

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

---

*Session document*

22 September 2003

B5-0404/2003

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

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

by Caroline Lucas, Paul A.A.J.G. Lannoye, Danielle Auroi, Jan Dhaene, Jillian Evans, Alain Lipietz, Didier Rod and Claude Turmes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the WTO in Cancun

**European Parliament resolution on the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the WTO in Cancun**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the collapse of negotiations at the Fifth World Trade Organisation Ministerial Conference in Cancun, Mexico,
- 1. Considers that the collapse of the Fifth WTO Ministerial negotiations in Cancun, and the consequent failure of the discredited Doha Agenda, provides a long overdue opportunity to rebuild the international trade rules and organisation from the bottom up, accountable to the United Nations;
- 2. Calls for such a new structure to be built on core values of equity, sustainable development, fair trade and ecological and social justice in place of the current priority of adherence to unfettered free trade;
- 3. Is convinced that the new structure must be the result of a democratic decision-making process among all WTO members and must be based on the best practice of good governance including full participation of, and accountability to, members; regards it as self-evident that the principles of inclusiveness and transparency must replace the WTO culture of secrecy and manipulation;
- 4. Considers it indispensable that the WTO dispute settlement mechanism be restructured and become subject to an external and independent Appellate Court;
- 5. Suggests that the European Union must carry an important share of the responsibility for the collapse of the Fifth Ministerial Conference because it totally miscalculated the mood of the negotiations, failed to listen to the voices of the developing world and continued to insist on its own priorities, notably on the Singapore issues, long after it was evident that it was virtually isolated;
- 6. Notes with dismay that one of the consequences of this miscalculation has been to permit the USA to avoid taking its share of responsibility for the failure, whilst leaving it free to continue with its damaging dumping practices and its unreformed agricultural support practices;
- 7. Suggests that the EU immediately take the initiative to bring together UN bodies like the FAO and the WHO, as well as the NGO community active in the field of food sovereignty strategies, to work out a road map for the establishment of fair trade rules on a multilateral basis, before any new negotiations on agriculture and food issues are put back on the WTO agenda;
- 8. Expresses its profound disappointment at the fact that the plea from the four West

African countries, amongst the world's poorest, for a fair deal for their primary cotton industry met with such an insulting rebuff, especially from the USA;

9. Applauds the growing sense of self-confidence amongst developing countries, especially in Africa, and considers that the emerging alliance between the poorer countries and the emerging economies of Brazil, India and China has provided the basis for a profound shift in international trade politics for the future; warns, however, that some of these countries have pushed for free trade and market access based on unsustainable production practices and export strategies which are not in the interest of the great majority of small farmers and the rural poor in the developing countries;
10. Insists that the Cancun collapse should not be treated by the EU and the WTO as just an unfortunate relapse, to be overcome in the near future by another attempt at the same formula, and in particular warns of the danger that the EU and USA will seek to achieve by other, bilateral, agreements what they could not achieve in the WTO, especially on investment;
11. 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 now be negotiated after full democratic debate; demands that all four of the Singapore issues be excluded from such a mandate and that the EU agree not to pursue any of the Singapore issues any further in any forum;
12. Considers that, as a necessary part of the re-thinking of the EU's external trade policy, it should immediately withdraw all demands made on other countries under the GATS services negotiations for liberalisation of water supply and other public services;
13. Expresses its very sincere condolences to the family, friends and farming colleagues of Lee Kyung-hae, who felt it necessary to sacrifice his own life to protest at the damage caused by the devastating impact of WTO policies on small farmers;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Member States, the Director-General of the WTO, the Secretary-General of the UN and the Honourable Ambassador of the Republic of Korea.