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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 Helmuth Markov and Esko Seppänen  
on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group  
on the Commission's Annual Policy Strategy for 2009

**European Parliament resolution on the Commission's Annual Policy Strategy for 2009**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas in 2009 not only will there be elections to the European Parliament, but also a new Commission will start its work, both of which provide an opportunity for a real change in political strategies geared towards the achievement of the EU's goals, such as growth and better jobs, tackling challenges resulting from climate change, and sustainable and peaceful social development in Europe and the world,
- B. whereas so far the EU has proved to be unable to solve the problems of unemployment, poverty, inequality and lack of democracy and whereas resistance on the part of workers, consumers and public-service users to unfair social security reforms, income cuts, privatisation and liberalisation of services of general interest and relocations of enterprises promoted by current EU policy is growing stronger,
  1. Notes that the Commission's political priorities are growth and jobs, climate change and a sustainable Europe; deeply deplores the fact that these political priorities are not sufficiently supported by revised policy strategies resulting also in new budgetary priorities; takes the view that a profound policy change on the part of the Commission and the EU as a whole is needed in order not to contradict their own slogan of 'Putting citizens first';
  2. Points to two vital challenges to the European agenda: the social challenge following the decisions of the European Court of Justice legitimising wage dumping and limiting trade union rights to fight against this; the global challenge of the global financial and food crisis; demands structural changes in the neo-liberal economic and social model established in the European Treaties, including the draft Lisbon Treaty;

*Growth, jobs and cohesion policy*

3. Is deeply concerned by the acceleration of, and urges the need for a moratorium on, the liberalisation and deregulation process in many sectors, which is jeopardising employment, the quality of services provided and the future of public services;
4. Considers it regrettable that the Commission's Annual Policy Strategy 2009 does not provide a strong impetus towards furthering the fight against poverty and social exclusion and promoting the quality of employment; considers that the European Employment Strategy needs to take the concept of 'good work' as its central reference point, with a strong focus on promoting quality in work and improved social security, enhancing existing workers' rights and introducing new ones, and promoting better social risk management and work-life balance;
5. Strongly rejects the attempt to make the new concept of 'flexicurity' the overarching

approach for the next three-year cycle of the European Employment Strategy and the Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs;

6. Calls on the Commission, as no agreement has so far been reached in the Council, to withdraw its proposal for a revision of the Working Time Directive and to initiate infringement procedures against Member States that are not complying with the existing Working Time Directive and the European Court of Justice judgments on on-call time; expects the Commission to present a new proposal for a revision aimed at phasing out the opt-out and establishing concrete obligations for employers to implement working time arrangements which promote a sound work-life balance;
7. Strongly supports the demand for a 'Social Progress Clause' in the EU Reform Treaty, firmly establishing that the internal market freedoms must respect fundamental rights, especially the right to strike and the right of workers and their representatives to collective action to improve their working and living conditions beyond minimum standards; calls, therefore, for a postponement of the Treaty ratification process;
8. Strongly rejects the proposed linear cut of 50 million euros in the Community contribution to decentralised agencies in order to boost the funding of GALILEO; considers that the agencies in the field of employment and social policy in particular (Dublin Foundation, Bilbao OHS Agency, CEDEFOP, ETF etc.) have been given more and more tasks in recent years and desperately need appropriate funding to fulfil these;
9. Points out that policies that are solely competitiveness-centred will continue to exacerbate regional and social disparities; reasserts Parliament's demand for an evaluation of the earmarking system;
10. Invites the Commission and the Member States to consider including financial measures for adaptation in the next long-term financial perspectives for regional policies and structural funds in order to promote real convergence and to help reduce development gaps between Member States, as well as between regions;

#### *Climate change and sustainable development*

11. Considers that monitoring of the European Sustainable Development Strategy must be improved and asks the Commission to draw up structural sustainability indicators for each key issue relating to the environment (climate/energy, environment/health, sustainable mobility, natural resources), which will help to identify urgently needed policies and measures that contribute to adaptation to climate change; asks the Commission to include adaptation when drawing up and modifying existing and all forthcoming legislation in order to limit the effects of climate change;
12. Reaffirms the importance of concluding a new comprehensive international agreement on climate change under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change no later than 2009 and considers that reaching an agreement on the energy-climate package within the current legislative term is of vital importance in this context; points out that climate change cannot be used as a pretext for increasing military and security measures;
13. Recognises that in meeting the challenge of adaptation and mitigation, the needs of the

poorest and most vulnerable countries are such that significant resources must be mobilised as soon as possible; invites the Commission to propose to Member States, in the first half of 2008, a detailed plan for the implementation of the Global Climate Change Alliance initiative, without prejudice to support for other initiatives;

14. Believes that, in pursuing climate change mitigation targets, an EU system needs to be created whereby greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments would be undertaken at national level in non-ETS sectors such as housing, transport, agriculture and waste management;
15. Asks the Commission to finalise its Action Plans for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and Sustainable Industry Policy (SIP) and to present them as early as possible; expects the Action Plans to contain concrete objectives and actions and to set ambitious targets for improving energy and resource efficiency and reducing negative environmental impact;
16. Considers that progress in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Plan has been slow and that there is an urgent need to promote positive relationships between agricultural activities and the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity, and to strengthen forest biodiversity through sustainable forest management and implementation of the ecosystem approach;

#### *Agriculture*

17. Questions the implementation of the results of the agreement on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 'Health Check' because it is continuing with the method of 'decoupling' subsidies from production, maintaining the unfair distribution of subsidies among producers and among countries, and promoting the 'intensive agriculture' model, with negative effects on the quality of food; deplores the fact that the Commission is not putting forward proposals on how to solve the problems of small and medium-sized farmers whose survival is at stake under the conditions of the new CAP;
18. Calls on the Commission to shoulder its responsibilities with regard to food safety by informing European citizens about the presence of genetically modified organisms in consumer products; calls for the withdrawal of the GMO species already introduced by some Member States; points out the potential health risks of GMO food and calls for more research into these risks; asks for the precautionary principle always to be applied to GM foods;
19. Underlines the fact that sustainable production of biomass for biofuels is a matter which needs to be addressed urgently within the EU in such a way that the EU's climate change mitigation measures do not have negative consequences for biomass producer countries; underlines the need to avoid in the European Union and elsewhere any danger of deforestation, degradation of soil and natural resources, as well as scarcity of adequate food supply for all the populations affected;

#### *Fisheries*

20. Notes that the sustainability of fishery resources is fundamental; underlines the current

lack of balance between the socio-economic situation and environmental sustainability; stresses the need for fishing activity and a viable fishing industry; takes the view that there is a need to implement a mechanism for subsidising or compensating fishermen affected by stock recovery plans or other measures to provide increased protection for ecosystems, especially in less-favoured regions;

21. Reiterates its request to the Commission to take a more wide-ranging view of measures to protect the marine environment and rebuild depleted fish stocks, in particular by considering and studying other factors which have a considerable impact on the marine environment and the state of fishery resources, such as coastal and offshore pollution, industrial and agricultural effluent, deep-sea dredging and maritime transport, to complement current management methods; asks the Commission for a Community initiative in this area; calls on the Commission to submit a communication on the guidelines and a proposal for a revision of the Common Market Organisation for fishery products;

#### *Budget*

22. Regrets that the margins available under the various expenditure ceilings of the multiannual financial framework restrict the margin of manoeuvre for financing new social and environmental priorities;
23. Considers a clear and transparent presentation of the European Union's budget an absolute necessity with regard to the need to communicate to European citizens how EU money is spent;
24. Strongly opposes requests from the Council for additional financing of military expenses from the EU budget in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy;

#### *Justice and home affairs*

25. Strongly questions the establishment of the European border surveillance system 'Eurosur' and the need for the suggested extension of the use of biometric identifiers to tighten checks at the EU's external borders via the proposed 'entry-exit system';
26. Regrets the addition of granting designated Member State authorities and Europol indirect access to the Visa Information System (VIS) and recalls the urgent need for the third pillar data protection framework decision to enter into force;
27. Regards as inappropriate the merging within a single draft directive of provision for a single permit for third-country nationals to reside and work and a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing, since this could imply different treatment for different categories of migrants; supports the inclusion in a specific directive establishing rights for all migrants of all the provisions of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families adopted by the UN General Assembly on 18 December 1990;
28. Opposes the idea of a single permit for third-country nationals to reside and work within the territory of a Member State, as proposed in the 2007 draft directive, because it gives

the possibility of entering the EU only to migrants who already have a job contract; considers that a chance to seek work should be given to all migrants and calls, therefore, for specific residence permits designed to facilitate the search for work;

29. Strongly opposes a budget increase for the Frontex Agency in 2009; considers that no increase should be allocated to the Agency until its mandate is reformed to include rescuing migrants at sea and explicitly to prohibit refoulement at the border;
30. Strongly condemns the fact that the Readmission Agreements are a compulsory prerequisite for the conclusion of Visa Facilitation Agreements; takes the view that the result of the extensive linking of the EU's migration policy to its external affairs and economic agenda should not be the construction of a security, rather than a people-oriented, approach;

*The wider world*

31. Notes that the Commission's programme envisages an acceleration of work towards future membership by the Western Balkan countries under the Stabilisation and Association process is envisaged; recalls the EU's commitments to support stabilisation of the countries of the Western Balkan, in particular the decisions adopted at the Thessaloniki Summit;
32. Is concerned about the EULEX Mission in Kosovo, which is taking place without the consent of the UN Security Council, demands that all EU actions in Kosovo be in full compliance with UN Council Resolution 1244, asks the Commission in this context to review the financing of the EULEX Mission and stresses that any financing of projects in Kosovo should be in full compliance with international law and EC legislation;
33. Expresses its serious concerns about the situation in Iraq and Afghanistan; takes the view that stabilisation can only be achieved by placing respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and assistance for their economic and social development at the core of the EU's policy towards these countries;
34. Welcomes the Commission's commitment to the peace-building process in the Middle East; is concerned, however, about the extension of settlements in the West Bank and the ongoing extension of the wall, and urges the EU to maintain an active role in the implementation of UN resolutions and in achieving peace in the region;
35. Is worried about the lack of parliamentary scrutiny in the fields of CFSP and ESDP, and demands the establishment of a parliamentary control mechanism for any kind of expenditure in the areas of CFSP and ESDP;
36. Deplores the fact that, in its legislative programme for 2009, the Commission does not pay sufficient attention to development policy; regrets in particular that the EU's contribution to the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals is not even mentioned;
37. Notes the Commission's commitment to implementing the results of the Doha Development Round as a priority and urges the Commission in consequence to conclude a

development-oriented agreement in the ongoing negotiations before the end of 2008;

38. Is alarmed by the rapid global rise in the price of food commodities and the subsequent serious risk to food security; is concerned, therefore, at the absence of a commitment on the part of the Commission to react to the disturbances in the world market, in particular those caused by the anticipated rise in EU demand for biofuels, with a view to preventing prevent a worsening of the hunger crisis for the poor;
39. Stresses that in 2009 the process of regional integration for EPA regions must remain an underlying principle of EPAs, and that these agreements must be consistent with, and contribute to, the strengthening of the ACP's own regional integration initiatives, criticises the Commission for threatening achievements in regional integration in the conduct of the EPA negotiations, and calls on the Commission to add administrative, technical and financial support for the regions to its 2009 work programme;
40. Notes the Commission's determination to carry out an action plan based on the Consensus on Humanitarian Aid and believes that the EU should develop initiatives to render the concept of 'responsibility to protect' operational, while giving precedence to civilian preventive action and support to third-country governments in fulfilling their obligation to protect their populations;
41. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the parliaments of the Member States.