

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

12 April 2000

B5-0345/2000}
B5-0348/2000}
B5-0360/2000}
B5-0392/2000}
B5-0395/2000}RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

by the following Members:

Corrie and Johan Van Hecke, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
Van den Berg and Carlotti, on behalf of the PSE Group
Van den Bos, on behalf of the ELDR Group
Bautista and others, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
Miranda, Boudjenah, Sylla and Fiebinger, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
Muscardini and Collins, on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing motions by :

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| - the UEN Group | (B5-0345/2000) |
| - the GUE/NGL Group | (B5-0348/2000) |
| - the PSE Group | (B5-0360/2000) |
| - the Verts/ALE Group | (B5-0392/2000) |
| - the PPE-DE Group | (B5-0395/2000) |

on famine in Ethiopia

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PE 289.490)
PE 289.493)
PE 289.505)
PE 290.426)
PE 290.429)RC1
Or. en/fr

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the countries in the Horn of Africa,
- A. whereas in the Horn of Africa as a whole the lives of almost 16 million people are at risk on account of famine and drought,
- B. whereas the lack of rain in recent years has resulted in the almost complete exhaustion of food reserves and a dramatic increase in malnutrition, the first victims of which are children,
- C. whereas Ethiopia's economy is essentially based on agriculture, which accounts for approximately 80% of GDP and 85% of export revenue, and occupies 85% of the population,
- D. whereas the chronic shortage of food in the region has been exacerbated by the recent drought, further deterioration of the food situation is likely as local farming production is dramatically reduced, and many farmers have been forced to sell their livestock and abandon their land in order to find other sources of income and food,
- E. whereas the Commission intends supplying 432 000 tons of food aid to Ethiopia, which represents more than half of the official Ethiopian request (821 000 tons),
- F. whereas all food aid should be distributed through NGOs to make sure it reaches the starving population,
- G. whereas Ethiopia has been involved in a bloody border conflict with Eritrea since May 1998 which is diverting scarce resources for relief and development to the military effort,
- H. whereas the humanitarian aid needs of the Horn of Africa region are immense, ranging from food, drinking water and drugs to vaccines for children with a view to preventing epidemics,
- 1. Urges the European Union, the Member States and international bodies to respond to the region's calls for aid immediately, particularly as regards food and medicines;
- 2. Urges the governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea to take every possible step to resolve the conflict, under the auspices of the OAU, and, at the same time, to halt all military activity so that they can use their logistical capacities and human resources to provide practical and immediate assistance to their peoples;

3. Calls on the Commission to monitor carefully the food requirements of the populations at risk and to coordinate closely food shipments and delivery with the other donors in order to avoid congestion of ports and access roads;
4. Calls on all governments in the Horn of Africa, in particular those of Ethiopia and Eritrea, to cooperate fully in the transport and delivery of food aid, in particular by allowing deliveries through all the ports in the region;
5. Calls on the Commission, the Member States and international organisations to make provision for financial aid which goes beyond the emergency humanitarian aid phase and is intended to help farmers regenerate their land and purchase livestock;
6. Calls on the Commission to implement, once the emergency is over, a comprehensive policy to strengthen food security in the region, in particular by increasing self-reliance based on local production and purchases;
7. Calls on the governments in the region, and particularly the Ethiopian Government, to implement a policy of sustainable development in the agricultural sector with a view to enabling farmers to invest in their land and meet their own needs;
8. Calls on the Commission and the Council to improve the early warning system to monitor sensitive regions where famine may arise, in order to allow earlier action and to prevent disasters occurring;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments of the Member States, the governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea and the IGAD.