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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 conclusions of the European Council of 12 and 13 December 2003

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European Parliament resolution on the conclusions of the European Council of 12 and 13 December 2003

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the conclusions of the European Council of 12 and 13 December 2003,
- having regard to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure,

Economic and social affairs

1. Is alarmed at the economic slowdown in the EU, particularly in the euro zone, rising unemployment and widening inequalities, which to a large degree are the result of the economic and monetary policies pursued within the EU;
2. Takes note of the launch of the European Action for Growth, which is based on a programme of large-scale Community transport and communication projects;
3. Regrets that these projects are geared almost exclusively towards large-scale infrastructure with a view to enhancing trade in an enlarged Europe; call for them also to help bring about improvements in education, training and environmental protection;
4. Welcomes the fact that implementation of these projects is supposed to go hand in hand with the objective of investing 3% of gross domestic product in research by 2010;
5. Notes that the list of selected projects represents investment in the order of EUR 220 billion between now and 2020; fears, however, that it may not be possible to fund them, chiefly because of the constraints imposed on national budgets by the Stability Pact and the shortfall in the financial perspective at Community level;
6. Notes the EIB's commitment to provide EUR 90 billion – including EUR 40 billion for transport – for this growth initiative by 2010;
7. Notes that it will be difficult to mobilise private capital for large-scale, long-term investments; fears, therefore, that profitability concerns will mean that the use of private funding will primarily benefit short-term investments;
8. Asks to be consulted before these projects get under way; calls on the Council to take account of its proposals;
9. Takes note of the Social Summit held in Brussels on 11 December, bringing together the leaders of European trade unions and employers' organisations; believes, however, that the summit failed to come up with any specific solution to combat unemployment and improve the situation of workers;
10. Believes that the accession of new countries to the EU will entail, on the one hand,

implementing social policies to improve workers' living and working conditions and combat social dumping and, on the other hand, revising economic and monetary policies, including revising the Stability Pact and redefining the tasks and powers of the European Central Bank;

11. Notes the European Council's recognition of the fact that 'economic growth is insufficient and unemployment is much too high'; regrets that it is focusing primarily on enhancing the competitiveness of European businesses and is not concerned about workers' living and working conditions;
12. Notes with interest the forthcoming report on de-industrialisation to be presented by the Commission in the first half of 2004; expects this report to yield proposals on ways of combating restructuring and relocations, which have devastating effects on employment and regional planning; calls in particular for the rights and powers of workers and their trade unions to be bolstered, especially in response to mergers and to restructuring, mergers and acquisitions;
13. Welcomes the nomination of a European candidate site to host ITER and supports all efforts to ensure that this site is chosen at the international meeting in Washington on 19 December;
14. Regrets the emphasis placed by the European Council on ensuring that workers are adaptable and employable as part of a labour market reform based on flexibility and wage restraint; calls for the Lisbon Strategy to be redefined and given a new focus, so as to prevent it from leading to further liberalisation and to reform of the labour market and of pension, health and unemployment insurance systems under which workers lose out;
15. Notes that the European Council has deemed it necessary to pursue further ways of ensuring that the EU abides by its commitments on climate change; believes that this is vital, in view of the lacklustre conclusions of the United Nations Conference on climate change, which ended in Milan on 12 December; expects other parties – notably the United States and Russia – to take fresh decisions enabling the Kyoto Protocol finally to come into force;

Freedom, security and justice

16. Regrets that the European Council has welcomed the decisions taken on immigration and asylum, which are based on expediency, security concerns and coercion (management of external borders, control of migratory flows, readmission agreements with third countries);
17. Condemns the introduction of 'European charters' to expel foreigners; points out that such collective expulsions are officially prohibited under the European Convention on Human Rights and the Charter of Fundamental Rights;
18. Calls for the guidelines on immigration and asylum to be revised in order to promote immigration and asylum policies that respect human rights and are based on the free movement of persons, improvements to the right to asylum, the protection of refugees and the maintenance of reception conditions for immigrants;

19. Calls in particular for directives on asylum to comply fully with the Geneva Convention and the protocol thereto;
20. Takes note of the measures taken to fight terrorism and organised crime; calls for human rights and democracy to be upheld in this fight;
21. Is concerned at the rise in xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitism; notes the Council's resolve to combat racially motivated acts of violence; calls for a fresh measures at national and Community level to combat all forms of anti-Semitism, as well as acts of intolerance against Muslims;

Enlargement

22. Takes note of the measures taken to ensure that the ongoing negotiations with Bulgaria and Romania result in the accession of these countries in 2007;
23. Notes that Croatia has submitted its application, and expects the other countries in the Balkans to follow suit;
24. Takes note of the outcome of the Turkish Cypriot elections of 14 December, which ought to help pave the way for a settlement to be found to the division of Cyprus; welcomes the European Council's insistence on the need for 'an immediate resumption of the talks' on the reunification of the island on the basis of the most recent proposals put forward by the United Nations Secretary-General;
25. Believes that a settlement of the Cyprus issue should help Turkey's application for EU membership; urges the Turkish authorities to withdraw their troops from northern Cyprus so as to pave the way for the resumption of negotiations on a just, viable and workable settlement, in line with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions;
26. Calls on a Turkish authorities to pursue and implement the reforms under way, especially as regards respect for human rights and recognition of the rights of the Kurdish people; renews its call for the release of Leyla Zana and three former DEP members of parliament;

External relations

27. Notes the European Council's support for the Road Map and the Geneva Peace Initiative for a solution to the conflict in the Middle East, and calls on the Council and Member States to push more actively for the proper implementation thereof;
28. Calls on the Council and Member States to do their utmost to ensure that the Israeli Government abides by its commitments; calls on the Israeli Government to dismantle its settlements and to halt construction of the 'separation wall', which is a barrier to implementation of the peace plans;
29. Calls for Saddam Hussein to be tried in Iraq by an Iraqi court; calls on the Council and the governments of the Member States to take steps to end the occupation and the presence of foreign troops so as to enable the Iraqi people to assert its sovereign right to determine its

own future and exploit its own wealth;

30. Notes the European Council's conclusions on the reconstruction of Iraq, but regrets its failure to protest at the Pentagon's decision to restrict involvement in reconstruction projects to those helping occupy Iraq alongside the Anglo-American coalition;
31. Regards the European Council's declaration on transatlantic relations as highly inadequate, since it refrains from making any criticism whatsoever of the United States and the unilateral stances it maintains across the board;
32. Regrets that the European Council has failed to address the issue of detainees at Guantanamo Bay; calls for them to be granted a fair trial and for this issue to be placed on the agenda of the next EU-US summit;
33. Regrets that the European Council has failed to object to the absence of any reference to human rights and women's rights in the draft Afghan constitution drawn up by the Loya Jirga, or Grand Council; urges the Afghan authorities to ensure that women's rights are fully recognised in the future constitution;
34. Regrets that the European Council has failed to address the issue of Western Sahara; calls on the Irish Presidency to exert pressure on Morocco to follow the example of the Polisario Front and agree to full implementation of the latest version of the United Nations peace plan;

CFSP/ESDP

35. Is concerned at the agreement given by the European Council to the European security strategy proposed by Javier Solana, especially as regards the establishment of a 'cell with civil/military components' and the preparation of 'European Union operations having recourse to NATO assets and capabilities'; deplores this concept of a European security policy based on a military dimension close aligned to NATO and an increase in military expenditure by Member States;
36. Opposes war as a means of settling international disputes; believes that the EU's security policy must be based on conflict prevention and dispute settlement under which international law and the principles of the United Nations Charter are upheld;
37. Notes the European Council's adoption of the EU strategy against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
38. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the current and future EU Member States.