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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on world hunger and the elimination of barriers to trade with the poorest countries

by Colette Flesch, Marieke Sanders-Ten Holte and Elly Plooi-j-van Gorsel

on behalf of the ELDR Group

European Parliament resolution on world hunger and the elimination of barriers to trade with the poorest countries

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the results of the World Food Summit held in Rome in June 2002,
 - having regard to the declaration adopted by the Ministerial Conference in Doha,
 - having regard to Regulation (EC) No 2820/98 applying a multiannual scheme of generalised tariff preferences for the period 1 July 1999 to 31 December 2001, as amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 416/2001 (the 'Everything But Arms' (EBA) initiative),
- A. whereas 900 people around the world die of hunger every hour and 800 million people, including 300 million children, do not have sufficient food supplies,
- B. whereas the gap between the least-developed countries (LDCs) and other developing countries has grown even wider since the 1990s,
- C. whereas the World Food Summit set a deadline of 2015 by which to halve the number of people in the world who suffer from hunger,
- D. whereas that a recent study by the World Bank has shown that only through the liberalisation of international trade can over 320 million people escape poverty by the year 2015,
- E. whereas growing inclusion in world trade over recent decades has allowed many countries, especially in Asia, to establish and consolidate their development and to reduce poverty drastically,
- F. whereas the Commission's recent EBA initiative, which aims to eliminate the customs duties applied to the exports to the EU (apart from arms) of the 48 poorest countries in the world, is due to be implemented in stages until the end of 2009, but whereas this must be accompanied by other measures,
- G. whereas the EBA initiative will have a positive impact on market access for commodities from the LDCs,
- H. greatly concerned that many developing nations have not fully shared in the benefits of previous trade rounds,
- I. whereas, according to World Bank estimates, the high level of duties applied by the

developed countries to the products of the developing countries costs the latter around EUR 100 billion, which is twice the amount they receive in aid,

- J. having regard to the fundamental role of the primary sectors, and of agriculture in particular, in the economies of the poorest countries,
 - K. whereas agriculture in developing nations may be protected against low world market prices,
 - L. whereas, apart from market access issues, including the non-tariff aspects, the Community should also address supply-side constraints and competitiveness, trade-related areas, trade development measures, technology transfers, access to information and global networks, strategies to promote investment and private sector development,
1. Believes that the development of international trade is the most effective instrument in the campaign to bring about a drastic reduction in poverty, and can be even more so in the future, and calls for comprehensive private sector development strategies;
 2. Deplores the fact that the poorest countries have hitherto been denied access to rich markets;
 3. Believes that trade barriers, subsidies and other trade-distorting measures should be assessed with a view to their being reduced and calls for a relaunch of the EBA initiative in the form of its full application by the end of 2003 and its extension to a wider number of countries;
 4. Urges the European Council and the Commission to draw up an emergency plan to tackle the growing crisis involving famine and food shortages and help the LDCs to diversify their production and their exports;
 5. Calls on the Commission, along with the EU and ACP Ministers, to make food security and access to resources the main focus of negotiations on future ACP-EU trade systems;
 6. Draws attention to the joint ministerial declaration adopted in Doha, which called for the commencement of a 'development round' aimed at developing a 'fair and market-oriented trade system', in particular in the agricultural sector;
 7. Considers that, at the same time as it opens its markets to many products from the developing countries, the EU should move to abolish all trade-distorting subsidies, especially where they penalise agricultural exports from developing countries; calls on all developed countries to refrain from protectionism in favour of their own agricultural exports and to abide by the WTO rules on free trade;
 8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the WTO, the IMF, the World Bank and the UN.