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**- DRAFT -**

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the debate on topical and urgent subjects of major importance

pursuant to Rule 50(1) of the Rules of Procedure

by *Langenhagen & Jarzembowski*  
LANGENHAGEN & JARZEMBOWSKI  
on behalf of the PPE-ED Group

on the observer status of Taiwan in the 56<sup>th</sup> WHA

*[Handwritten signature]*

331.475

**Resolution on the observer status of Taiwan in the 56<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly (WHA)**

***The European Parliament,***

- having regard to its resolution of March 14, 2002 calling for an observer status of the Republic of China on Taiwan to be decided at the May 2002 annual meeting of the 55<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva;
  - having regard to the fact that good health is important to every citizen of the world and access to the highest standards of health information and services is necessary to improve the public health;
  - having regard to the benefit of direct and unobstructed participation in international health cooperation forums and programs for all parts of the world, especially with today's greater potential for the cross-boarder spread of various infectious diseases;
  - having regard to the fact that the World Health Organization has allowed observers to participate in the activities of the organization, including the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1974, the Order of Malta, and the Holy See in the early 1950's;
  - having regard that also the European Commission already declared being in favor of enhancing contacts between Taiwan and the WHO, insofar as WHO rules permit; furthermore the European Commission was willing to find a "practical solution" together with the Member States;
  - having regard that the WHO already sent two experts to Taiwan on May 3, which is necessary and appropriate;
  - having regard that Taiwan has in recent years expressed his willingness to assist financially and technically in international aid and health activities supported by the WHO;
- A. whereas in recent month a fatal disease appeared named Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) that has been classified by the WHO as a world wide health threat and brought out till May 4, 2003 alone in China officially more than 197 fatal casualties and more than 4.125 registered cases;
- B. whereas the Taiwan authorities sought advice and assistance from the WHO in an very early stage to combat this fatal disease because of non-information from the competent authorities from the People's Republic of China;
- C. whereas the People's Republic of China refused to openly work together with the competent departments of the WHO secretariat refraining from reporting fast and extensively its true number of people infected;
- D. whereas the success of the world wide efforts to prevent the SARS from spreading

requires a participation of all nations with affected areas in the global disease-combating network formed by the WHO;

1. believes that Taiwan`s experience in dealing successfully with important health issues at home can be of benefit not only regionally but also globally and that therefore Taiwan should be invited to participate in an appropriate and meaningful way in the next 56<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly meeting which takes place in Geneva on May 19 till 28, 2003;
2. considers that globalization eases the fast spreading of infectious diseases across the world which demands a special coordination of international investigations to discover the origin of the illness and a closely cooperation with health authorities in the affected countries to provide the epidemiological, clinical and logistical support like it is warranted by the WHO;
3. calls accordingly again on the World Health Assembly in Geneva to accept the observer status for Taiwan;
4. calls on the European Commission and the Members States to officially support the participation;
5. instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Member States, the Government of the People`s Republic of China, the US Government, the Government of Taiwan, the United Nations and the WHO.

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