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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

by Pierre Jonckheer, Monica Frassoni and Daniel Cohn-Bendit

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on the Commission's Legislative and Work Programme for 2008

European Parliament resolution on the Commission's Legislative and Work Programme for 2008

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission's Legislative and Work Programme for 2008 (COM(2007) 640), which was adopted on 23 October 2007 and presented by the Commission and debated at Parliament's November 2007 part-session,
 - having regard to the Commission's Annual Policy Strategy and the contributions of the EP committees forwarded by the Conference of Presidents to the Commission, as provided for in the framework agreement between Parliament and the Commission,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Commission's Legislative and Work Programme for 2008 must be seen in the light of the – in the words of the Commission – 'historic commitment to tackle climate change', the new Lisbon Treaty, the Göteborg and Lisbon strategies for sustainable development, growth and jobs, the undertaking to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the EU's responsibility for defending and promoting peace and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the EU and the world,
- B. whereas the policies intended to develop the EU into 'the most competitive knowledge society in the world' must be designed in such a way as to avoid doing harm to other overarching objectives for which the EU strives, particularly fighting climate change, becoming the most energy-efficient society in the world and helping achieve the Millennium Goals,
- C. whereas the Commission, through its right of initiative and as guardian of the Treaties, has a special role and an obligation, when proposing new policies and legislation, to search for those instruments that are proportionate to the goals and that bring about win-win situations, reconciling sometimes seemingly contradictory aims and interests,
- D. whereas in 2007 some encouraging and discouraging examples can be observed in this context, for example, on the positive side, the increased awareness on a general level of the need to fight climate change but, on the negative side, targets set and means chosen that may be disproportionate or even harmful to this objective, such as the CO₂ emission limits for passenger cars or the setting of compulsory agrofuel targets without adequate environmental and social impact assessments,
- E. whereas 2008 will be a year in which the credibility of the EU in taking its commitments seriously will be tested,
1. Takes note of the Commission's Legislative and Work Programme for 2008, as presented by Commission President Barroso on 13 November, which contains 26 strategic initiatives and 61 priority initiatives including a number of reviews, such as the single market

review, the second strategic energy review, the EU budget review consultation, the ‘social reality stocktaking’, the common agricultural policy health check and the ‘better regulation’ strategic review;

Sustainable Europe – tackling climate change

Evaluation of major Commission initiatives or lack thereof

2. Urges the Commission to issue the climate and energy package well on time, i.e. at the latest by the end of January 2008, so that it can be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council before the end of this legislature; urges the Commission to ensure that, under the 2008 Renewable Energy Sources Directive, each Member States makes the necessary efforts to develop renewable energy at home and does not rely on a market supply sufficient to buy itself out of its national target, to ensure that any voluntary flexibility that might be introduced by the Commission is only between Member States and does not undermine – directly or indirectly – national support schemes, and to ensure that genuine social and environmental criteria are applied to all biomass;
3. Points out, furthermore, that the Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) review has been postponed until January 2008 and reiterates its position in favour of full auctioning of emission permits;
4. Notes with astonishment that apart from significant leftovers, the Commission has proposed hardly any legislative action in the field of the environment, but focuses mainly on communications (White Paper on Adaptation to the Impact of Climate Change, ‘halting the decline in biodiversity’ mid-term review, etc);
5. Points out that the following actions, among others, are missing:
 - the anticipated IPPC review (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive) which was announced last year,
 - the anticipated national emission ceilings review,
 - a legislative proposal to limit nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from aviation,
 - a legislative proposal on the reduction of emissions from ships (APS 2008, section 2.2., p. 7),
 - heavy-duty Euro VI,
 - a large combustion plants directive and a new small combustion plants directive,
 - a legal framework for risk assessment by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) of genetically modified food and feed,
 - modernisation of the legislation on medical devices with a view to improving patient and user safety while providing a clear regulatory environment;
6. Welcomes the proposal for the greening of the transport sector, particularly the

internalisation of external costs, but urges the Commission to include all known climate change and health costs in the methodology for calculating the external costs in the road freight sector and to propose a revision on this basis of the Eurovignette directive before June 2008; points out that internalisation of external costs should also be applied to the energy sector;

7. Welcomes the revision of the directive on the energy performance of buildings, in which 40% of total EU energy is consumed; urges the Commission, however, to expedite infringement procedures against those Member States which have not properly transposed or fully implemented the existing Directive 2001/91/EC on the energy performance of buildings; calls on the Commission to incorporate in this revision all buildings, regardless of size, and a binding requirement for all new buildings and large renovations to be constructed to passive standards; urges that full use be made of the reduced VAT rate on labour in the renovation and repair of private dwellings, in order to improve energy efficiency, and that VAT be removed in all Member States on materials and components which improve energy efficiency in buildings;
8. Welcomes the recasting of Council Directive 92/75/EC on the indication by labelling and standard product information of the consumption of energy and other sources by household appliances, in particular the enlargement of its scope; urges the Commission, however, to set up minimum energy performance standards in conjunction with this revision of the labelling Directive;

Nuclear energy

9. Considers that the current tendency to revive nuclear energy, based on the assumption that there is a shortage of fossil energy resources, is a short-sighted policy which runs counter to national, regional and international security interests, as nuclear technology can also be used for military purposes; is of the opinion, because of this proliferation aspect of nuclear energy production, that the Commission should invest its resources in 'harmless' alternative energy sources;
10. Urges the Commission to act upon its 2007 Eurobarometer survey on energy, which showed that only 20% of EU citizens support nuclear energy while 80% are in favour of solar energy; is of the opinion, inter alia because nuclear energy provided less than 6% of the total final energy of the EU-27 in 2006, that the Commission should shift the vast amount of EU public money that is currently spent on nuclear research into innovative energy savings, energy efficiency and renewable energies technologies;
11. Urges the Commission to deliver its opinion on nuclear power plants, if any, only when all the necessary documents, including the indispensable environmental impact assessment, are made available to it and only when all consultations with all stakeholders have been fully carried by all the relevant authorities;

Alpine area

12. Underlines the importance of the signing of the Transport Protocol in the Alpine Convention by the Transport Council in December 2006 and encourages the Commission to develop, according to this Protocol, a more far-reaching sustainable transport policy, at

least in the transborder Alpine mountainous area;

Fisheries

13. Welcomes the Commission's proposal for a regulation to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing as a long overdue initiative, as demonstrated by the Court of Auditors Special Report on controls in the CFP; is particularly pleased at the broad scope of the proposal but insists that the Community must be prepared to provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries in order that they may be able to meet the requirements of the certification scheme and control fishing activities in their waters; considers that the proposal for the revision of the control regulation must proceed as rapidly as possible;
14. Insists that research into fisheries and fish stocks must be expanded and improved in order to provide the information and analyses needed to inform the decision-making process on management measures; in particular, urges the Commission to increase funding for research on bluefin tuna in the Atlantic, given the poor scientific understanding and the severely depleted status of this valuable stock;

Agriculture

CAP health check

15. Deplores the fact that the Commission's communication on the CAP health check reform announced for 2008 lacks vision, does not consider effective measures related to sustainable use of natural resources, diversification of incomes and balanced rural-urban development, does not seriously challenge the fact that 30% of CAP subsidies go to 1% of farming enterprises, most of which are competitive and thriving without these subsidies, does not contain any reference to more just principles to govern future income support, such as making payments conditional upon employment and the environmental performance of farms of any size; calls upon the Commission to ensure that cross-compliance is implemented in all Member States by supporting them with a Commission guideline; recalls that Commissioner Kypriano promised to review the animal transport directive during this legislature and points out that the health check provides an opportunity to do this, as well as for improving animal welfare standards;

Transparency initiative

16. Welcomes the Commission's decision to make the transparency initiative, which was pressed for by civil-society groups, compulsory for Member States by 2009, and sees transparency as an opportunity to review entitlements based on land ownership and yields, and to discuss future conditional payments linked to cohesion, sustainable practices and employment principles;

Agrofuels and food security

17. Deplores the fact that the Commission has ignored the problems arising from one of the most challenging changes taking place in global agriculture – increasing competition between the resources used for food and for renewable energies; calls upon the

Commission to abandon the compulsory agrofuel targets and to deliver a full food security and environmental impact assessment of the EU agrofuel targets, including imports from developing countries, enabling a sustainable balance between food security and renewable energy production to be achieved;

Healthier nutrition, high-quality products

18. Notes that an impact assessment is planned of policy measures for increasing the consumption of fruit in schools; remains deeply concerned, however, about the lack of ambition in the Commission's initiatives for healthier nutrition, which are based mainly on stimulating self-regulation measures by the food industry;
19. Notes that the Commission has announced a Green Paper on agricultural product quality; calls on the Commission not to limit its policy approach to marketing campaigns, but to provide real incentives for high-quality products;

Lisbon strategy – growth and jobs

20. Recalls that the EU is one of the main drivers of an economic globalisation policy that has led to accelerated environmental degradation and growing social imbalances within the EU and worldwide; considers that the launch of a new three-year cycle of the Lisbon strategy, through the adoption of new integrated guidelines (2008-2010) constitutes a major opportunity to rectify this course through the active promotion of high social and environmental standards for all economic activities; urges the Commission to reform its integrated policy guidelines on these grounds;
21. Recalls once more that the integrated guidelines should not be regarded merely as a relabelling of existing policies but should become a genuinely integrated package of policies that encompasses and interlinks macroeconomic, microeconomic and employment dimensions;
22. Regrets the low visibility of the Lisbon strategy in the national politics of many EU countries; believes that the mobilisation of all economic stakeholders, through a better involvement of social partners, national parliaments and civil society, will raise the visibility of the Lisbon strategy and public awareness of the need to coordinate economic policies closely in order to meet the main challenges posed by the ongoing globalisation process;
23. Recalls in this context that 'EU Lisbon governance' still needs to be improved, in particular as regards the following aspects: closer coordination amongst relevant formations of the Council of Ministers, in particular as regards properly coordinated National Reform Programmes, sufficient time for Member States to draw up their National Reform Programmes by finally updating/confirming Integrated Guidelines at the yearly EU Spring Council, and full consultation rights of the EP;
24. Invites the Commission to develop and apply a multidimensional approach to assessing human wellbeing beyond the realm of GDP/GNI; welcomes against this background the OECD's deliberations at its 2nd World Forum on 'Measuring and Fostering the Progress of Societies' this year in Istanbul;

25. Welcomes the fact that, ten years after the launch of EMU, the Commission will undertake a strategic review of European Monetary Union; recalls in this context that the current consultation procedure as regards the enlargement of the Eurozone is too tight and therefore inappropriate; stresses the need to conclude an interinstitutional agreement on a timetable for, and approach to, cooperation with Member States wishing to accede to the Euro area;
26. Encourages the Commission to come up with a draft legislative proposal on the common consolidated corporate tax base by the end of 2008 and to carry on with its initiatives as regards coordination of direct tax systems;
27. Reiterates its view on the benefits of shifting the tax burden from labour to environmental degradation as an effective way of addressing both environmental and employment issues; urges the Commission to continue its initiative in the field of excise duties, and especially, encourages it to take further initiatives in the field of environmental taxation;
28. Repeats its call for a Commission proposal for a framework directive on services of general interest;
29. Calls, furthermore, for an initiative on defence procurement with a view to enhancing transparency;
30. Believes that the establishment of the European Institute of Technology (EIT), if it is based on the right principles, could contribute to the competitiveness of the European economy; considers, however, that the current financial envelope is far too small for the EIT to be effective and help bridge the gap between the EU and its major competitors; calls on the Commission to come up with a new budgetary proposal for sound financing of the EIT at the time of the budget review; insists that no funds previously earmarked for the Seventh Framework Programme should be used to finance EIT activities; insists that the outcomes of the impact assessment study should be taken into account; urges the Commission to implement a tight timetable with a view to the EIT starting operational work as soon as possible;
31. Believes that pan-European telecom services need further regulatory cooperation at European level; is of the opinion that functional separation in the telecom sector is a way to safeguard competition;

Cohesion policies

32. Regards the Commission's initiative of presenting a Green Paper on territorial cohesion as an adequate response to the addition of territorial cohesion to the objectives of the Treaty; calls on the Commission to establish a close link between this Green Paper and the First Action Programme for the implementation of the EU Territorial Agenda adopted under the Portuguese Presidency and to present concrete measures with a view to further developing a policy on European territorial development;
33. Welcomes the Commission's clear commitment to ensuring equality of opportunity through its regional policy, as stated in the 4th Cohesion Report; expects the Commission not to run counter to this aim in its assessment of the regions' contribution to delivering

the Lisbon Agenda;

External dimension of Lisbon – trade policy

34. Welcomes the development of an external dimension of the Lisbon goals, but is concerned at the idea of subordination of the Lisbon Agenda to external competitiveness goals, as delineated in the Commission Communication of 4 October 2006 on ‘Global Europe - Competing in the World’; warns against an EU competitiveness policy which is exclusively oriented towards the global transaction needs of EU-based transnational companies, to the detriment of the social interests of European workers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which need a cautious approach to global competition; warns against the envisaged international regulatory cooperation, which will provide transnational companies and third States with a form of right to intervene in EU legislation concerning non-tariff barriers to trade (NTBs), which in the WTO definition extend to important areas of social, environmental and consumer rights and future lawmaking;
35. Considers that fair multilateral trade and competition rules, based on the promotion of ILO core labour standards, principles of decent work, compliance with international environmental agreements worldwide and coherence with UN development policy objectives, must be at the centre of any EU market access and external competitiveness strategy; calls on the Commission to take appropriate trade measures, including border tax adjustments, against industrialised and emerging countries that do not intend to carry their fair burden in combating global climate change;
36. Deplores the fact that the Commission has omitted any targets for establishing fair trade standards and instruments to penalise effectively social and environmental dumping within and outside the EU; calls on the Commission to acknowledge that qualified market access, meaning social and environmental conditions and standards for market access, is urgently needed and must be actively promoted in international trade negotiations;
37. Is concerned about the current situation of crisis in the multilateral trade system; calls on the Commission to develop proposals for a reform of the WTO that is geared to increasing the legitimacy and democratic accountability of the multilateral trading system; calls on the Commission and the Council to hold back from the conclusion of bilateral and regional Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations until the current WTO negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda reach a conclusion;

Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Institutional aspects

38. Asks for an institutional agreement to ensure that proposals under the current third pillar are negotiated under codecision and adopted after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in order to guarantee the competence of the Court of Justice;

Migration

39. Considers that a law-enforcement approach focused mainly on border controls is the

wrong way to address the migration issue; states that only a common European policy addressing legal immigration through, inter alia, a more flexible visa policy can reduce 'illegal immigration' and trafficking in human beings; such a policy should be complemented with effective integration of immigrants in social, economic and political life;

40. Welcomes the proposal for a directive on the rights of seasonal workers in the EU with a view to avoiding the abuses and situations of slavery that are currently to be found;
41. Asks the Commission to refrain from negotiating readmission agreements with third countries;
42. Asks for a modification of the Frontex remit in order to include as one of its main tasks the rescue of migrant on the high seas; asks that adequate funding be allocated to this task;

Asylum

43. Welcomes the planned step forward towards a genuine common asylum policy (ECAS), in particular as regards a common asylum procedure and a uniform status for refugees; asks for a reinforcement of subsidiary protection as a necessary response to the tragic situation of people who cannot benefit from asylum status and yet cannot time be returned to their country of origin;
44. Is in favour of strengthening Eurojust and asks for its transformation into a genuine European agency after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty;
45. Asks the Commission, before going any further into the European PNR to ensure full transposition of the APIS Directive and to provide an assessment of the consequences of its implementation by the EU Member States; points out that, in any case, any decision on a European PNR should take place after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty;
46. Is worried about the political agreement on a draft framework decision on data protection in the context of police cooperation in criminal matters and asks for its adoption after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty;
47. Calls on the Commission to take all the necessary measures fully to implement the recommendations adopted by Parliament in its resolution on the alleged use of European countries by the CIA for the transportation and illegal detention of prisoners; calls on the Commission, at the same time, to report back to Parliament on the outcome of the analysis on counter-terrorism measures undertaken in the EU Member States as announced by Commissioner Frattini;

Putting the citizen first

48. Welcomes the Commission proposal for a revision of the European works councils;
49. Asks for further measures to improve the free mobility of workers, notably by adapting social security systems to that end, and invites the Commission to prepare for the removal of remaining transitional periods for free movement of workers;

50. Welcomes the proposal for a directive implementing the principle of equal treatment outside employment and insists that it cover all the forms of discrimination that fall under Article 13;
51. Wishes to assign more resources to SOLVIT (administrative cooperation system) since it provides a concrete and successful way of helping citizens and businesses dealing with single market law; points out that the Eurobarometer shows that the main concern of citizens is the social dimension of the EU in the context of globalisation, in particular jobs and fear of unemployment; points to the role that a strengthened SOLVIT system can play in the field social security and employment rights in promoting free movement of workers across the EU without borders and obstacles;
52. Supports the request for a Consumer Protection Scoreboard, analogous to the existing Internal Market Scoreboard; supports, in relation to the proposed framework directive on consumer contractual rights, a mixed approach, with horizontal legislation defining general principles in consumer protection, and vertical sector-specific legislation based on the minimum harmonisation approach, and calls for a framework to encourage collective redress; notes, as regards roaming, that it must be verified in 2008 whether operators are complying with the 2007 regulation on price caps;
53. Underlines, as regards product safety, the need to improve market surveillance and national inspections and insists on stronger and, where necessary, more detailed rules in EU legislation whereby implementing measures are not left to standardisation bodies only, but, for key requirements, the regulatory procedure with scrutiny is applied, thus allowing the Council and the EP a certain level of control over the implementation of safety provisions;
54. Points out that promotion of cross-border health care should not take place at the expense of treatment in the country of residence; as regards health services, points to the need to ensure a balance between patients' rights and professionals' rights to mobility and the sustainability (including financial sustainability) of national social security systems;
55. Calls on the Commission to refrain from any proposals that would allow pharmaceutical companies to directly provide 'information' about prescription-only medicines to patients, as this would risk becoming advertising in disguise;

Europe as a World partner

56. Regrets once again the lack of progress as regards ending the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot community in the northern part of Cyprus, in spite of the promises made by the Council and the Commission in the spring of 2004; urges the Commission to speed up the procedures and decentralise the decision-making process so as to make financial aid immediately available, to come to a rapid approval of projects and to make every effort to improve the Green Line regulation, thus facilitating trade between the two sides of the island, which is at present hampered and restricted;
57. Points out that further delays as regards definition of the final status of Kosovo will increase the responsibilities of the EU and calls upon it for action in the region; welcomes, in this regard, the preparatory work so far done by the Commission to replace the UNMIK

mission with an EU ESDP mission, and calls for its enhancement with a view to being immediately available when all the legal problems are solved;

58. Recalls that genuine strategic partnerships must be based on shared common values; calls in this context on the Commission to highlight in the guidelines for negotiation with the Russian Federation on the new agreement, which will replace the present Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, due to expire at the end of 2007, the importance of placing democracy, human rights and freedom of expression at the core of future relations, instituting a clear mechanism to monitor the implementation of all the clauses of such an agreement;
59. Points out that after the Annapolis conference the engagement of the EU in the Middle East should be reviewed in the light of the relaunch of the peace process with the aim of providing the means for, and supporting, a future viable Palestinian State and tackling more effectively the humanitarian situation in Gaza;
60. Takes the view that every effort should be made to conclude negotiations on the remaining ENP Action Plans; expects, in this regard, close monitoring and assessment of the benchmarks and calls for close involvement of Parliament at all stages, including in the evaluation process of ENP Action Plans;
61. Reiterates its position regarding the setting up of subcommittees on Human Rights with all ENP partner countries with a view to developing a structured dialogue on human rights and democracy; calls for the close involvement of Parliament in the preparation and follow-up of these subcommittees;
62. Calls once again on the Commission, together with the abovementioned subcommittees, to draw up an annual report on compliance with the human rights and democracy clause of the agreements, accompanied by a detailed evaluation and recommendations on the effectiveness and coherence of the action taken;
63. Stresses that the Commission must honour commitments made in the Cotonou Agreement to ensuring that ACP States – including non-LDC states that are not in a position to sign an EPA – are provided with a new framework for trade which is equivalent to their existing situation and complies with Article 37(6) of the Cotonou Agreement;
64. Welcomes the Commission's intention of presenting an ambitious package on financing for development and points out that it should be proportionate to the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals and take into account the state of play as regards commitments by individual Member States;
65. Regrets that the Commission does not refer explicitly to the importance of further progress in the area of non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament; expects the Commission to initiate fresh negotiations with Iran without any preconditions with a view to finding a peaceful solution; expects the Commission to support the Oslo Process so that the year 2008 will constitute a major step forward in banning cluster munitions;

Better regulation

Monitoring the application of Community law

66. Is deeply concerned about the new methods the Commission is setting up via its recent Communication 'A Europe of results – Applying Community law' COM(2007) 502 for dealing with the application of Community law and infringement procedures; is very worried about the latest plan by the Commission to renationalise the treatment of complaints; points to the very poor enforcement of Community law, for example in the case of waste shipments, as every second waste shipment inspected has been found to be illegal; calls on the Commission, therefore, to strengthen its activities as 'guardian of the Treaties' so as to ensure full compliance with Community legislation by all Member States, including new Member States;

Simplification

67. Reiterates that simplification measures should not lead to a reduced level of consumer, health, social or environmental protection; points out in connection with the WEEE directive that individual producer responsibility must be maintained;

Review of the EU Budget

68. Points out that the EU budget is a tool to help implement the EU's objectives and that the budgetary review planned for 2008/2009 provides the opportunity to reform both the expenditure and the revenue sides of the EU budget; points out that this time decades-old dilemmas relating to the UK and other rebates, the reform of agricultural policies and a reform of the own-resources system must be resolved in order for the Union to remain credible and to overcome recurrent financing deadlocks in order to meet major new challenges and initiatives, such as, in recent terms, the EIT and Galileo and, on a long-term basis, fighting climate change, promoting sustainable development and social cohesion and achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

Communication

69. Notes the ongoing negotiations between the institutions to provide a more comprehensive framework for communication policy, be it through a legal base or an interinstitutional agreement;

70. Welcomes the intention of the Commission to provide full and comprehensive information on the Reform Treaty and to maintain a permanent dialogue with European citizens during the ratification process; urges the Commission, however, to express a more coherent and determined message than during the last ratification process in order to contribute fully to the entry in force of the new Treaty before the 2009 elections;

Human Resources

71. Notes that the Commission does not intend to ask for any new human resources during its mandate apart from those related to enlargement; considers that, in line with the priority given in the Annual Policy Strategy and the CLWP to fighting climate change and to the new energy policy, there should be more Commission staff in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energies; points out that on many occasions Parliament has

called for more staff to monitor the application of Community law and to deal with infringement procedures, especially as regards EU environmental law;

72. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Parliaments of the Member States.