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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

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on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre and the World Economic Forum in Davos

European Parliament resolution on the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre and the World Economic Forum in Davos

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the appeal made by social movements following the fifth World Social Forum, which has taken place in Porto Alegre,
- having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the resolution of the International Parliamentary Network, which has held its fifth World Parliamentary Forum in Porto Alegre,
- A. whereas the fifth World Social Forum brought together 155 000 people, from 135 countries, and many young people in particular, who want to build alternatives to neo-liberalism and oppose war, as was highlighted by the vast march for peace which opened the forum,
- B. whereas the World Social Forum and the World Parliamentary Forum, but also the Judges Forum, the Local Authorities Forum, the World Education Forum and the World Forum for the Dignity of Persons Excluded and Discriminated Against have issued clear and powerful messages that cannot be ignored,
- C. whereas the World Social Forum has enabled social movements to coordinate their actions with each other to a greater extent and propose alternatives to neo-liberalism, with a view to solidarity between peoples,
- D. whereas the participants at that meeting wanted to reaffirm the importance of sustainable development and poverty reduction for the entire planet and point up citizens' determination to be involved in decision-taking at all levels,
- E. whereas South America, which hosted the World Social Forum, is characterised by a powerful movement building alternatives to neo-liberal policies, which find tangible expression in:
 - the fight to safeguard public water services, with the victory in the referendum on the non-privatisation of water in Uruguay, and the struggles against multinationals in Bolivia, Argentina and elsewhere;
 - the effort to achieve regional integration (Mercosur and Andean region) as an alternative to the free-trade areas proposed by the United States (FTA) and the European Union;
 - the attempts by the Brazilian Government to pursue social policies in spite of its external-debt difficulties and burden;

- the building of a participatory democracy, control over oil resources and the development of social programmes in Venezuela;
 - the search for a political solution and rejection of the ‘Colombia Plan’ by means of which the United States is seeking to militarise and destabilise the region,
- F. whereas the 35th World Economic Forum has been held in Davos, mainly bringing together transnational corporation chiefs and politicians, religious leaders and a limited number of NGOs, and, on the face of it, publicised key issues, identified at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, concerning the increase in inequality, the destruction of the environment and climate change,
1. Takes the view that the 2005 World Social Forum in Porto Alegre is a fresh powerful demonstration of the rejection of war and the neo-liberal policies which are its economic counterpart and a powerful affirmation of the need for policies to be rooted in the values of solidarity and liberty, justice and rights, peace, democracy and participation, and the pre-eminence of development, respect for the environment and cultural diversity over profit;
 2. Welcomes the quantitative and qualitative success of the Porto Alegre Social Forum, the free and open nature of the debates and the huge degree of participation in the Forum and rallying actions; welcomes the fact that it has made it possible to strengthen the links between social movements, in particular trade unions, farmers’ organisations, women’s organisations and NGOs, and, in particular, that it has helped to expand the world environment for alternatives;
 3. Backs the rejection, by the WSF and the WPF, of water privatisation and is in favour of recognising water access as a universal human right; proposes that a delegation be sent to the second Alternative World Water Forum (FAME 2005) taking place from 17 to 20 March in Geneva, and that there should be participation in World Water Day on 22 March 2005;
 4. Backs the stances by the WSF and WPF against war and against using the fight against terrorism as a pretext for warmongering purposes, with the aim of restricting liberties, and their call for the United Nations to be strengthened and democratised; endorses the proposal to make 19 March World Rejection of War Day;
 5. Reaffirms the need to observe the sovereignty of the Iraqi people and to withdraw the occupying forces from Iraq;
 6. Calls on the Commission to step up its efforts to promote a just and lasting solution to the conflict in the Middle East by negotiating a firm and final peace agreement, in line with the road map for peace, with no preconditions, on the basis of the existence of two democratic, viable and sovereign states - Israel and Palestine - in peaceful coexistence;
 7. Backs the proposal by the International Parliamentary Network to send a pluralist parliamentary delegation to Columbia to help in the search for a negotiated solution to what is a conflict sustained by the United States, which is threatening to militarise the region and set it ablaze;

8. Backs the call made both by the World Social Forum and by the World Parliamentary Forum to cancel developing countries' external debt, reform the international financial institutions, exert greater control over transnational corporations' intrigues and introduce a fairer trading system enabling the inequality gap between rich and poor countries to be bridged rather than widened further;
9. Backs the proposal made in Porto Alegre, and taken up in Davos, to introduce a United-Nations-managed fund financed by a tax on capital speculation to help combat poverty and hunger;
10. Backs the call made by the WSF and the WPF to acknowledge the priority to be given to food security, public health and safeguarding the environment and biodiversity over the logic of profit;
11. Backs the calls by farmers' and indigenous people's organisations and by civil platforms, in particular the 'Chapecó Appeal' and the 'Dakar Declaration', for governments to shoulder their responsibilities with regard to agrarian reforms and the establishment of trading policies allowing farmers to survive and allowing food sovereignty;
12. Joins in the call by the World Parliamentary Forum for the successful conclusion, within UNESCO, of the negotiations on the international convention on cultural diversity so as to shield the various forms of cultural expression in which identity is rooted from the exclusively commercial rules of the WTO and GATS;
13. Deplores the fact that, as part of the Davos World Economic Forum, the Swiss Government organised a WTO ministerial mini-meeting, limited to a number of countries, and excluding all others, in order to put the Millennium Round back on track after the failures in Seattle and Cancun;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.