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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Article 6 of Annex IV to the Rules of Procedure

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on total rejection of the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2006

European Parliament resolution on total rejection of the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2006

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft budget for the financial year 2006 established by the Council and to the second reading thereof,
- having regard to the first reading of the budget for the financial year 2006,
- having regard to the general compromise reached on 24 November 2005 under the conciliation procedure,
- having regard to Rule 69 of, and Article 6 of Annex IV to, its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas Europe is faced with the following challenges:

- a slowdown in economic growth,
- the declining competitiveness of European firms in comparison with American and Asian firms,
- unemployment and the growing stratification of society into rich and poor,
- the lack of the will and ideas required to boost the economies of the new Member States, the creation of a 'two-speed' Europe and the resulting increase in the backwardness and economic dependency of the post-communist countries,
- the insistence by EU leaders on the accession of Turkey, an idea rejected by most citizens, when at the same time there is no will or strategy, and thus no programme, to promote the accession of Ukraine,

B. whereas the 2006 budget makes no attempt to resolve any of the above issues but pursues the same strategy as in past years and will thus lead to still slower growth and further socially and economically damaging developments,

C. whereas budget expenditure for 2006 is structured in almost exactly the same way as in previous years, which means that large sums will be spent on measures of limited economic effectiveness while at the same time there will be a lack of resources for research and development, major infrastructure projects and programmes to assist regions and countries that are lagging behind,

D. whereas the size and structure of the 2006 budget take no account whatsoever of the fact that the EU has been enlarged to include 10 new Member States or of the economic and social impact of the enlargement, which is reflected mainly in different economic development and consumption levels,

E. whereas the draft budget also fails to take sufficient account of the fact that as from 2007

the EU will take in two more poor countries,

- F. whereas the 2006 budget includes a list of needless expenditure on a whole range of advisory services, promotional campaigns and such like, together with higher expenditure on administration and bureaucracy; whereas instead of streamlining and simplifying procedures, the solutions adopted make them more cumbersome and complex,
1. Regards the 2006 draft budget as a bad budget, at odds with fundamental notions such as rapid economic growth, social harmony and solidarity with regions and countries that are lagging behind;
 2. Rejects the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2006 for the reasons set out above;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission, and to the Parliaments of the Member States.