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B5-0764/2001 }
B5-0817/2001 }
RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Caroline Lucas and Paul A.A.J.G. Lannoye on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Ilda Figueiredo and Konstantinos Alyssandrakis on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- Verts/ALE (B5-0764/2001),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0817/2001),

on the WTO meeting in Qatar

European Parliament resolution on the WTO meeting in Qatar

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 25 October 2001 on the statements by the Commission and Council prior to the 4th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation,
- 1. Takes note of the various Declarations agreed by WTO members in Doha but regrets that there was no real reflection on the failings of the multilateral trade system, nor any attempt to promote a systematic reform of the decision-making and operational procedures to ensure that the WTO becomes a democratic, accountable and transparent organisation;
- 2. Considers that the further extension of the WTO's mandate set in motion in Doha requires a strong counterbalance, and that the international debate on global governance needs to be given fresh impetus, notably through the UN World Summit on Sustainable Development (the Rio+10 process), so that multilateral trade is subordinate to the overriding agenda of eradication of poverty and hunger, equitable and sustainable development and environmental protection;
- 3. Calls on the Commission and the Council to propose urgently a strong agenda for the UN conference in order to balance power between the different organisations and rules such as the WTO, ILO and MEAs;
- 4. Deplores the fact that the 4th Ministerial Conference was not the expected and necessary 'development round' and its results could widen the gap between the rich and the poor in the North and in the South;
- 5. Notes that the developing countries were better organised for Doha than for Seattle and welcomes the more confident approach of many developing and least-developed countries in demanding that their priorities be given precedence within the Doha Declarations but considers that heavy-handed and divisive tactics used by the WTO Secretariat, the EU and the USA effectively overturned this collective determination and that in the final declaration the unbalanced results of Marrakech were not reversed;
- 6. Welcomes the approval of the Cotonou waiver but regrets strongly that it was used as a bargaining chip to force ACP countries into accepting the principle of starting negotiations on the so-called Singapore issues of investment, competition, government procurement and customs rules which they had strongly and publicly opposed;
- 7. Notes that developing countries succeeded in preventing the immediate launch of negotiations on the new issues, among them the negotiations on investment; regrets that the EU insisted on the inclusion of investment in the agenda for the New Round of the WTO, and the recognition of the same principles already rejected with the MAI (non-discrimination, etc.); considers that any negotiations on these matters should at least fully involve the appropriate organisations of the UN system, like UNCTAD and the ILO;
- 8. Considers that the Doha agreements underline the urgent need for an effective international treaty on corporate accountability, liability and reporting, including the right of legal redress

by citizens and communities for environmental and social damage caused by corporate activities, in place of the ineffective voluntary codes of conduct currently being considered;

9. Regards the paragraphs on Trade and the Environment as being particularly ill conceived; considers that for the most part they represent a deregulatory and pro-trade agenda and not a pro-environment one; regrets that the EU failed to secure two of its key objectives, namely explicit and unambiguous recognition of the precautionary principle and of the multifunctional nature of European agriculture;
10. Deplores the fact that in the negotiations on agriculture, the EU, together with the US, the Cairns group and some other countries, assigned the highest priority to the interests of their exporting agro-industry, and that therefore no significant result has been obtained for the defence of poor farmers' interests and of food security;
11. Welcomes the Declaration on the TRIPS agreement and public health as being an important political restatement of the rights of individual countries to take overriding action to secure access to affordable drugs to help protect their citizens from pandemics such as the HIV/AIDS crisis, but notes that the terms of the underlying intellectual property agreement, TRIPs, have not been changed; expresses its disappointment that the rights of members to import cheaper medicines from third countries were not confirmed and that the re-examination of this key issue will take at least a further twelve months during which time, based on United Nations figures, another 3 million AIDS sufferers will die;
12. Notes the decision to reform the Dispute Settlement Body, and hopes that this will lead to the introduction of elementary principles of justice, such as the independent exercise of judicial power, procedures for appeal to another body, and the priority of rules coming from other organisations and institutions of the UN system (MEAs, ILO rules, etc.);
13. Deplores the fact that the EU has given high priority to liberalisation, mainly in favour of corporations, and that few efforts have been made by the EU to overcome the opposition of some States of the South and to create alliances with others, in order to guarantee minimum social rights worldwide;
14. Notes that India and some other countries succeeded in including in the agenda for the new round some implementation issues, which could lead to a more balanced application and possibly the revision of some of the current rules;
15. Hopes that the agreement to examine the question of accreditation of observers at WTO proceedings will follow the best practice of United Nations agencies, thereby encouraging greater access and participation of civil society organisations;
16. Despite the obvious limitations imposed by the choice of Qatar as the host nation, and the strict security measures in place, wishes to thank the people of Qatar for their hospitality; hopes that the 5th Ministerial will take place in a location more conducive to full-scale participation by civil society;
17. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the Director-General of the WTO.