

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

---

*Session document*

18 September 2003

B5-0402/2003

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

further to the Council and Commission statements

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

by Francis Wurtz

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the WTO at Cancún

**European Parliament resolution on the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the WTO at Cancún**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on WTO negotiations,
  - having regard to the Declaration by the International Parliamentary network and the Declaration by the Cancún sitting of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO,
  - A. whereas no agreement was reached at the WTO ministerial conference at Cancún,
  - B. whereas this WTO ministerial meeting was marked by demonstrations throughout the world,
  - C. whereas the despair felt by peasants yet again had received dramatic expression, in the shape of the suicide of the peasant leader Lee Kyung Hae, who had camped in front of the WTO headquarters in Geneva for over three months, in the hope that his organisation's demands would be listened to,
  - D. whereas the WTO fears the voice of social movement, and therefore organises its meetings in more and more inaccessible places,
  - E. whereas there was an active presence of members of parliament and, particularly of the International Parliamentary network, and the Cancún sitting of the parliamentary conference on the WTO;
1. Welcomes the large demonstrations provoked throughout the world by the WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancún; condemns the restrictions on access to the environs of the conference, and Mexico's refusal to give visas to various social leaders, and notably the peasant leader Evo Morales, a member of the Bolivian National Assembly;
  2. Criticises the joint position of the USA and the European Union, whose immoral and unacceptable insistence on linking export subsidies for agriculture products to the opening of negotiations on further liberalisation, particularly in the area of investment and public markets, contributed to the failure of the conference;
  3. Believes that like Seattle, Cancún has again demonstrated that what needs to be questioned is the very logic behind the WTO negotiations, particularly the tit-for-tat practice of trading one economic domain for another, and untrammelled liberalisation to the detriment of fair, balanced developed-oriented systems of trade which respect social rights, the environment and cultural diversity;

4. Asks for trade negotiations to be held in a genuinely multilateral democratic framework in future, respectful of other values and with other goals in view;
5. Believes that the failure to achieve a result at Cancún is due, above all, to the fact that the legitimate demands of the developing countries were not heeded, and that even the most essential points of the development agenda, such as agricultural trade, the clause on special and differentiated treatment and the implementation of earlier agreements all remained a 'dead letter' throughout the year preceding Cancún;
6. Believes that the mandate given to the Commission in 1999, i.e. before Seattle, is now null and void, and that a new mandate should be the result of a genuine democratic debate;
7. Believes that the European Union needs to draw the consequences of the failure of Cancún, and seek solid alliances with the developing countries, by implementing policies which will allow them truly to stimulate their economies, which have steadily deteriorated; calls for the right to full sovereignty to be specifically and properly recognised, and that systems establishing fair and stable prices for a product on which these countries depend for their basic revenue be established;
8. Welcomes the new coalitions which have merged between the southern countries and the African group, and the fact that these coalitions are seeking to lay the foundations for a new and promising form of resistance;
9. Welcomes the constant demonstrations and activities of the social movement to defend public services and essential public property, and to oppose the GATS negotiations;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Member States, the Directorate-General of the WTO and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.