

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

*Session document*

16 May 2001

B5-0359/2001 }  
B5-0365/2001 }  
B5-0372/2001 }  
B5-0379/2001 }  
B5-0389/2001 }  
RC1

## JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 50(5) of the Rules of Procedure by

- Johan Van Hecke on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Margrietus J. van den Berg, Francisca Sauquillo Pérez del Arco and Marie-Arlette Carlotti on behalf of the PSE Group
- Bob van den Bos on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Nelly Maes, Caroline Lucas, Didier Rod and Inger Schörling on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Fodé Sylla, Joaquim Miranda, Herman Schmid and Alexandros Alavanos on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- Verts/ALE (B5-0359/2001),
- PSE (B5-0365/2001),
- PPE-DE (B5-0372/2001),
- ELDR (B5-0379/2001),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0389/2001),

on child trafficking in Africa

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## European Parliament resolution on child trafficking in Africa

*The European Parliament,*

- recalling its previous resolutions on child trafficking and on the trafficking of human beings,
  - having regard to ILO Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labour and to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,
  - having regard to the meeting of the International Cocoa Association, which brings together 42 consumer and producer countries, held in London to consider ways of resolving this problem,
- A. whereas child trafficking is now a growing problem in parts of Africa, in particular in West Africa, and whereas, according to UNICEF, some 200 000 children are trafficked every year in West and Central Africa,
- B. appalled that these children are for sale in West African countries as both domestic and commercial labour and also for sexual exploitation,
- C. whereas low world prices for cocoa and other commodities have contributed to the use of cheap child labour,
- D. whereas inquiries into the ship sailing from Benin to Gabon in April revealed that at least a dozen of the 43 children and young adults aboard were potential slaves,
- E. whereas a Nigerian-registered ship (Etireno) carrying 43 children and adolescents returned to the port of Cotonou on 16 April 2001 after being refused permission to dock in Gabon and Cameroon, and whereas this boat had left the port of Cotonou at the end of March,
- F. whereas it is not yet completely clear whether all the children on board the Etireno were victims of child trafficking, although this seemed to be the case for at least 13 children found on the ship,
- G. whereas increasing poverty is the main cause of this phenomenon,
- H. having regard to the primary responsibility of the governments of all countries concerned to implement fully the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,
- I. concerned that some multinational companies indirectly use child labour to reduce the market price in industrialised countries and that low world prices for cocoa and other products have contributed to the use of cheap child labour,
- J. having regard to the share of responsibility borne by consumers from wealthy countries, who must consider the conditions under which the products they consume are cultivated,

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- K. whereas long-term policies which provide third-world producers with a decent income are essential,
1. Calls on the states which have still not ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour to ratify and implement both as soon as possible;
  2. Urges the authorities of Benin to investigate this incident seriously so as to determine the real truth concerning the Etireno and to take all appropriate measures to prevent acts of child trafficking in the future; calls on all countries in West and Central Africa to combat more aggressively all forms of child trafficking;
  3. Urges all countries to assume their full responsibility when ships carrying child slaves try to dock in their harbours; urges the port security authorities of the countries involved to pay more attention to the issue of human cargo;
  4. Calls for international arrest warrants to be issued against the organisers of and participants in these networks specialising in child trafficking;
  5. Welcomes the initiative of Britain, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire in setting up a task force to look into the issue of forced labour in West African cocoa production and calls on all countries in the West African and Central African region to look into the issue of trafficking and maltreatment of children in order to step up the fight against such practices;
  6. Calls on the Council to help countries involved in child trafficking fight against this phenomenon and assist with the organisation of rehabilitation programmes for rescued or escaped child slaves;
  7. Calls on the Council to support fully the 'Say Yes for Children' campaign that strives to protect and improve the lives of children;
  8. Calls on the Council to draw attention to this issue and to play a leading role in the preparation of and during the special session of the UN General Assembly on children to be held next September;
  9. Issues an appeal to the United Nations Conference on LDCs in Brussels to take measures to combat child labour;
  10. Calls on the Commission to put forward proposals designed to foster the rural development of African countries in such a way as to put an end to this phenomenon;
  11. Calls for products to be labelled in such a way that those manufactured in an ethically sound manner can be quickly identified;
  12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, UNICEF, the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Assembly, the OAU and in particular the authorities

of Benin and the governments of the countries of West and Central Africa.

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