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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

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

by Francis Wurtz

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the legislative and work programme of the Commission for 2004

European Parliament resolution on the legislative and work programme of the Commission for 2004

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the legislative and work programme of the Commission for 2004,
 - having regard to the strategic objectives of the Commission for 2000-2005,
 - having regard to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the legislative and work programme constitutes a vital instrument for programming and coordinating the activities of the European Union in an efficient and transparent manner and in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity and to ensure the satisfactory functioning of the European institutions,
- B. whereas the legal procedures and the institutional division of powers cannot be sufficient to interest citizens in European integration,
- C. having regard to the importance of this work programme for the first year of membership of the ten new Member States,
- D. whereas the work programme of the Commission should respond to the aspirations of the citizens of the European Union in order to ensure economic progress, social justice and economic and social cohesion,
1. Welcomes the closer coordination among the three institutions in the context of the new procedure, but considers that this interinstitutional coordination and dialogue should be further improved, particularly to justify the choice of the legislative instruments and legal basis for each proposal; hopes in particular that the European Parliament will be more closely involved in the drafting of the work programme;
 2. Considers that the priority objectives of the Commission's programme are a logical continuation of the Community policies implemented hitherto, which have substantially contributed to the rise in unemployment, thus alienating citizens from European integration;
 3. Notes that the main priorities of the key initiatives, legislative proposals and non-legislative acts are the accession of the new Member States, stability and sustainable growth;
 4. Is anxious to make remarks and proposals concerning the priorities of the Commission for 2004;

Accession of the new Member States

5. Notes the Commission's commitment to guarantee that all parties involved in the enlargement process will be able to live up to their responsibilities; considers that this commitment also applies to the European Union, which must provide appropriate support to the candidate countries, taking better account of their strong points and of their difficulties;
6. Calls for the future Member States to be allowed a certain flexibility as regards compliance with the *acquis communautaire* and special support to safeguard or restore their public services, which are vital assets for the purpose of their economic and social development;
7. Is concerned about the violations of human rights and the rights of minorities and the prevalence of corruption in certain future Member States; insists that freedom of information, expression and organisation be guaranteed, that the rights of minorities be respected and that corruption be combated more effectively;
8. Calls for the necessary measures to be taken to ensure economic and social cohesion in the enlarged European Union by increasing funding of the countries, regions and sectors most affected;
9. Deplores in particular the fact that the Commission has postponed until 2004 the adoption of the Financial Perspectives for the years after 2006; calls for them to be significantly increased to cope with the impact of the accession of the new Member States;
10. Is concerned about the process of dismantling of social protection and flexibilisation of the labour market which has been undertaken in certain Member States; calls for the greatest possible attention to be devoted to social issues and equality between men and women, involving social actors more closely;
11. Considers that Turkey still does not meet the Copenhagen criteria; calls on the Turkish authorities to continue the current reforms and implement them, particularly so as to put an end to all human rights violations and recognise the rights of the Kurdish people, a priority being the release of Leyla Zana and the three former Members of Parliament representing the DKP party;
12. Calls on the Commission to continue the accession negotiations with Bulgaria and Romania, so that they can accede in 2007;

Stability

13. Notes the initiatives taken regarding cooperation with neighbouring countries; calls on the Commission to ensure that these initiatives are free of any spirit of domination and are not governed by the principle of free trade, the aim being to create an area of peace, stability and reduction of inequalities;
14. Is not satisfied with the implementation of the decisions of the EU-Russia summit; considers that they should be supplemented by new and stronger initiatives to put an end

to the military occupation of Chechnya and the atrocities which have accompanied it and to contribute to a political solution to the conflict;

15. Notes the preparation of a partnership agreement relating to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro; calls for this cooperation to take account of the needs and aspirations of the peoples of these countries;
16. Regrets that no precise initiative has been announced regarding the Middle East; hopes that the Commission will contribute more actively to the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, particularly by fully supporting the implementation of the 'Geneva initiative' and bringing pressure to bear on Israel to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations;
17. Notes the stepping-up of measures against organised crime and fraud; calls for more effective measures to be adopted against money laundering, tax evasion and trafficking in human beings;
18. Calls on the Commission to contribute to the organisation of an international conference on measures against money laundering, which might result in new rules based on transparency of economic life (in particular, the abolition of banking secrecy) and the elimination of all tax havens, including those within the European Union;
19. Reiterates its condemnation of all forms of terrorism; calls for the war on terrorism to be conducted in such a way as to respect human rights and democracy, international law, the European Convention on Human Rights and the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations;
20. Criticises the proposals for 'managing the common borders effectively', which are based solely on utilitarian considerations, security concerns and repression, transforming victims from poor countries into suspects and equating refugees and asylum-seekers with illegal immigrants;
21. Condemns the introduction of 'European charter flights' to expel aliens; stresses that 'collective expulsions' are prohibited by the European Convention on Human Rights and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;
22. Calls on the Commission to promote immigration and asylum policies which respect human rights, based on free movement of persons and improvements to the right of asylum, protection of refugees and the conditions for reception of immigrants;

Sustainable growth

23. Considers that the accession of new Member States to the European Union necessitates firstly the implementation of social policies which will make it possible to improve the living and working conditions of employees and to combat social dumping and secondly a revision of economic and monetary policies, particularly a redefinition of the tasks and powers of the European Central Bank;
24. Considers that the Commission's proposals do not meet these objectives and that they are

likely to aggravate competition between economies and regions;

25. Calls on the Commission to initiate a revision of the Stability Pact so as to transform it into a genuine growth, employment and training pact, promote public expenditure for social purposes and take better account of economic trends and the budgetary difficulties of Member States;
26. Deplores the fact that the Commission undertakes to continue the liberalisation decided upon by the Lisbon and Barcelona European Councils, refusing to take account of the lessons to be learned from recent experiences; reiterates its call for a pluralist evaluation, with a hearing given to contrary opinions, of the impact of liberalisation on employment, working conditions, services to users and land use; calls, pending the results of this evaluation and acting in accordance with the lessons learned from the rejection of the directive on port services, for the liberalisation process to be halted and for public services to be promoted and cooperate;
27. Calls for the Lisbon strategy to be redefined and redirected, so that it does not lead to reforms of the labour market and of pension, health and unemployment insurance systems which are detrimental to employees;
28. Calls on the Commission, in the context of the implementation of the second half of the Social Policy Agenda, to propose new directives on social affairs which increase the rights and powers of workers and trade unions, particularly in the event of mergers and restructuring;
29. Regrets that the Commission has not submitted any new legislative proposal in the field of health and safety at work, although there is an urgent need for new directives concerning new risks and to update existing directives so as to tackle current challenges;
30. Regrets that the Commission is not displaying a more active commitment to equality between men and women; calls for new proposals concerning unemployment among women, the feminisation of poverty, unequal treatment, and integrating equality between women and men into all Community policies;
31. Calls on the Commission to propose the introduction of a tax on short-term capital movements (a 'Tobin tax') in order to help rein in speculation;
32. Notes the Commission's reiterated commitment to a 'strategy for sustainable development'; calls for stronger measures to integrate environmental issues into all other Community policies and stronger measures to secure full compliance with commitments entered into at international conferences; hopes that better use will be made of the state of the art in the field of environmental technology and research and that funding of clean technologies will be increased;
33. Welcomes the reaffirmed objective of 3% of GDP for investment in research in Europe; awaits fresh proposals for the purpose of attaining this objective, which must be based on better cooperation between research institutes and universities and greater participation by researchers in drawing up, implementing and monitoring research programmes;

34. Deplores the absence of any reference to cultural affairs, sport and tourism; calls on the Commission to step up aid programmes in the field of culture so as to preserve and promote the diversity and richness of the cultures of the countries of Europe;
35. Calls on the Commission to propose a directive on concentration of media ownership to enforce respect for freedom of information, which is increasingly under threat in many Member States;
36. Asks to be consulted about the Commission's new proposals relating to forthcoming WTO negotiations;
37. Calls on the Commission to contribute more effectively to cancellation of the debts of developing countries, particularly in connection with the mid-term review of the Cotonou Agreement, and to play a more active role in international negotiations with the aim of helping to set equitable prices on the world market and prevent deterioration in the terms of trade;

Analysis of impact

38. Notes the introduction of a 'new integrated procedure for impact assessment of all its major initiatives'; considers that this method remains inadequate to ensure transparency and communication with European citizens on the anticipated impact of legislation;
39. Considers, in the light of experience, that the Commission rarely acts on its commitments concerning the impact assessments which should be performed before any new legislative proposal is submitted;
40. Stresses once again that the Commission must assess the impact on employment, social conditions, the environment and land use of any new legislative proposal and assess the impact of the implementation of previous decisions (for example on liberalisation);
41. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the present and future Member States.