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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled for the debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by Brian Crowley

on behalf of the UEN Group

on respect for labour rights in the production of Olympics sports goods

PE 344.756

B5-0210/2004

European parliament resolution on respect for labour rights in the production of Olympics sports goods

The European parliament,

- having regard to the principles of the ILO,
- having regard to the EU and OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises,
- having regard to the UN Norms on the Responsibilities of Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises with Regard to Human Rights,
- having regard to the Commission communication on 'Promoting core labour standards and improving social governance in the context of globalisation' (COM(2001) 416),
- having regard to the Commission communication (COM(2001) 366) and to its own resolution of 30 May 2002 on the Green Paper on promoting corporate social responsibility,
- having regard to the Fundamental Principles of the Olympic Charter which states that Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy found in effort, the educational value of good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles,
 - A. whereas the Olympics movement has yet to pledge commitment to respect core labour rights to the millions of workers who make its products,
 - B. whereas the IOC Charter has yet to include core labour rights in its ethical code and commissions,
 - C. whereas there is growing consumer concern about certain abusive employment and working conditions which are prevalent in the global supply chain of some sportswear brands,
 - D. whereas precarious employment among women workers can perpetuate poverty, hamper development and gender equity, is unsustainable and is a violation of human dignity,
 - E. whereas many sportswear companies which have pledged voluntary ethical codes of conduct have yet to integrate them into their core business practices and sourcing strategies for their global supply chains,
 - F. whereas some leading sportswear companies and socially responsible investment firms have acknowledged that the current business and labour practices in the global supply chain are unsustainable,
- 1. Urges sportswear companies to adopt sourcing policies that call for suppliers and their sub-contractors to respect internationally recognised labour standards including all of the human rights standards identified by the ILO as being the fundamental rights at work

plus the right to a living wage based on a regular working week, humane working hours with no forced overtime and a safe and healthy workplace free from harassment;

2. Calls upon the Commission, in the run up to the Olympics, to ask the key players of the world sportswear and athletic footwear industry – sportswear brands, the World Federation of Sporting Goods Industry, and the IOC – to commit to a sectoral solution which aims to eliminate any exploitation and abuse of workers producing sportswear and athletic footwear in the world today;
3. Calls upon suppliers and manufacturers of sportswear and athletic footwear to adopt labour practices and rights that provide working conditions that comply with international labour standards and national labour legislation;
4. Call upon the European Commission to work with the ILO to convince the IOC of the need to include respect for internationally accepted labour rights in its fundamental principles, the Olympic charter, and its Code of Ethics and to insist that the IOC require that, as a contractual condition in its licensing, sponsorship and marketing agreements labour practices and working conditions involved in the production of IOC branded products comply with internationally recognised labour standards including all of the human rights standards identified by the ILO as being the fundamental rights;
5. Urges the World Federation of Sporting Goods Industry to promote publicly the necessity to end the exploitation and abuse involved in the sportswear and athletic footwear industries and to come forward with positive and identifiable measures for a sectoral solution;
6. Calls on the Commission to report to the European Parliament before the end of July on the steps and measures taken on this resolution;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Member and accession States, the Commission, IOC, the WFSGI and the ILO.