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JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Othmar Karas and Jorge Moreira da Silva on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Marieke Sanders-ten Holte on behalf of the ELDR Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PPE-DE (B5-0111/2003),
- ELDR (B5-0120/2003),

on the World Economic and Social Fora (Davos and Porto Alegre)

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

The European Parliament,

- having followed the 2003 World Economic Forum (Davos) and World Social Forum (Porto Alegre),
- A. whereas the World Economic Forum and the World Social Forum are streamlining policies and strategies, with increasing influence year by year, on the world economy, social progress and other current relevant world-wide issues,
- B. whereas the Iraqi crisis has been a constant factor in these debates,
- C. whereas globalisation is a consequence of heterogeneous, not always planned, progress in different areas such as market development, communication technologies, reduction of transport costs, expansion of free market economies, international agreements such as those of the WTO, IMF and others; whereas globalisation does not imply homogenisation and whereas cultural and linguistic diversity therefore remain essential to a full human existence,
- D. whereas globalisation in itself does not guarantee the economic progress of the developing economies,
- E. whereas in Europe the recovery from the world economic crisis is slow, with no clear acceleration of economic growth in 2002 and still uncertain prospects for 2003,
- F. whereas the current crisis poses a new challenge to policy-makers due to particular characteristics of its own, combining deceleration of growth with relative price stability, at a time when Europe has just adopted a common currency,
- G. whereas the European social model is the best example to show the rest of the world that it is possible to reconcile an open free-market economy with social cohesion,
- H. whereas democratic and corruption-free governance is just as important for raising living standards, improving distribution of food, education, health care and incomes as economic growth,
- I. whereas globalisation is not only an economic issue, but also implies the spreading of democracy and human rights; whereas a good example of this is the war crime tribunals set up after the conflicts in the Balkans and in Rwanda and the International Criminal Court, which would never have been possible without globalisation,

On the global economy

1. Believes that globalisation must be accompanied by greater efforts to reduce poverty; reaffirms its commitment to the United Nations Millennium Declaration Goals and asks the

Commission to monitor achievements in this area and submit a report to Parliament every year;

2. Endorses the fundamental principle that free trade, entrepreneurship, competition, sustainable development and the use of new technologies are the main means to create long-term sustainable economic growth in the world;
3. Calls, therefore, on the European Commission and the Member States to enhance their support for human rights and democratic development throughout the world; firmly believes that liberal democracy respecting human rights (including core labour standards), the rule of law and private property, combined with an open market economy without trade barriers, are essential for improving economic growth and raising standards of living in developing countries;
4. Considers that the current international crisis - Iraq, Middle East, North Korea - may cause the economic prospects for 2003 to deteriorate;
5. Considers that the commitment to the Lisbon-Göteborg agenda is the best way simultaneously to achieve economic growth and sustainability; regrets that the pace of reform in 2002 has remained quite slow;
6. Points out the need to perfect the functioning of the internal market, as well as the need to strengthen the political role of the EU vis-a-vis international politics; requests the European Commission to put forward the necessary initiatives to achieve this, taking into account its role in economic policy coordination, as well as the responsibilities arising from its right of initiative;
7. Considers that there is a need to improve investor confidence through more effective corporate governance regulation; considers that optimal regulation is an ongoing process that must respond to the changing global environment; and points out that one key factor in rebuilding trust amongst investors is that company boards must be seen to be acting in the interest of stockholders; supports the spreading use of Corporate Social Responsibility as a positive development and calls on more multinational companies to include social, societal and environmental concerns in their business activities, but underlines that CSR must remain a voluntary concept;
8. Believes companies have a shared responsibility to create a more humane and sustainable economic future by respecting minimum standards of working conditions and environmental conservation as central planks of their global business strategies;
9. Reiterates the need to link social, economic and environmental policies, to build trust in government, and to tackle major world-wide problems such as poverty, which can breed exclusion, mistrust and conflict;
10. Points out that it is crucial to build trade capacity in the developing world to benefit from the globalisation trends; in order to do so, it is of the utmost importance that these countries develop their basic physical infrastructures, including information technology, and that their governments look to form partnerships with the private sector as they move towards trade liberalisation;

11. Believes that the development of equitable international trade is an efficient instrument in the attempt to bring about a drastic reduction in poverty and calls for comprehensive private-sector development strategies; in this sense believes that much of international trade policy, as conducted by the industrialised world, must take more account of the need for fair access for developing countries to world markets;
12. Underlines that women's rights and equal opportunities are vital in a democratic society and that equal rights and high-quality education contribute greatly to further social and economic development;

On security

13. Reaffirms its commitment to peace, democracy and respect for human rights and international law, and reiterates the need for full application of and compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions in order to guarantee international peace and security; calls on the Iraqi Government to comply with UN Security Council Resolution 1441;

On sustainable development

14. Considers that sustainable development should ensure that globalisation contributes to ensuring long-term welfare for all countries, by achieving increased international equity and by respecting the carrying capacity of the world's resources and ecosystems; considers that political decisions should therefore be based on a holistic analysis that reflects the effects of such decisions on all three dimensions of sustainable development;
15. Firmly believes that no international gathering to consider the world economic order, international trade, the situation of developing countries or globalisation can afford to ignore the environmental consequences of all of these policy sectors, and that sustainable development has to be the cornerstone of these policies if we are to cater for the economic and environmental well-being of future generations;
16. Acknowledges that both governance on sustainable development and international governance may require implementation and coordination efforts at regional level and will need a more coherent regional institutional framework; urges international organisations working on environmental and sustainable development issues at regional or national levels to extend their consultations with non-governmental organisations and other major groups;
17. Considers that trade rules and their implementation should support rather than contradict the effective implementation of environmental, social, health, consumer protection and economic objectives; believes, furthermore, that trade should actively promote ecologically sustainable production and consumption of and trade in goods and services by providing positive incentives, technical assistance and capacity building in developing countries; also considers that trade instruments should be used to address environmental and public health issues;
18. Supports effective solutions for the sustainable development, management, use and conservation of natural resources, inter alia through programmes of action, voluntary processes and mechanisms, legal instruments and cooperation with industry, which are

designed to take into account the views and interests of relevant stakeholders; seeks to find effective solutions to serious global and regional environmental problems through international and regional legal instruments, including multilateral environmental agreements;

19. Calls for a reform of international bodies dealing with sustainable development issues, starting with the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as well as the World Trade Organisation (WTO);
20. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.