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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

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

by Danielle Auroi, Jan Dhaene, Monica Frassoni, Jillian Evans, Theodorus J.J. Bouwman, Alain Lipietz and Camilo Nogueira Román

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre and the World Economic Forum in Davos

European Parliament resolution on the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre and the World Economic Forum in Davos

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the call by worldwide social movements launched at the end of the 3rd World Social Forum on 27 January 2003,
 - having regard to the resolution on the International Parliamentary Network and its activities, adopted by the 3rd World Parliamentary Forum on 24 January 2003,
 - having regard to the resolution on the situation in Venezuela adopted by the 3rd World Parliamentary Forum on 24 January 2003,
 - having regard to the speeches by the President of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre on 24 January 2003 and at the World Economic Forum in Davos on 25 January 2003,
- A. having regard to the success, in terms both of numbers and of quality, of the 3rd World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, which was also hosting on the same occasion a world forum of local authorities, a world forum of judges, a world forum on education and the World Parliamentary Forum, with a total of 100 000 participants proposing the implementation of alternative strategies to the current neo-liberal globalisation,
- B. whereas, in the context of the imminent threat of war by the USA against Iraq, the World Social Forum took a clear and unequivocal position against the militarisation of conflicts and against a war with Iraq in particular,
- C. whereas the President of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, was present at both forums, in Porto Alegre and Davos, where he pleaded for the reconstruction of the world economic order, the redistribution of wealth, the fight against famine and for the promotion of education and dignity of life for all,
- D. having regard to the creation and strengthening of world social networks relating to water, renewable energies, agriculture, public services, cultural and linguistic diversity, debt, corporate responsibility, the regulation of maritime transport to prevent disasters such as the wreck of the *Prestige*, the WTO and the fight against religious and other fundamentalism, all seeking to make an adequate response to ill-managed globalisation,
1. Agrees with the Secretary-General of the UN, Kofi Annan, speaking to the business leaders and heads of government meeting in Davos, that the World Social Forum has become the most important expression of civil societies in the world and should be taken into account at political level;

2. Thanks the organisers of the World Social Forum and the World Parliamentary Forum in Porto Alegre and welcomes the spirit of openness and innovation which characterised the debates held there as well as the many ideas and strategies which emerged from the meetings, particularly the beginnings of a change of direction - in the face of neo-liberal globalisation with its negative consequences for the environment and for the majority of peoples on this planet - towards political internationalism and thus towards a need for international institutions; also welcomes the strengthening of links between the World Social Forum and the World Parliamentary Forum, as a preliminary to an international parliamentary network to voice the demands of social movements at legislative level;
3. Welcomes the speeches by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in Davos, emphatically criticising economic and financial globalisation and stressing the need for structural changes which will make it possible to establish a just and democratic world guaranteeing the right of peoples to determine their own future in a context of peace and international cooperation respecting their diversity; also stresses its opposition to one-way protectionism and the rhetoric of free trade which, in reality, only applies to poor countries and not to rich countries;
4. Strongly supports the firm position taken at the World Social Forum and the World Parliamentary Forum against the doctrine of a preventive war, a war in Iraq, the Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian territories, foreign military interference in Colombia, and other conflicts such as the destabilisation of democratic institutions in Venezuela;
5. Supports the initiative of the World Parliamentary Forum to send to Iraq a series of parliamentary delegations over the next few weeks with a view to stressing parliamentarians' radical opposition to war and to seek to organise a meeting with the UN Security Council and subsequently with the American Congress;
6. Supports the celebration of 15 February 2003 as an international action day against war, proposed at the World Social Forum in Florence and confirmed at the World Social Forum and the World Parliamentary Forum in Porto Alegre;
7. Supports the call by the World Parliamentary Forum for the application of the UN resolutions on the self-determination and independence of the Sahrawi people, in particular through the holding of a referendum;
8. Welcomes the undertaking of the parliamentarians at the World Parliamentary Forum to meet on the eve of the fifth ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at Cancun (Mexico) in September 2003 to show their clear support for the reform and adoption of new rules for the world trade and financial system, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the International Development Bank, in order to make them more democratic and subordinate them to social and environmental imperatives;
9. Supports the World Social Forum and the World Parliamentary Forum in reiterating the desirability of creating a 'Tobin Tax' on international financial transactions in order to build up a Third World development aid fund;

10. Reiterates its commitment to the protection of public services and the petition launched by the Members of the European Parliament and of national parliaments during the GATS (General Agreement on Trade and Services) negotiations within the WTO, which has garnered more than 215 signatures so far, and stresses that any negotiation must be transparent and subject to democratic control, and that the protection of public services applies to Europe as much as to the rest of the world;
11. Welcomes the position taken by the new Brazilian government in favour of an agricultural and rural reform entitled 'Zero Fome' (zero hunger), and supports the call made at Davos by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva to set up a World Fund against famine aimed at feeding under-nourished populations by encouraging the local production and consumption of foodstuffs;
12. Supports the call by smallholders' organisations meeting in Porto Alegre for the right to food sovereignty, and welcomes the declaration, under the auspices of UNICEF and the FAO, that seed forms part of the heritage of humanity, with a view to guaranteeing, by the use, trade and conservation of traditional and local varieties, the survival of small farmers, particularly in developing countries, and the preservation of bio-diversity, while stressing that the majority of people reject GMOs;
13. Calls on all social and parliamentary movements to make a date to meet in India, where the fourth World Social Forum and the fourth World Parliamentary Forum will be held;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and Council, the parliaments of the Member States and the organisers of the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre and the World Economic Forum in Davos.