

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

10 April 2000

B5-0325/2000}
B5-0330/2000}
B5-0332/2000}
B5-0336/2000}
B5-0337/2000}RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 37(4) of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members:

Corrie, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

Van den Berg, Schori, Sakellariou and Sauquillo Pérez del Arco, on behalf of the PSE Group

Dybkjær, Thors, Ducarme, Rutelli and Mulder, on behalf of the ELDR Group

Rod, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Miranda, Boudjenah, Morgantini and Sylla, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing motions by :

- the PPE-DE Group (B5-0325/2000)
- the PSE Group (B5-0330/2000)
- the GUE/NGL Group (B5-0332/2000)
- the Verts/ALE Group (B5-0336/2000)
- the ELDR Group (B5-0337/2000)

on the EU-Africa Summit

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the conclusions of the Euro-African Summit held in Cairo on 3 and 4 April 2000,
- having regard to the development and trade cooperation agreement with South Africa,
- having regard to the report of the Joint Assembly on future ACP-EU relations,

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PE 289.466}.....
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PE 289.475}.....
PE 289.479}.....
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- having regard to the Barcelona declaration of November 1995,
- A. whereas the first EU-Africa Summit, bringing together 67 Heads of State or Government, was held in Cairo on 3-4 April 2000,
- B. whereas a new dialogue between Africa and the EU can only be based on mutual interest in human rights promotion, social, economic and cultural development of civil society and conflict prevention,
- C. whereas this Summit represents an important opportunity for establishing a more fruitful dialogue and a better understanding between the two neighbouring continents; deploring nevertheless that neither the European Parliament nor the ACP-EU Joint Assembly nor the relevant Mediterranean interparliamentary delegations were invited to participate actively in the Summit,
- D. welcoming the joint resolve to promote special relations between Africa and the EU, especially in the field of trade, but also in all other fields of international policy and conflict prevention,
- E. whereas the EU-Africa Summit comes at a crucial time, when developing countries are attempting to cope with the effects of globalisation on their economies and are under increasing pressure to make further efforts in the direction of regional integration,
- F. whereas more than half of the population of Africa is living in total poverty and the measures to combat this situation require a more determined European and International strategy,
- G. whereas the debt burden of many African countries effectively cripples their ability to develop their economies as well as address urgent social needs, such as health and education,
- H. whereas respect for human rights, democracy, the rule of law and good governance must be an important basis of EU financial assistance or debt relief to developing countries,
- I. whereas debt relief granted to developing countries who respect democratic principles will represent an important incentive for those countries still lacking democratic institutions, as stated in the new Partnership Agreement,
- J. whereas there are increasing calls to reduce substantially, if not cancel altogether, the international debt of heavily indebted poor countries and to channel these resources into addressing basic social needs,
- K. whereas it is necessary to promote the establishment of an independent judicial system, this being a crucial element in the democratisation of Africa and the protection of human rights,

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- L. whereas some African regions are still ravaged by war and lack regional cooperation to contribute to peaceful settlements,
 - M. whereas the EU and Africa must warn extremists of all kind that genocide and crimes against humanity will be punished no matter where or by whom these are committed,
 - N. concerned at the role of some EU Member States in the excessive purchases of weapons by African States,
 - O. whereas Aids and malaria are enormous obstacles to lasting development because of their social and economic repercussions,
 - P. having regard to the Tampere decision on the readmission clause concerning the return of nationals, third-country nationals and stateless persons currently on EU territory,
 - Q. whereas the question of migration should be the subject of a thoroughgoing discussion between the EU partners and the African countries in conformity with the international conventions on human rights,
 - R. regretting that the organisers of the Summit did not in the end allow European and African non-governmental organizations to meet in Cairo,
1. Welcomes the initiative to hold the first EU-Africa Summit in Cairo on 3 and 4 April, and hopes that this initiative will contribute to a new dimension of strategic relations between Africa and the European Union in order to achieve peace, stability and respect for human dignity through economic and social progress;
 2. Calls for an appropriate joint structure to be agreed to ensure the follow-up of this initiative, but insists that the European Parliament, the ACP-EU Joint Assembly and the relevant Mediterranean interparliamentary delegations be fully associated in future;
 3. Calls on both the EU and African countries to work together in the international fora to find the necessary flexibility in the multilateral trading system to allow Africa and developing countries in general a gradual and progressive integration into the world economy, without compromising their sustainable social, economic and environmental development;
 4. Lays particular emphasis on the need for an integrated approach to combating poverty and reiterates its request that the necessary resources should be released to meet basic human needs and those of the social sectors and hence reduce poverty by half by the year 2015;
 5. Calls on the EU to provide increased financial and technical assistance to Africa, in particular in the areas of information technology and capacity-building, to prevent the North-South technology and capacity gap from growing ever wider; stresses in this

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context the potential synergies to be achieved by regional cooperation and integration, as stated in the new Partnership Agreement;

6. Reiterates the need to ensure the coherence and complementarity of the development policies of the EU and its Member States, in particular in the areas of fisheries and agricultural exports;
7. Urges the EU and the Member States to take effective steps that would ensure coherence and integration of human rights concerns and commitments into its Common Foreign and Security Policy and its external relations;
8. Calls on the EU and its Member States to implement a global strategy in the international financial institutions in order to obtain the cancellation of the debt of the poorest developing countries, subject to respect for democratic principles and good governance and to the channelling of these resources into addressing basic social needs; in this context calls for the relaxation of the criteria of the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative launched by the IMF and the World Bank in 1996, and for its extension to all candidate countries, especially those recovering from a grave crisis or internal conflict;
9. Stresses nevertheless that the ultimate responsibility for development rests with the African countries themselves;
10. Calls on the Commission and the Council to step up the partnership with the African countries in order to create the necessary flexibility in the WTO to put an end to restrictive supranational rules which give priority to the liberalisation of trade rather than to reducing poverty and creating sustainable development;
11. Welcomes the proposal of some countries to cancel their public claims against the most heavily indebted poor African countries and calls on the other Member States to do likewise;
12. Calls in particular on the Commission to provide technical and financial aid for the fight against Aids and malaria and to ease the access to the relevant drugs in Africa by supporting drugs development programmes with the help of the European Union; requests, in situations of national emergency, that priority be given to the local production and distribution of cheaper medicines for HIV in Africa and other developing countries;
13. Supports the Summit's commitments concerning mine-clearance programmes and considers that in post-conflict situations, it is necessary to draw up programmes for rehabilitation, disarmament, demobilisation and the reintegration of former soldiers, in particular child soldiers;
14. Calls on the EU and the Member States to reinforce the measures undertaken within the code of conduct on arms exports, also by tightening up the criteria by which Member

States assess arms exports, and to link extension of development aid to measures against the accumulation and dissemination of weapons in African countries;

15. Deplores the lack of progress by the EU and the OAU on establishing an adequate conflict prevention mechanism and believes that one of the main goals of a new EU-Africa partnership should be the reinforcement of regional cooperation;
16. Urges both the EU and the African countries which have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court, and to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda;
17. Urges all EU and OAU Member States to sign, ratify and implement the new child soldiers protocol after its formal adoption by the General Assembly, and to declare a minimum age of at least eighteen for voluntary recruitment;
18. Urges all OAU Member States who have not yet done so to ratify the African Charter on the rights and welfare of the child;
19. Expresses, in particular, its support for the UN Security Council's decision to deploy 5.537 peace-keeping troops on a mission to observe the cease-fire in the areas of conflict which are tearing the Democratic Republic of Congo apart; requests that urgent political and diplomatic steps be taken to settle other open conflicts;
20. Recognises the paramount importance of human resources for sustainable and even development in Africa; supports the need to draw up national policies for basic education, assigning specific priority to young girls, training in the fields of science and technology and the promotion of local technologies;
21. Reiterates its support for non-governmental organisations, which are the tangible expression of civil society, and assures them that it will take account of the conclusions emerging from their deliberations on the Summit;
22. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the governments of the States represented at the EU-Africa Summit.