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JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Caroline Lucas, Didier Rod, Alexander de Roo and Heidi Anneli Hautala on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Francis Wurtz, Luisa Morgantini, Pedro Marset Campos and Ilda Figueiredo on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- Verts/ALE (B5-0342/2001),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0351/2001),

on transatlantic relations

European Parliament resolution on transatlantic relations

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the new Transatlantic Declaration Agenda (NTA) adopted in Madrid on 3 December 1995, and to the accompanying Joint EU-US Action Plan,
 - having regard to its resolutions of 18 November 1998 on the 'Transatlantic Economic Partnership' between the European Union and the United States and 5 May 1999 on the TEP and the EU/US trade disputes, especially hormones, bananas and hushkits,
 - having regard to its resolution of 5 April 2001 on the Kyoto Conference objectives,
 - having regard to the Commission communication 'Reinforcing the transatlantic relationship: focusing on strategy and delivering result' of 20 March 2001,
- A. whereas the transatlantic agenda is geared primarily towards hastening the opening-up of markets, the preservation of political spheres of influence and assuring steady profits for EU- and US-based companies, while neglecting social issues, health and education, the environment, development and cultural diversity,
- B. whereas the TAED, set up two years ago by environmental organisations from the EU and the US as a response to a request of the US government and the European Commission, has suspended its activities because the US government has not been able to provide its part of the necessary finances to run this dialogue,
- C. having regard to the recent decision by the US government to abandon the Kyoto Protocol which it had previously signed, and to the US Congress Foreign Affairs Committee's decision of 2 May 2001 which urges President Bush to reconsider that decision,
- D. whereas there is a blunt contradiction between EU declarations on the fundamentally pro-developing-countries character of future multilateral trade negotiations in the framework of the WTO and the US attitude to the Kyoto Protocol, which has to be resolved before any commitment to negotiations on further trade liberalisation,
- E. whereas, as is illustrated by the pending panel cases at the WTO, a huge number of questions concerning international conventions - such as the hierarchy between MEAs and the WTO and between the ILO and the WTO, the activities of the TEP and NTA conflicting with the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the 'polluter pays' and precautionary principles - need to be addressed,
- F. whereas implementation problems, revision and reform are still the most urgent topics of the WTO agenda and are permanently evaded by both the USA and the EU,
- G. whereas the deficiencies of the world intellectual property system have recently been exposed by the failed legal action brought against the government of South Africa by 39 leading pharmaceutical companies, almost all of which are either European or US based corporations, and by the attacks on Brazil within the WTO by the US representing the

interests of the big pharmaceutical companies,

- H. whereas the strengthening of international institutions should be among the priorities of the transatlantic dialogue,
- I. whereas the decision taken by the US government to develop the anti-missile ballistic system (NDM) and to militarise space is a serious step that will encourage arms proliferation and represents a major new threat to world peace which constitutes a blatant infringement of the ABM Treaty, to the advantage of the US military-industrial complex,
- J. whereas the US-led Echelon system totally jeopardises EU-US cooperation as it eliminates the basis for any sort of level negotiation and confidence and is incompatible with international standards of personal data protection,
- K. whereas Commission President Prodi and US President Clinton agreed, at the EU-US summit in May 2000, on the launch of the EU-US Biotechnology Consultative Forum, an independent group of experts representing diverse views on the two sides of the Atlantic, whose consensus report was presented at the EU-US summit in December 2000;
- L. noting the efforts made by the US government to extend the extraterritorial Helms-Burton Act (which is contrary to international law) to the field of intellectual property rights,
- M. noting the repeated use of the death penalty, which mainly affects members of the marginal black and Hispanic communities in the US and also affects minors,
 - 1. Firmly disapproves of the unilateralist approach of the US concerning issues with profound implications for the transatlantic dialogue as well as international relations in general, such as the Kyoto Protocol, NMD, CBD, China, the FTAA, etc, and calls on the competent EU bodies to use their transatlantic dialogues as well as the forthcoming EU-US summit to speak against this approach to international affairs;
 - 2. Calls for a revision of the aims and modus operandi of the transatlantic dialogue so that the latter can be extended beyond the purely mercantile sphere and priority can be given to issues such as development and peace, social questions, the worldwide environmental balance, health, education and cultural diversity, with a view to their regulation at bilateral and multilateral level;

Transatlantic dialogues, sustainability and developing countries

- 3. Calls for an urgent revision of the aims and structure of the transatlantic dialogue, so that sustainable social and environmental welfare is given priority over economic growth, bilaterally and multilaterally, as well as for a revision of the hitherto exclusive and arrogant performance of the two major trading blocs in international forums and institutions,
- 4. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure that recommendations of the Transatlantic Environment Dialogue (TAED) on areas such as climate change, biodiversity or genetic engineering and the Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD) on areas such as access to essential medicines, mandatory labelling and safety testing of genetically engineered food or use of antibiotics are given the same weight within the context of the New Transatlantic Agenda (NTA) and the Transatlantic Economic Partnership (TEP) as is afforded to those of the business and other dialogues;

5. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure continuation of the Transatlantic Environment Dialogue and to convince the new US administration to provide its part of the necessary finances to run this dialogue;
6. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure comprehensive sustainability and social impact assessments of each activity to be addressed by the TEP before it is implemented, also taking into account potential direct and indirect impacts on developing country partners;
7. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure that ways and means to protect Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) from trade challenge and WTO rules become a strategic theme in the context of TEP and NTA;

Climate change

8. Is deeply shocked by the recent announcement of the new US administration concerning the Kyoto Protocol;
9. Fully supports the decision of the US Congress Foreign Affairs Committee of 2 May 2001 to ask President Bush to revoke the withdrawal from the Kyoto Protocol, and proposes an exchange and strategy meeting between this committee and its EP counterpart as a concrete measure to enhance interparliamentary cooperation in the framework of the Transatlantic Legislative Dialogue;
10. Urges President Bush to reconsider his decision not to honour the commitments made by the US government in Kyoto, and calls on the EU negotiators to secure speedy ratification of the protocol, even without the US; asks the Commission for a timely study on possible EU reactions on the US refusal of commitment to the Kyoto Protocol and its indirect subsidising of its industries by protecting the externalising of costs by US companies, including a WTO panel case and tariff sanctions;

Biological diversity

11. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure that social justice and equity, human health and wellbeing and the preservation and enhancement of biological diversity form the ultimate goals of deeper EU-US cooperation; to this end the application of the precautionary principle and the 'polluter pays' principle as well as the assessment of the social impact of activities addressed should guide all negotiations within the context of the transatlantic economic partnership;
12. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure that activities taken within the context of TEP and NTA do not run counter to but are supportive of the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity, namely the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources, by such means as appropriate access to genetic resources and appropriate transfer of relevant technologies;
13. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure that the recommendations of the EU-US Biotechnology Forum, in particular with regard to traceability, liability for damage caused by GMOs and the principle of substantial equivalence, form the basis of further

transatlantic discussions on biotechnology-related issues;

The WTO and the multilateral trading system

14. Considers that the EU obsession with launching a comprehensive new round of multilateral trade negotiations at the fourth WTO ministerial conference in Doha, Qatar in November 2001, when there is so much unsatisfactory and unfinished business remaining from the last Uruguay Round, is misguided; in view of the well-founded doubts and criticisms expressed by a large number of developing countries towards the EU position, and the evident lack of enthusiasm for such an initiative on the part of the new US administration, calls on the Member States to instruct the Commission not to persist with its demand for the launch of a comprehensive new trade round;
15. Believes that the right to safe food and a healthy environment is an inalienable one which lies at the origin of several trade disputes between the EU and the USA, such as those involving hormone-treated meat and GM products; calls on the Commission and the Member States to adopt firm criteria and positions in the negotiations on these subjects;
16. Considers that the Council and the Commission should decide as a matter of urgency to lift the restrictions on the growing of oil-protein crops in the EU, so that the Union is not obliged to replace animal meal by importing GM products as animal feed;
17. Asks the Commission to press for the dismantling of the so-called foreign sales corporation rules in the US, which constitute tax dumping and run against fair competition; asks the Commission to maintain and enhance cooperation with the US competition authorities to effectively prevent and possibly dismantle dominant market positions of transnational enterprises;
18. Reiterates that the existence of the extraterritorial Helms-Burton Act and the embargo imposed on Cuba are obstacles to the development of transatlantic relations, and urges the Commission and the Member States to apply pressure with a view to having these obstacles removed;

Access to medicines

19. Pledges to support the UN initiative for the establishment of a global fund to fight HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases worldwide, and calls on the EU and the US government to secure a proper health care infrastructure that can cope with the specific demands required for medication for HIV and other infectious diseases when committing themselves to this project; in this context, calls on both parties to work for a renegotiation of world intellectual property rules to facilitate manufacture of and access to cheaper drugs for developing countries;

Cooperation in the western hemisphere

20. Asks the Commission to reconsider its cooperation [and current negotiations on agreements] with both the US and Latin America in the light of the FTAA project, and to swiftly deliver a study of the consequences of the hegemony of US trade rules in Latin American national economies for sustainable development, food sovereignty, biodiversity, GMO proliferation and corporate mergers;

21. Calls on the Member States and the Commission to provide political support for the peace process in Colombia and to distance themselves clearly from 'Plan Colombia' in all its aspects, and urges the Netherlands to refuse to allow US military bases to be set up on the islands of Aruba and Curaçao;

NMD

22. Urges the US President to give up the NMD project immediately, and urges the Member States to strongly resist any further development of this project and to make clear to the US government that any continuation will seriously endanger transatlantic security relations;

23. Urges the Member States to use all their political influence to put pressure on their US counterpart not to go ahead with the project; urges the Member States to firmly and unconditionally confirm that they will not participate at any level in projects of this type in whatever form; urges the Member States, in particular, to guarantee that no EU territories will be used for the US missile defence project; and urges the EU Presidency to convince the Council to adopt a position in this sense and to inform the US government of that position,

Echelon

24. Calls for an immediate halt to the Echelon system and demands the elimination of all data collected until now; deeply deplores the refusal of the US administration to enter into dialogue on this subject with the delegation of MEPs which recently went to the US with that purpose;

International conventions

25. Calls on the EU and the US to initiate a new UN convention outlawing research, development, production and deployment in respect of all weapons which could be used to manipulate human beings, as called for by Parliament in its resolution of 28 January 1999 (OJ C 128, 7.5.1999, pp. 92-96);

26. Urges the US to abolish the death penalty without delay;

27. Calls on the Presidency, the Council and the Commission to undertake all steps necessary to engage in dialogue with their American counterparts on the responsibility of the US to sign and ratify a number of important international treaties in which human rights are involved, in particular in the areas of the International Criminal Court, the rights of the child and anti-personnel landmines;

28. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Member States and the Government of the United States of America.