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4 July 2001

B5-0489/2001 }
B5-0500/2001 }
B5-0509/2001 }
B5-0511/2001 }
B5-0522/2001 }
RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Sérgio Marques and Miet Smet, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Margrietus J. van den Berg, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Ole Andreasen and Bob van den Bos, on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Didier Rod, Nelly Maes, Caroline Lucas, Inger Schörling and Patricia McKenna, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Luís Queiró and José Ribeiro e Castro, on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PPE-DE (B5-0489/2001),
- PSE (B5-0500/2001),
- ELDR (B5-0509/2001),
- UEN (B5-0511/2001),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0522/2001),

on the situation in South Africa

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PE 307.311}
PE 307.322}
PE 307.331}
PE 307.333}
PE 307.344} RC1

European Parliament resolution on the situation in South Africa

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on South Africa,
 - having regard to its resolution on access to pharmaceutical products for AIDS victims in the Third World,
 - having regard to the EP delegation's report on the 6th EP/South Africa Interparliamentary Meeting,
- A. whereas the new, democratic South Africa, which is free of institutionalised racial segregation, is a crucial element in the political stability and economic development of the African continent and of subcontinental southern Africa in particular, standing as it does as proof that there is an alternative to underdevelopment, war, despotism, corruption and bad government,
- B. whereas South Africa is currently experiencing a number of very grave problems, to which the EU and the international community cannot remain indifferent, ranging from the AIDS epidemic (4.5 million people with HIV/AIDS), which affects mostly young people and therefore a significant part of the active population, alarming unemployment levels and economic stagnation to extremely worrying levels of violent crime,
- C. whereas the second democratic elections organised on an all-race, multi-party basis were successful and largely peaceful,
- D. whereas, despite the successful completion of the political changeover, the task of consolidation must address the problems of poverty, unemployment and inequality,
- E. whereas the poorest 20% of the population receives 3.3% of GDP and the richest 10% receive 47.3% of GDP, and the level of unemployment is almost 30%,
- F. whereas the tragic impact of the alarming crime levels is felt not only by the South African people themselves but also by the European immigrant communities in the country, which find themselves even more exposed to the impact of crime thanks to their involvement in economic activities linked to trade,
- G. whereas these communities make a decisive contribution to economic development and job creation in South Africa,
- H. whereas, although figures for certain types of crime have fallen slightly in the last year, crime in general is tending to become a standard feature of city life,
- I. whereas the prevailing climate of serious insecurity is having a very negative effect on the process of economic recovery, which is essential to the stability of the new,

RC\444950EN.doc

PE 307.311}
PE 307.322}
PE 307.331}
PE 307.333}
PE 307.344} RC1

democratic South Africa of the post-apartheid era, particularly the inflow of foreign capital and the development of tourism,

- J. whereas, as a result of apartheid, the Republic of South Africa had developed a largely self-sufficient economy and must now face the challenges of the globalisation of trade,
 - K. whereas South Africa must under no circumstances be allowed to become caught in a vicious circle in which growing insecurity means less economic development, thus engendering more poverty and more insecurity,
 - L. alarmed that violence against women in South African society is widely recognised as having reached one of the highest levels in the world,
 - M. appalled in particular by the problems of sexual violence in schools,
 - N. whereas South Africa would have serious difficulties in overcoming these problems without the support and solidarity of the international community, in which the role of the European Union is crucial in so far as the Union and its Member States account for 70% of international aid to the country (EU cooperation with South Africa is scheduled at Euro 885 million to 2006, plus EIB funding of EUR 135 million per annum),
 - O. whereas the South African President, Thabo Mbeki, has called on corporations to do more to foster economic growth and black empowerment within the country's economy,
1. Calls on the South African Government to make the necessary efforts to enhance sustainable development and raise the living standard of the majority of the black population;
 2. Fully supports the South African Government in its efforts, together with the Zimbabwean authorities, to find a solution to those conflicts which could influence the economic attractiveness of the whole region;
 3. Calls on the South African Government for an even greater, straightforward policy commitment to fighting poverty and social inequalities and to creating jobs, since poverty, inequality, poor education and unemployment are all factors working against the consolidation of democracy;
 4. Calls on the South African Government to speed up the land reform in favour of the landless and the poor by due process of law;
 5. Urges the South African Government to face up to its responsibility and do everything in its power to combat the HIV/AIDS problem; calls in consequence for a clearly defined project to be set up to deal with prevention, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS;
 6. Calls on the relevant authorities to step up their efforts in fighting crime and the lack of security, while ensuring that the fight against crime does not jeopardise respect for human rights;
 7. Calls on the South African Government to adopt a national plan of action, to issue

RC\444950EN.doc

PE 307.311}
PE 307.322}
PE 307.331}
PE 307.333}
PE 307.344} RC1

guidelines to schools on procedures to deal with sexual violence and to adopt methods to prevent such behaviour, as well as protecting girls;

8. Recalls that, apart from reducing poverty, one of the other main priorities of the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development (EPRD) in South Africa is ‘to consolidate the foundations laid for a democratic society and a state governed by the rule of law, in which human rights and fundamental freedoms are fully respected’;
9. Calls on the Member States, the Commission, the European Investment Bank and the international community to offer their assistance to the South African Government within their respective established programmes with South Africa, to devise new measures to prevent and combat crime, and step up existing measures with a view to promoting the climate of greater security required for economic development and a peaceful society;
10. Believes that in the context of the budgetary debate particular attention should be paid to forms of cooperation which are directly linked to combating AIDS and eradicating poverty and unemployment, and to measures for reforming the judiciary and the police system and for training policemen;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States, the Government of the Republic of South Africa, the OAU and the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint-Parliamentary Assembly.