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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

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

by Monica Frassoni, Paul Lannoye, Didier Rod, Heidi Anneli Hautala, Nelly Maes and Caroline Lucas

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

and Joaquim Miranda and Yasmine Boudjenah

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

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

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

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the UN report on food security in the developing countries, presented by the UN Special Rapporteur to the UN Commission on Human Rights in March 2002,
- having regard to the UN Conference on Trade and Development report of 2002 on the least-developed countries (LDCs), entitled 'Escaping the Poverty Trap',
- A. having regard to the drought which has affected many African countries, threatening the lives of millions of people,
- B. whereas the 1996 World Food Summit commitment to reduce the number of undernourished people by half by the year 2015 is far from being achieved,
- C. whereas, according to the 2002 UNCTAD report on the LDCs, the number of people living in extreme poverty has more than doubled over the last 30 years, rising from 138 million in the 1960s to 307 million in 1990, and whereas, if current trends persist, the number of people living on less than US \$1 a day will rise from 307 million to 420 million by 2015,
- D. whereas the persistence of the chronic hunger and widespread food deprivation suffered by the majority of the population in developing countries has undermined the right to food and nutritional well-being as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- E. whereas hunger, malnutrition and the exclusion of millions of people from access to food are the consequences of economic, agricultural and trade policies,
- F. whereas the current food crisis in many African countries is a result of economic policies being implemented by international institutions such as the World Bank, IMF and WTO in an effort to encourage developing countries to further liberalise trade and to pursue an economic strategy directed towards the external market,
- G. whereas the EU's 'Everything But Arms' initiative encourages competition between poor countries and has led to a fall in commodity prices as illustrated by the current coffee crisis, in the course of which prices have fallen by more than 50% over the last three years,
- H. whereas in Ethiopia, one of the largest coffee-exporting countries, where this commodity accounts for almost 60% of export earnings, a severe food shortage is affecting the population, whilst the country's income fell by US\$ 110 million in 2001 as a result of the collapse in the coffee price,

- I. whereas, whilst small coffee producers are obliged to sell at prices below their production costs, multinational companies such as Nestlé, Kraft, Sara Lee and Procter & Gamble, which purchase around half of the world's production, are making billions of dollars from brand coffee sales,
 - J. whereas some African countries have refused GMO food aid in the form of seeds, arguing that farmers may plant some of the seeds, which would have a disastrous impact on the environment, biodiversity and their exports to the EU market,
 - K. whereas biological diversity, sustainable agriculture and food security depend absolutely upon recognition of farmers' individual and collective rights to continue to use, conserve and develop genetic resources,
1. Considers that access to food and nutritional well-being is a basic right for the peoples of developing countries and calls for the implementation of the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the right to food and well-being;
 2. Believes that the fight against poverty and food insecurity must address the structural causes of poverty in the developing countries, and, accordingly, calls for: measures to foster access to land, water and the resources of biodiversity; measures to foster a policy of local support for sustainable agricultural smallholdings; and the cancellation of the debt which swallows more than 40% of the GNP of the LDCs;
 3. Calls for the elimination of subsidies for exports from industrialised countries which undermine local food production and considers that local farmers who lose business as a result of cheap imports should be compensated;
 4. Recognises the right of the people to define their own policies, priorities and strategies to enhance sustainable food production by mobilising their natural and human resources and local know-how;
 5. Considers that free trade agreements between unequal partners based on the removal of tariffs irrespective of the level of development achieved by a given country have exacerbated poverty and have an adverse impact on food security;
 6. Considers that the failure of the members of the World Trade Organisation to reach agreement in 2002, as required by the Doha Declaration on TRIPs and Public Health, on the issue of compulsory access to vital medicines sends out a very discouraging signal to the developing and least-developed countries about the priorities of trade negotiators; more significantly, it continues to provide an obstacle to the provision of urgently needed public health care in those countries;
 7. Reiterates its call for the introduction of a solidarity levy on wealth generated by international financial transactions with a view to financing developing countries and curbing the damage caused by globalisation;
 8. Calls for a full assessment of the impact of current trade liberalisation policies on food security in the poorest countries in the world and for the result of that assessment be used to formulate clear guidelines to address food security problems;

9. Considers that developing countries should protect their agriculture with a view to guaranteeing decent income for small farmers, increasing local production, guaranteeing food security and opening up markets on a selective basis, as was the case in Europe; considers that patents on seeds and genetic resources for food and agriculture threaten sustainable farming practices in developing countries and strengthen corporate monopolies over technologies, seeds, genes and medicines;
10. Calls on the EU to support the structural transformation of poor countries' economies, so that their production structures shift away from an export-led economy towards an intra-regional sustainable development strategy, taking into account people's real needs and with the aim of reducing dependency on industrialised countries and building domestic and regional markets;
11. Points out that fair trade between the North and the South entails paying a fair price for the resources and agricultural products of the developing countries, i.e. a price which reflects the internal and external costs, whilst respecting minimum criteria governing the working conditions and wages of the workforce and environmental protection;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Member States.