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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on statements by the Council and Commission

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

by Bruno Gollnisch, Petre Popeangă and Carl Lang

on behalf of the ITS Group

on preparations for the European Council of 8 and 9 March 2007

European Parliament resolution on preparation of the European Council of 8 and 9 March 2007

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the objectives set out at the Lisbon Summit in 2000,
 - having regard to the German Presidency's objectives for the first half of 2007,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. having regard to the document drawn up by the ECOFIN Council, which stresses the following points in particular: using periods of growth to implement structural reforms and continue budgetary consolidation, achieving a fair balance between public expenditure and taxation, opening a reflection on direct taxation, reducing the administrative burden for businesses, and warning some States about their low productivity and innovation,
- B. whereas the fall in unemployment in Europe (to 7.6% of the European Union's active population, but with 17 million still unemployed) is due essentially to cyclical factors (an increase in the number of assisted – and often insecure – contracts, particularly for young people) and favourable demographic conditions (retirement of baby boomers and fewer new arrivals on the job market),
- C. whereas the growth rate in the European Union was 2.6% in 2006, as opposed to 3.6% in the United States, over 10% in China and 9% in India, making the European Union the weakest of all the world's great economic powers,
- D. whereas the Lisbon criteria for 2010 set out in March 2000 by the Heads of State and Government are still far from being achieved, particularly as regards employment rates of people between 15 and 64 (70%), women (60%) and older workers (50%),
- E. whereas research in the European Union is at a standstill and the target of 3% of GDP will certainly not have been achieved by 2010, owing to the budgetary stability pact, which rules out investment that contributes to making our economies up to date and competitive,
- F. deploring the fact that the strong euro penalises businesses that export outside the European Union, just as the raising of interest rates by the ECB penalises businesses and private individuals in Europe,
1. Takes the view that the German Presidency's objectives, apart from that of reducing administrative and bureaucratic constraints, which is a necessary objective, are directed towards an economic and social liberalism (total liberalisation of postal services, diversified energy policy, opening telecommunications to competition, etc.) which is not subscribed to by all the Member States;

2. Takes the view that the ECB, because of its policy of concentrating solely on fighting inflation, is holding back economic growth in Europe and preventing a policy of major projects based on borrowing or the budget deficit;
3. Stresses that the rate of 3% of the budget deficit set by the Maastricht Treaty for the budgetary stability pact is unrealistic and is not based on any coherent macroeconomic criterion or economic cycle;
4. Takes the view that only a policy of reasonable protectionism and adjustable customs duties can prevent the death of our industries and agriculture, and, in the very near future, relocation of our service industries;
5. Is concerned at the problem of funding pensions and social protection which will become acute in the years ahead, given Europe's ageing population;
6. Takes the view that the way to keep the working population at its current level is not to call on a non-European immigrant population, but rather to raise retirement age, to develop the manual, artisanal and agri-foodstuff industries and training opportunities in these industries, which are currently sorely lacking in new recruits, and, of course, to promote a major pro-family and pro-birth policy;
7. Condemns the far-fetched and entirely baseless figures of both the UN and the World Bank on Europe's immigrant labour needs (79 million people by 2050, according to the World Bank);
8. Condemns the European Commission's Malthusian policies, which makes us increasingly dependent on the world beyond Europe for our economic development and security of food and energy supply;
9. Reaffirms the principle of Community preference as one of the essential principles of European solidarity and of the necessary realisation by Europeans that they belong to a single geographical ensemble made up of sovereign Nations;
10. Takes the view that the public services are part of the culture of some Member States and, this being the case, that they must be defended and modernised and cannot be opened to competition by the European Commission, which is the guardian of the public interest;
11. Takes the view that food safety and health protection should be one of the German Presidency's priorities, particularly with the return of the H5N1 virus and avian flu;
12. Is surprised that neither the Commission nor the Council expresses opposition to relocation outside the European Union of businesses and company headquarters, which endangers thousands of jobs in regions already hit by unemployment and deprives the States of substantial tax revenue;
13. Takes the view that the relaunch of the WTO and the Doha Round cannot take place at just any price, and that whatever happens the CAP must not be used as an adjustment variable for any agreement with the United States and the emerging nations;

14. Vigorously opposes any attempt by the Council to attack direct taxation, a sovereign prerogative of the States, in any form whatsoever, including taxes on companies;
15. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Member States.