



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Plenary sitting

12.9.2011

B7-0491/2011

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 110(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on famine in East Africa

**Véronique De Keyser, Ana Gomes, Michael Cashman, Udo Bullmann,
Arlene McCarthy, Thijs Berman, Ricardo Cortés Lastra, Harlem Désir,
Vincent Peillon, Corina Crețu, Pino Arlacchi**
on behalf of the S&D Group

European Parliament resolution on famine in East Africa

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Horn of Africa,
 - having regard to the Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the EU response to famine in the Horn of Africa, 24 August 2011,
 - having regard to the outcomes of the pledging conference in Addis Ababa, 25 August 2011,
 - having regard to the UN Millennium Development Goals,
 - having regard to the UN Declaration on Human Rights,
 - having regard to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,
 - having regard to The European Parliament resolution of 17 February 2011 on food price speculation,
 - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas tens of thousands of people have died, 750 000 are imminently at risk of starvation and 12 million people across Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti are in urgent need of food aid in the worst famine in 60 years, which the UN estimates to spread further across the Horn of Africa;
- B. whereas famine in the region has been aggravated by factors including, conflict, scarce resources, climate change, high population growth, a lack of infrastructure, distorted trade patterns, and high commodity prices;
- C. whereas Somalia has been the hardest hit with more than half the population dependent on food aid, child malnutrition rates of 58% of in south central Somalia and 1.4 m internally displaced people;
- D. whereas the humanitarian situation in Somalia is worsened by the ongoing conflict between rebels and government troops; whereas the militant group, al-Shabab controls many areas where famine has been declared and has forced some western aid agencies out of the area severely hampering the aid effort;
- E. whereas more than 860 000 refugees from Somalia have fled to neighbouring countries, in particular Kenya and Ethiopia in search of security, food and water with the refugee camp at Dadaab, in Kenya being overwhelmed by more than 420 000 people;

- F. whereas 80% of the refugees are women and children with many experiencing sexual violence and intimidation either en route to, or in the refugee camps;
 - G. whereas a lack of law and order as well as violent conflict in the region has deterred long term investment and development programmes, and also lead to increased piracy in the Indian Ocean, severely disrupting supplies to and from the region;
 - H. whereas the EU has committed €158 million in humanitarian relief in 2011, along with €440 million from Member States in addition to more than €680 million to the region in long-term aid in the areas of agriculture, rural development and food security until 2013;
 - I. whereas African Union (AU) leaders have made pledges of more than US\$ 350 million, to the humanitarian operation;
 - J. whereas increased privatization of land in the Horn of Africa (mainly by foreign investors) has made its precarious agricultural and food system even more vulnerable, failing to deliver the promised benefits of jobs, food and economic development;
 - K. whereas the impact of climate change has seriously affected crop yields in the region, which coupled with the global economic downturn and rising food and fuel prices has set back poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
 - L. whereas the World Bank's August 2011 Food Price Watch report states that high and volatile global food prices are putting the poorest people in the developing world at risk and are contributing to the emergency in the Horn of Africa, with an increasingly wide range of liquid financial instruments based on food and agricultural commodity markets a key factor behind the boom in world food prices;
 - M. whereas derivative instruments based on food and agricultural commodity markets have become extremely popular and easily accessible by investors around the globe and are no longer niche instruments for professional investors nor hedge instruments for the spot market participants;
 - N. whereas the increased liquidity and accessibility of these instruments is linked to the high prices and the high volatility in the underlying spot markets, and whereas it is more difficult for regulators to have a full picture of these markets because the large majority of these transactions are carried out over-the-counter;
 - O. whereas such problems can be tackled through increased transparency and measures to ensure that food and agricultural commodity markets are only accessible by market participants with a genuine real-world need to hedge against risk;
1. Expresses its deepest sorrow at the loss of life and suffering in the region; calls for increased mobilisation of EU aid to areas where the famine is most severe to provide food aid, healthcare, clean water and sanitation supplies to the most vulnerable;
 2. Calls on all authorities and factions in the region to allow humanitarian aid organisations to have unhindered access to those in need, in accordance with international humanitarian and human rights law;

3. Demands that all sides immediately end abuses against civilians, especially women and children and hold those responsible to account, and ensure access to aid and the free movement of all people fleeing conflict and drought; reminds all countries in the region of the need to assist and protect refugees under international law;
4. Calls on the Commission to urgently improve the transition between EU humanitarian aid and development aid as the drought crisis in the Horn of Africa clearly shows that years of emergency aid to drought stricken areas has not been effectively followed up by long term development policies; calls the Commission and the EU Member States, to support East African countries projects on prevention capacities, famine and droughts early warning systems;
5. Regrets the late mobilization of the international community, given that the first drought alerts in the region were given in December 2010 and that earlier action could have helped abate the current catastrophe;
6. Calls for improved coordination between humanitarian aid agencies and greater involvement of experienced organizations already established in the conflict areas, as well as local community leaders;
7. Welcomes the African Union's commitments to the humanitarian operation including the AMISOM peacekeeping mission, regrets however that only 9 000 African Union peacekeepers of a promised 20 000 have been deployed in Somalia so far;
8. Welcomes the commitments of the EU and its Member States; recalls however that the UN emergency appeal is still USD 1 billion short of what is needed; urges the international community to honour its commitments and deliver on the ground as soon as possible;
9. Calls for a greater percentage of EU Official Development Aid (ODA) to be directed to agricultural production and the assistance of pastoralists in developing countries to boost food security; in this context urges EU Member States and the international community to meet their commitments at the 2009 L'Aquila summit of USD 22 billion to agricultural development of which only a fifth has been delivered;
10. Demands that financial institutions engaged in speculation on food and agricultural commodity markets cease speculative activity which drives high and volatile food prices and to put tackling poverty and human suffering in the Horn of Africa and across the developing world above profits and earnings from food price speculation;
11. Urges those institutions to take their corporate social responsibilities seriously and put in place internal rules to ensure they limit their activities in food and agricultural commodity markets to serving real economy businesses with a need to hedge risk;
12. Calls on the G20 to step up action to agree global regulation to prevent abusive speculation and to coordinate the creation of preventive mechanisms against the excessive fluctuation of global food prices; stresses that the G20 must involve non-G20 countries to ensure global convergence;

13. Calls on the European Commission to present proposals to amend the Market in Financial Instruments Directive and Market Abuse Directive to prevent abusive speculation and ensure that dealing with food commodity derivatives is restricted to market participants with a genuine real-world need to hedge against risk;
14. Stress that the European Securities and Markets Authority must have a key role in oversight of commodities markets; affirms that ESMA should exercise vigilance in its application of regulatory tools to prevent manipulation and abuses in food and agricultural commodities markets;
15. Calls on the Commission to update its land policy guidelines with regard to land grabbing, to ensure its alignment with the CFS-led Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests and give greater importance to this through its development cooperation programmes, trade policies and its involvement in multilateral financing institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF;
16. Asks the Commission to come forward with measures to improve reporting and monitoring on large scale land acquisitions involving European investors and to support developing countries in decision-making on investments, whilst strengthening the role of human rights, for example the right to food, in international investment law;
17. Calls for considerable efforts to better integrate climate change adaptation in EU development policies; calls on the EU to considerably increase such funding and ensure that it is additional to ODA; furthermore, calls on the EU to show bold leadership at the upcoming COP 17 with regard to better implementation of climate adaptation policies and to reinforce international governance of sustainable development policies;
18. Expresses concern about recent reports of misuse of ODA to carry out political oppression in Ethiopia; calls on the EU and member states to ensure that aid is used strictly for poverty alleviation, in an accountable and transparent manner, making full use of the human rights clauses of the Cotonou Agreement;
19. Calls on the Commission to better integrate Pastoralists in EU development policy; believes that an urgent dialogue with local authorities is needed in order to safeguard their protection and lifestyle throughout the region;
20. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the UN Security Council and Secretary-General, the African Union institutions, the Governments and Parliaments of the IGAD countries, the Pan African Parliament, the ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly, the Presidency of the G20 and the governments of the EU Member States.