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4 July 2000

B5-0596/2000 }
B5-0598/2000 }
B5-0600/2000 }
B5-0603/2000 }
B5-0606/2000 }
RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Johan Van Hecke and Jorge Salvador Hernández Mollar on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Anna Terrón i Cusí and Robert Evans on behalf of the PSE Group
- Colette Flesch, Graham Watson, Jan-Kees Wiebenga, Daniel Ducarme and Frédérique Ries on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Ozan Ceyhun and Jean Lambert on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Marco Cappato on behalf of the TDI Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- ELDR (B5-0596/2000),
- PSE (B5-0598/2000),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0600/2000),
- TDI (B5-0603/2000),
- PPE-DE (B5-0606/2000),

on illegal immigration and the discovery of the bodies of 58 illegal immigrants in Dover

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PE 292.957}
PE 292.959}
PE 292.961}
PE 292.964}
PE 292.967} RC1

European Parliament resolution on illegal migration and the discovery of the bodies of 58 illegal immigrants in Dover

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948,
 - having regard to the Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951, as modified by the New York protocol of 31 January 1967;
 - having regard to the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 4 November 1950,
 - having regard to its resolution of 8 October 1998 on cooperation with Mediterranean countries in the area of immigration,
 - having regard to Title IV, Article 61 onwards of the EC Treaty,
 - having regard to Articles 2 and 6 of the Treaty on European Union,
 - having regard to its resolution on the Commission working document 'Towards common standards in asylum procedures', adopted on 15 June 2000,
- A. appalled by the terrible tragedy of the death of the fifty-eight people whose bodies were discovered in Dover on the morning of Monday, 19 June,
- B. whereas similar incidents occur daily at the Union's frontiers, with countless immigrants and refugees losing their lives while attempting to enter the countries of the Union illegally; having regard also to the hundreds of people who have perished in the course of their journey from Africa to the coasts of Europe, victims, for the most part, of smugglers and traffickers in human beings,
- C. revolted by the practice of trafficking in human beings, which exploits the despair of people in Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia in order to profit from illegal immigration networks, with a total disregard for the dignity of human life,
- D. concerned by the resurgence of illegal immigration in Europe, as demonstrated by the number of victims of the odious and unacceptable crime of trafficking in human beings,

- E. whereas immigrants, whether legally resident in Member States for many years or recently arrived, have contributed significantly to the European economy and its social development,
- F. whereas the criminals engaged in smuggling illegal immigrants into the EU have the technical and economic means to enable them easily to avoid surveillance at its external borders; and whereas, therefore, this issue must be resolved using whatever preventative and defensive means are necessary,
- G. whereas the inefficiency of asylum legislation and the relevant administrative procedures increase levels of illegal immigration and the involvement of organised crime,
- H. whereas, as a result of these barriers to immigration, refugees often fall victim to organised gangs of smugglers who demand substantial sums for their services, there being a direct link between restrictions on immigration and the profits made by smugglers,
- I. whereas, according to the International Organisation for Migration, the international trade in human beings has become a fast-growing, well organised and highly profitable business,

1. Expresses its dismay at the events in Dover and its sympathy with the victims' families;
2. Expresses its grief for all the victims at this intolerable human tragedy;
3. Regrets that a genuine European policy on asylum and immigration, which should include a European strategy on migration, has yet to be implemented;
4. Urges the Council to take measures to regulate migration and, in particular, to combat the criminal organisations which traffic in human beings despite the fact that Article 63 of the EC Treaty provides for a period of five years within which the Union is to adopt common legislation in the area of immigration;
5. Reminds the Council of the commitments made at the European Summit in Tampere on 15 and 16 October 1999 concerning the duty of the European Union to develop common asylum and immigration policies, whilst taking account of the need to exercise coherent and effective controls at its external frontiers in order to stop illegal immigration; calls on the French Presidency to include this issue in its work programme as a matter of urgency;
6. Urges all bodies involved to enhance cooperation between Europol and the national authorities, in particular as regards the rapid exchange of information, and to ensure that Europol has all the financial and human resources required to combat trafficking in human beings;
7. Recalls that the definition of Community law on asylum and immigration cannot be disconnected from the setting up of an area of freedom, security and justice in the Union, capable also of promoting democratic values and the rule of law beyond its frontiers;
8. Recalls the conclusions of the recent Summit in Feira and reiterates the essential need to

make progress in the field of cooperation between Member States in order to combat more effectively the odious practice of trafficking in human beings;

9. Stresses the considerable responsibility of embassies in the countries of origin in taking initial decisions on visa requests, calls for more consultation between the European ambassadors in those countries from which large numbers of illegal immigrants come, and urges those embassies to set up information campaigns warning people about the dangers of the trade in human beings;
10. Calls on the Member States to tighten their laws so as to make employers liable to more severe punishment, as a means of combating the employment of illegal immigrants;
11. Calls on the Council and the Commission to formulate specific proposals in order to improve the integration of legal immigrants in the EU on the basis of the best practices in the Member States;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission, and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.