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11 February 2003

B5-0101/2003 }
B5-0115/2003 }
B5-0125/2003 }

RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Raimon Obiols i Germà, Harlem Désir, Margrietus J. van den Berg, Stephen Hughes, Mário Soares, Francisca Sauquillo Pérez del Arco, Olga Zrihen Zaari and Gianni Vattimo on behalf of the PSE Group
- Danielle Auroi, Jan Dhaene, Monica Frassoni, Jillian Evans, Theodorus J.J. Bouwman, Alain Lipietz and Camilo Nogueira Román on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Francis Wurtz on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- Verts/ALE (B5-0101/2003),
- PSE (B5-0115/2003),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0125/2003),

on the World Social Forum and the World Economic Forum (Porto Alegre/Davos)

European Parliament resolution on the World Social Forum and the World Economic Forum (Porto Alegre/Davos)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the recent World Social Forum in Porto Alegre and the World Economic Forum in Davos,
- having regard more generally to the increasing public concern about the potential negative effects of current globalisation patterns,
- A. whereas, as UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan remarked, the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre has become the most important expression of civil societies around the world, and having regard to the success of this third meeting, which hosted a World Forum of Local Authorities, a World Education Forum, a World Judges' Forum, a World Small Farmers' Assembly, a Trade Union Forum and a World Parliamentary Forum, in which more than 100 000 people from 156 countries took part,
- B. whereas this World Parliamentary Forum has given rise to an International Parliamentary Network that was created to develop links between MPs, citizens and social movements at all levels,
- C. whereas this World Social Forum was largely prepared by regional Forums, such as the European Social Forum in Florence, the latter providing a European public space to debate issues that also lie at the heart of the European Union's future role in the world,
- D. whereas the many people who attended these events advocating a different form of globalisation want to reaffirm the paramount importance of sustainable development worldwide; whereas the large number of participants shows a new, fresh interest among people in taking part in decision-making at all levels,
- E. whereas this movement contributes to democracy and transparency as it helps to make public opinion worldwide aware of intensified social degradation as well as increasing environmental destruction; whereas trade unionists, environmental and human rights campaigners, women's rights associations and NGOs are sending out a strong message to policy makers that the current globalisation patterns are not sustainable,
- F. whereas many of the movements represented at Porto Alegre are seeking democratic reform of the systems of global governance, in particular of the WTO, the IMF and the World Bank,
- G. whereas the World Economic Forum also indicated a new willingness on the part of the business community to join in dialogue in order to address critical issues on the global economy, governance, security, social entrepreneurship, energy, women's rights, children's rights, financial markets, labour and human dignity,
- H. whereas the President of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, was present at both forums, in

Porto Alegre and Davos, where he pleaded for the reconstruction of the world economic order, the redistribution of wealth, the fight against famine and for the promotion of education and dignity of life for all,

- I. whereas the World Social Forum and the World Parliamentary Forum have aligned themselves unequivocally and clearly against war, in particular in Iraq,
 1. Thanks the organisers of the World Social Forum and the World Parliamentary Forum in Porto Alegre and welcomes the spirit of openness and innovation which characterised the debates held there as well as the many ideas and strategies which emerged from the meetings; also welcomes the strengthening of links between the World Social Forum and the World Parliamentary Forum, as a preliminary to an international parliamentary network to voice the demands of social movements at legislative level;
 2. Welcomes the evolution shown by the global movements towards the identification of concrete policy changes aimed at confronting neo-liberalism in order to promote a democratic, fair and social form of globalisation, including all groups, especially women;
 3. Welcomes the establishment of world social networks and the launch of international campaigns on issues such as global public goods, access to water, renewable energies, agriculture and food security, public services, cultural diversity, corporate responsibility, cancellation of the debt, reform of international economic organisations (IMF, World Bank, WTO), and support for the Kyoto Protocol;
 4. Welcomes the World Parliamentary Forum's call for an international treaty establishing a tax on currency markets to be paid into United Nations funds;
 5. Shares the global social movement's concern on the issues of peace and international stability, in particular as regards the dangerous concept of 'preventive war';
 6. Believes that, to play a positive role in global governance, the EU, which should offer a response to the challenge of globalisation by promoting democratic, regional governance, must undertake in-depth institutional reforms for a stronger political Union and the promotion of a progressive and sustainable economic and social model; expects the Convention on the Future of Europe to make ambitious proposals in this direction;
 7. Encourages the creation of national and European coordinations of the International Parliamentary Network, so that European, national and regional MPs can join their efforts to contribute to this task;
 8. Welcomes the undertaking of the parliamentarians at the World Parliamentary Forum to meet on the eve of the fifth ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at Cancun (Mexico); insists that the next World Trade Organisation Conference in Cancun should be an opportunity for the EU to affirm that international trade policy must take into consideration social and environmental constraints, and that trade and financial international systems must be thoroughly reformed to meet the demands of democracy;
 9. Calls firmly for any negotiations on services (GATS) to be conducted transparently and to be democratically monitored; calls on the Commission to release the list of services that it will propose for liberalisation before the WTO receives it on 31 March, in order to give to

the European Parliament and national parliaments adequate time to debate it;

10. Reaffirms that patients' interests should take precedence over those of the pharmaceutical industry; calls, therefore, for the Doha mandate to be respected so that nothing in the TRIPS agreement may in future prevent developing countries from implementing public health policies;
11. Insists that globalisation must not undermine the accountability of private companies to democratic authority; believes that the creation of the EU Multi-Stakeholder CSR Forum, comprising representation from business, trade unions, non-governmental organisations and public authorities can play an important role in reconciling economic and social progress; considers it urgent to intensify at national, regional and international level efforts to monitor compliance by transnational companies with social and environmental standards and human rights, including the rights of ethnic minorities;
12. Calls on the Commission and on Member States to support the efforts by Brazil and other countries to guarantee their food sovereignty, in particular by means of agrarian reform and by protecting and stimulating their internal markets;
13. Supports the call by small-farmers' organisations meeting in Porto Alegre for the right to food sovereignty; is in favour of seeds being declared a heritage of humanity under United Nations auspices in order to guarantee the continuing replication of and trade in traditional and local varieties, and supports efforts to combat hunger, small-farmer survival and the preservation of biodiversity;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and Council, the parliaments of the Member States and the organisers of the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre and the World Economic Forum in Davos.