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

by Francis Wurtz, Helmuth Markov, Eva-Britt Svensson and Roberto Musacchio

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the 25th anniversary of Solidarity and its message for Europe
European Parliament resolution on the 25th anniversary of Solidarity and its message for Europe

The European Parliament,

– having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. Recalling the struggle by workers in the Gdansk shipyard and other political and social forces in Poland in 1980 against the deterioration of economic and social conditions and for fundamental political changes in Polish society with a view to democracy;

B. Deeply deploring the fact that the encouraging struggle by the social movement in Poland was oppressed by the ruling political party a short time later with the introduction of martial law instead of leading to dialogue on the necessary political, economic and social reforms for Polish society;

C. Recalling that the immediate demands of the independent self-governed trade union Solidarność in 1980 focused on higher wages, lower pension ages (55 for women, 60 for men), and improvements to the health and child care systems; deeply deploring the fact that these social demands were never met;

D. Recalling that the first congress of Solidarność in 1981 called for an overall political reform of society in Poland based on workers' self-management, participatory planning and economic democracy, collective ownership of means of production and political democracy with the aim of achieving a self-governed republic;

E. Deploring the fact that the new Solidarność, created in 1989, did not pursue these aims but advocated a free market economy, privatisation and liberalisation;

F. Taking note of the fact that the Gdansk shipyard was privatised in the 1990s and more than two-thirds of its staff were dismissed;

G. Taking note of the open letter to the European Parliament dated 15 November 2004 from Andrzej Gwiazda, one of the leaders of the Solidarność movement in 1980, and others about the development of Solidarność;

1. Highlights the courageous fight of the Solidarność movement in 1980 for democracy, social and civil rights and freedoms; reaffirms its commitment to the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men;

2. Stresses the important role that social movements, associations, trade unions citizens' networks, etc. play in society and calls upon all European institutions to support and cooperate much more closely with them;
3. Deplores the fact that over the past 20 years, in particular after the closure and privatisation of enterprises in Poland, trade union membership in Poland dropped from 80% of the workforce to 14% and that Poland currently has one of Europe's lowest levels of trade union membership;

4. Stresses the need to strengthen in Poland as in other eastern European countries the trade unions as cornerstones of the European social model and a well-functioning social dialogue at national and European level and participatory democracy in general;

5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Government and Parliament of Poland.