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2004

Session document

14 May 2002

B5-0262/2002 }
B5-0267/2002 }
B5-0280/2002 }
B5-0283/2002 }
B5-0284/2002 }
B5-0285/2002 } RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- John Bowis on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Georges Garot and Francisca Sauquillo Pérez del Arco on behalf of the PSE Group
- Marieke Sanders-ten Holte, Colette Flesch and Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Didier Rod, Danielle Auroi, Nelly Maes and Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Joaquim Miranda, Yasmine Boudjenah, Hans Modrow and Luisa Morgantini on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Sergio Berlato and Liam Hyland on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- UEN (B5-0262/2002),
- PSE (B5-0267/2002),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0280/2002),
- ELDR (B5-0283/2002),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0284/2002),
- PPE-DE (B5-0285/2002),

on the United Nations World Food Summit

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European Parliament resolution on the United Nations World Food Summit

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the United Nations World Food Summit to be held in Rome [Italy] between 10 and 13 June 2002,
- having regard to Article 25 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights,
- having regard to Articles 24 and 27 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,
- having regard to the EU Heads of State and Government meeting in Seville [Spain] from 21 to 22 June 2002,
- having regard to the G-8 Summit in Kananaskis [Canada] between 26 and 28 June 2002, which will focus on G-8 cooperation with Africa,
- having regard to the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg [South Africa] from 26 August to 4 September 2002,
- having regard to the conclusions reached by 185 nations attending the World Food Summit in 1996 in Rome - including a commitment to halve the number of undernourished people by 2015,
- having regard to the European Parliament Report of 6 April 2000 on the Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion on behalf of the European Community of the Food Aid Convention 1999,
- having regard to its resolution of 1 March 2001 on the European Community's Development Policy as well as previous resolutions on debt reduction for developing countries and the coherence of EU policies, particularly its resolutions of 7 February 2002 and 25 April 2002 on the Monterrey Summit,
- having regard to the agricultural agreements of Marrakesh, the resumption of agricultural negotiations since 1 January 2000, and the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the 4th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at Doha,
- having regard to the Development Council Declaration of 8 November 2001 on the Preparations for the UN Conference on Financing for Development (FfD), confirming ‘the great importance which the European Union attaches to the success of FfD and the World Summit for Sustainable Development’ in Johannesburg in September 2002,
- having regard to the conclusions reached at the Monterrey [Mexico] UN Conference on

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Financing for Development between 18 March and 22 March 2002,

- having regard to the OECD documents on the role of development cooperation on the threshold of the 21st century, the UN Millennium Declaration, the G-8 report on poverty reduction and economic development, and the motions adopted at the Politicians' and Governors' Jubilee Assembly,
- having regard to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly's Resolution on security of food supplies adopted on 1 November 2001,
- A. whereas every human being has the right to have access to healthy and nutritional food and a fundamental right to be protected from famine,
- B. whereas water and biodiversity must be considered inalienable public assets,
- C. whereas 'food security and sustainable rural development strategies' are one of the six priorities of the European Union's development policy, and should be promoted by all international economic and financial institutions,
- D. whereas hunger and malnutrition are not due to the fact that there is simply not enough food in the world, but above all are the consequences of bad distribution and supply systems,
- E. whereas the 1996 World Food Summit in Rome set the deadline of 2015 by which to halve the number of people in the world - currently estimated at 815 million - who suffer from hunger,
- F. whereas the 2002 World Food Summit in June is one of three key United Nations meetings that focus on the eradication of poverty and hunger, with the Monterrey UN Conference on Financing for Development (FfD) in March 2002 laying the foundations for additional funds, and the UN World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in September 2002 focusing on the need to integrate sustainable development and environmental policies,
- G. whereas the need for access to food, water and increased sustainable agricultural production is critical since, according to estimates by various international agencies:
 - 1.2 billion people - three-quarters of whom live in rural areas - survive on less than USD 1 per day,
 - 815 million people are suffering from chronic malnutrition,
 - more than 80% of global consumption is accounted for by 20% of the world's population,
 - the global population is predicted to increase by about 2.5 billion between 1990 and 2020, with almost 90% of this increase taking place in the developing countries,
 - 60% of the poorest people live in ecologically fragile areas, and agriculture is the largest consumer of water, accounting for 72% of the total usage worldwide,
 - global demand for water is estimated to have risen sevenfold from 1900 to 1995, more than double the rate of population growth, with 1.1 billion people without access to safe drinking water,

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- H. whereas the 1996 World Food Summit set four priorities for action:
- food security;
 - international agricultural trade;
 - sustainable management of natural resources;
 - rural development;
- to improve production and guarantee equal and stable access to food,
- I. whereas the 2002 World Food Summit will highlight the need for a global water partnership and additional contributions for the Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety to reach its initial target of US\$ 500 million,
- J. whereas at the World Food Summit the Commission should commit itself to a coherent EU strategy as regards its agricultural and fisheries policies, its development policy and its trade policy within the framework of the WTO,
- K. whereas an International Alliance against Hunger and Poverty to be proposed at the World Food Summit will require reform of the EU's development policy, which is funded through two separate instruments (the European Development Fund and EU budget), to ensure better coordination in policy formulation, parliamentary scrutiny and implementation between the Commission, the Parliament and the Member States and other international organisations,
- L. whereas there should be freedom of choice for developing countries in the area of agricultural technologies,
1. Considers that the decisions reached at Monterrey should lead to a renewed effort by all nations attending the World Food Summit in Rome, and calls on all nations attending the Summit to reaffirm the commitments made by Heads of State in 1996 and to accelerate action to achieve the target set of halving those suffering from hunger by 2015;
 2. Reaffirms its commitment to poverty eradication, sustainable development and the achievement of the development goals set out at the Millennium Summit and at the UN conferences, but warns that current data indicates that the number of undernourished is falling at an average rate of only 6 million each year - far below the rate of 22 million per year needed to reach the World Food Summit target;
 3. Urges the European Council and Commission to ensure that decisions made at the UN Conference on Financing for Development, the World Food Summit and the World Summit on Sustainable Development are consistent and lead to concerted international action to eradicate hunger, poverty and disease;
 4. Notes that hunger is both the cause and effect of extreme poverty, which requires action to encourage the development of local markets, to ensure access to adequate and safe food and water and to focus on the need to improve agricultural productivity in developing countries by giving priority to local practices, which are adapted to local conditions, and to the

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processing of food products locally;

5. Warns that the global cost of not eradicating hunger - in terms of conflict, recurrent emergencies, international crime, the drugs trade, economic stagnation, clandestine migration and premature death - is enormous;
6. Deplores the cases in which the governments of food-insecure countries have let military expenditure prevail over the acute nutritional needs of their populations;
7. Calls on the Council, Commission and EU Member States to help finance the Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety, and to undertake the necessary institutional reforms to enable greater cooperation between international and bilateral donors so that development aid is delivered efficiently;
8. Reaffirms that food aid must be reserved for emergencies and must be granted solely in the form of donations, and that supplies must be purchased locally whenever possible, while respecting food balances and habits, and that such food aid must be accompanied by measures which allow this aid to be withdrawn while encouraging the reconstruction of the productive potential of the regions affected;
9. Urges the Council, Commission and EU Member States to support proposals contained in two World Food Summit preparatory documents - *"Fostering the Political Will to Fight Hunger"* and *"Mobilising Resources to Fight Hunger"* - which consider:
 - translating commitments into action;
 - food security, and the economic, social and political cost of not eradicating hunger;
 - the place of food security in poverty reduction strategies;
 - ensuring efficient resource allocation to tackle short-term shortages;longer-term investments focusing on sustainable agricultural development;
10. Reiterates its opinion that the WTO round should focus its attention on the need for development - including food security - and that this will require the necessary adjustment of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy and Common Fisheries Policy and has to take account of these objectives;
11. Calls on the Council to agree to the incorporation of the European Development Fund into the EU budget in order to establish a transparent overall financial framework for EU development assistance;
12. Calls on the industrialised countries to explore new and innovative ways to promote cooperation and technology transfer in the areas of agriculture, water management and sanitation, whilst developing nations should be free to choose which technologies to apply;
13. Underlines the need to encourage micro-finance and low-interest credit to help rural economic development for farmers, local fisheries, fish farming and the encouragement of local food processing facilities in developing countries, and calls for the promotion of and

respect for craft fishing and local aquaculture;

14. Considers that the FAO should play an active role in deciding and implementing the international legal instruments indispensable for managing and controlling the exploitation of shared resources;
15. Believes that trade barriers, subsidies and other trade-distorting measures, particularly in sectors of special export interest to developing countries like agriculture, should be assessed with a view to being reduced, and calls on the EU to ask its industrial partners to open up their markets to products from the 49 least developed countries;
16. Notes the decision in the European Union's 'Everything But Arms' proposal to grant unlimited access to EC markets for all products of the Less Developed Countries with the exception of arms and munitions; in this context, calls on the other industrialised members of the FAO to follow the example of the EU;
17. Believes that the European Union's food safety standards are increasingly proving a barrier to trade for developing countries, and calls on the EU both to agree reasonable derogations in this area and to give financial support to enable such countries to meet the EU's criteria;
18. Calls on the States attending the Summit of the UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) to consider an international code of conduct on the right to adequate food;
19. Emphasises the need to apply the rule of law, democracy and good governance when deciding issues such as land reform;
20. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the European Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the EU Member States and applicant countries, the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the Secretaries-General of the United Nations, African Union, Commonwealth, OECD and Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly, United Nations Security Council, United Nations Economic and Social Council, European Investment Bank, World Bank and International Monetary Fund, and the Directors-General of the Food and Agriculture Programme [FAO], World Food Programme [WFP] and United Nations Development Programme [UNDP].