclear activities and the Declaration by the EU Presidency on this issue on 7 January 2003;
 - having regard to the Council Conclusion of 19 November 2002 on the Korean Peninsula;
- A. whereas a series of natural disasters beginning in 1995 coupled with an economic downturn over the last decade have crippled DPR Korea's food security;
- B. whereas, according to a report by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO), it is now estimated that 13.2 million people (out of 23.2) in DPR Korea are malnourished;

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- C. whereas mounting tensions over North Korean's nuclear programme threatens to deepen a long running food crisis which has suffered from years of drought and economic mismanagement;
- D. whereas the UN's Food Agency has warned that it could run out of supplies for North Korea within weeks without fresh donations to feed millions who depend only on international aid;
- E. worried therefore, in particular, about the most vulnerable sections of the population such as children from six months to ten years, pregnant and nursing women, the elderly and those particularly affected by natural disasters and the economic downturn;
- F. whereas thousands of North Korean have fled across the Chinese borders in recent years fleeing from famine and political repression and concerned that Beijing has rejected appeals to treat them as refugees, insisting they are illegal economic immigrants;
- G. whereas almost 200 North Koreans have been allowed to leave China for South Korea after seeking asylum in foreign diplomatic missions in Beijing and other Chinese cities;
- H. concerned that China has put a South Korean and six other people (including the defendants) on trial on charges of smuggling 70 North Koreans out of their homeland;
- I. deeply concerned that the DPRK has admitted reactivating its nuclear development and missile export programme;
- J. worried also that the DPRK is conducting a clandestine uranium enrichment programme for military purpose;
- K. whereas North Korea has expelled International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors and disrupted verification activities following its move to restart its nuclear programme in defiance of obligations under its safeguards agreement with the IAEA;
- L. whereas the aim of EU policy towards North Korea must be to ensure respect for fundamental rights, democracy, the rule of law and the promotion of peace, stability and the economic development of the region;
- M. whereas the humanitarian situation and the respect for human rights in North Korea remain inadequate and whereas the EU must strengthen its efforts as one of the main humanitarian aid donor;
- 1. welcomes that the European Commission has adopted on 8 January 2003 a humanitarian aid decision worth 9,5 million Euro to help meet the winter needs of pregnant and nursing women and children in North Korea;

2. regrets the decisions by other international donors such as Japan and the US to reduce their Bulk Food Aid Programmes;
3. reiterates its principle that the EU humanitarian aid is needs-based and is allocated impartially and without conditions to victims of both natural and man-made crises;
4. calls on the Commission, its humanitarian aid office (ECHO) and the world food programme (WFP) to constantly monitor the delivery of aid in order to ensure that it goes to its intended recipients;
5. calls on North Korea to allow spot checks by the WFP to ensure that the delivery of aid is not diverted to the armed forces;
6. welcomes and supports South Korea's diplomatic constant efforts to promote the peace process in the Korean Peninsula;
7. takes note that North Korea has agreed to resume talks with the South Korean Government and strongly believes that dialogue is the best way to ease international tension and tackle the nuclear controversy;
8. welcomes Washington's willingness to engage in direct talks with North Korea to resolve the stand off over the country's nuclear programme;
9. strongly condemns Pyongyang's decision to quit the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT);
10. reiterates its call on the DPRK to take immediate steps to comply with its non-proliferation commitments to dismantle its nuclear and uranium enrichment programmes in a verifiable manner and to allow the return of the IAEA inspectors;
11. condemns North Korea's new threat to resume missile testing;
12. asks the DPRK to cease production of other weapons of mass destruction;
13. believes that such a programme is a serious breach of the North Korean commitments under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguard Agreement (IAEA), as well as the Joint Declaration by North and South Korea on Denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula and the Agreed Framework of 1994;
14. invites the Council and the Commission to be more active in the region and to confirm the importance of engaging the DPRK in the international community through constructive dialogue delivering concrete progress, which would greatly enhance the prospects for peace and security not only in North East Asia but in the world as a whole;
15. calls on the Commission and the Council to initiate permanent contacts with the Government of North Korea, with the collaboration of the UN, the Republic of Korea, Japan and the US and if possible in conjunction with the People's Republic of China, with a view to starting negotiations for a comprehensive solution to all outstanding problems;

16. calls on China to solve the question of North Korean refugees in accordance with international standards and the Geneva Convention on the statute of the refugees;
17. instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Republic of Korea, of Japan, of the United States, of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and of the People's Republic of China.