1. Opening of sitting

The sitting opened at 10.00.

2. Documents received

The following documents had been received:

1) from the Council and Commission

2) from Members
   2.1) motions for resolutions (Rule 113)
       — Corbett Richard — Motion for a resolution on European City Guides (B6-0280/2006) referred to responsible: IMCO

3. Transfers of appropriations


Having noted the Council’s opinion, it had authorised the transfer in part pursuant to Article 24(3) of the Financial Regulation of 25 June 2002.

* *


Having noted the Council’s opinion, it had authorised the transfer in full pursuant to Article 24(3) of the Financial Regulation of 25 June 2002.

* *

* *

Having noted the Council’s opinion, it had authorised the transfer in full pursuant to Article 24(3) of the Financial Regulation of 25 June 2002.

4. Natural disasters — agricultural aspects — Natural disasters — regional development aspects — Natural disasters — environmental aspects — EU Solidarity Fund ***I (debate)

Report on natural disasters (fires, droughts and floods) — agricultural aspects [2005/2195(INI)] — Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

Report on natural disasters (fires, droughts and floods) — regional development aspects [2005/2193(INI)] — Committee on Regional Development

Report on natural disasters (fires, droughts and floods) — environmental aspects [2005/2192(INI)] — Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety


Andris Piebalgs (Member of the Commission) spoke.

Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos introduced the report (A6-0152/2006).

Gerardo Galeote introduced the report (A6-0147/2006).

Edite Estrela introduced the report (A6-0149/2006).

Rolf Berend introduced the report (A6-0123/2006).

The following spoke: László Surján (draftsman of the opinion of the BUDG Committee) (A6-0123/2006), Jutta D. Haug (draftsman of the opinion of the ENVI Committee) (A6-0123/2006), Duarte Freitas, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group, Jamila Madeira, on behalf of the PSE Group, Jean Marie Beaupuy, on behalf of the ALDE Group, Marie Anne Isler Béguin, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group, Pedro Guerreiro, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, Andrzej Tomasz Zapalowski, on behalf of the IND/DEM Group, Andreas Mölzer, Non-attached Member, Alojz Peterle, Iratxe García Pérez and Vittorio Prodi.

IN THE CHAIR: Luigi COCILOVO
Vice-President

The following spoke: Elisabeth Schroedter, Kyriacos Triantaphyllides, Graham Booth, Janusz Wojciechowski, Luca Romagnoli, Konstantinos Hatzidakis, Katerina Batzeli, Frédérique Ries, Margie Sudre, Gyula Hegyi, Luis de Grandes Pascual, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Jan Březina, Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg, Jim Higgins, Ryszard Czarnecki and Andris Piebalgs.

The debate closed.

Vote: Minutes of 18.05.2006, Item 5.8, Minutes of 18.05.2006, Item 5.9, Minutes of 18.05.2006, Item 5.10 and Minutes of 18.05.2006, Item 5.4.

(The sitting was suspended at 11.45 pending voting time and resumed at 12.05.)
5. Voting time

Details of voting (amendments, separate and split votes, etc.) appear in the 'Results of votes' annex to the Minutes.

5.1. Draft amending budget No 2/2006 (Rule 131) (vote)


(Qualified majority)
(Voting record: 'Results of votes', Item 1)

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION
Adopted by single vote (P6_TA(2006)0215)

5.2. Cohesion Policy in support of growth and jobs (Rule 131) (vote)

Report on preparing for the assent procedure for the Community's strategic guidelines for the period 2007-2013 (Cohesion Policy in Support of Growth and Jobs) [2006/2086(INI)] — Committee on Regional Development
Rapporteur: Constanze Angela Krehl (A6-0175/2006).

(Simple majority)
(Voting record: 'Results of votes', Item 2)

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION
Adopted by single vote (P6_TA(2006)0216)

5.3. Financing instrument for development and economic cooperation ***I (vote)


(Simple majority)
(Voting record: 'Results of votes', Item 3)

COMMISSION PROPOSAL
Approved as amended (P6_TA(2006)0217)

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION
Adopted (P6_TA(2006)0217)

5.4. EU Solidarity Fund ***I (vote)


(Simple majority)
(Voting record: 'Results of votes', Item 4)

COMMISSION PROPOSAL
Approved as amended (P6_TA(2006)0218)

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION
Adopted (P6_TA(2006)0218)
5.5. Conclusion of the Energy Community Treaty *** (vote)

Recommendation on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion by the European Community of
the Energy Community Treaty [13886/1/2005 — C6-0435/2005 — 2005/0178(AVC)] — Committee on
Industry, Research and Energy
Rapporteur: Giles Chichester (A6-0134/2006).

(Simple majority)
(Voting record: ‘Results of votes’, Item 5)

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION
Adopted (P6_TA(2006)0219)

Parliament thereby gave its assent.

5.6. Human Rights in the World in 2005 and EU policy (vote)

the matter [2005/2203(INI)] — Committee on Foreign Affairs

(Simple majority)
(Voting record: ‘Results of votes’, Item 6)

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION
Adopted (P6_TA(2006)0220)

The following spoke on the vote:
— Vittorio Agnoletto, who moved an oral amendment to amendment 7.
As more than 37 Members objected to the oral amendment, it was not incorporated.

5.7. Commission’s Annual Policy Strategy for 2007 (vote)

Committee on Budgets

(Simple majority)
(Voting record: ‘Results of votes’, Item 7)

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION
Adopted (P6_TA(2006)0221)

5.8. Natural disasters — agricultural aspects (vote)

Report on natural disasters (fires, droughts and floods) — agricultural aspects [2005/2195(INI)] —
Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

(Simple majority)
(Voting record: ‘Results of votes’, Item 8)

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION
Adopted (P6_TA(2006)0222)

The following spoke on the vote:
— Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos (rapporteur), who moved an oral amendment to paragraph 13, which was
incorporated.
5.9. Natural disasters — regional development aspects (vote)

Report on natural disasters (fires, droughts and floods) — regional development aspects [2005/2193(INI)]
— Committee on Regional Development

(Simple majority)
(Voting record: ‘Results of votes’, Item 9)

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION
Adopted (P6_TA(2006)0223)

5.10. Natural disasters — environmental aspects (vote)

Report on natural disasters (fires, droughts and floods) — environmental aspects [2005/2192(INI)] — Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

(Simple majority)
(Voting record: ‘Results of votes’, Item 10)

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION
Adopted (P6_TA(2006)0224)

The following spoke:
— Elisabeth Schroedter, on the conduct of the vote.

5.11. Treaty establishing the Energy Community for South-East Europe (vote)

Motion for a resolution B6-0279/2006

(Simple majority)
(Voting record: ‘Results of votes’, Item 11)

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION
Adopted (P6_TA(2006)0225)

6. Explanations of vote

Written explanations of vote:

Oral explanations of vote:
— Zsolt László Becsey
— Eija-Riitta Korhola
— Michl Ebner, Oldřich Vlasák, Markus Pieper

7. Corrections to votes and voting intentions

Corrections to votes:
Corrections to votes appear on the ‘Séance en direct’ website under ‘Votes’/’Results of votes’/’Roll-call votes’. They are published in hard copy in the ‘Result of roll-call votes’ annex.
The electronic version on Europarl will be regularly updated for a maximum of two weeks after the day of the vote concerned.

After the two-week deadline has passed, the list of corrections to votes will be finalised so that it can be translated and published in the Official Journal.

Voting intentions:

The Presidency had been notified of the following voting intentions (in respect of votes that had not been cast):

— amendment 4
  against: Tobias Pflüger
— amendment 12
  in favour: Françoise Grossetête
  against: Etelka Barsi-Pataky, Hartmut Nassauer
— resolution (as a whole)
  in favour: Alexander Radwan, Anders Wijkman

— amendment 13
  against: Alexander Radwan, Paul Rübig, Gunnar Hökmark

— amendment 16, first part
  against: Charlotte Cederschiöld
— amendment 16, second part
  in favour: Stéphane Le Foll
— recital M
  in favour: Tobias Pflüger
— resolution (as a whole)
  in favour: Etelka Barsi-Pataky, Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann

— recital M
  in favour: Patrick Gaubert

Tobias Pflüger had informed the Chair that his voting machine had not worked during the vote on amendment 4 to the Richard Howitt report (A6-0158/2006).

(The sitting was suspended at 12.50 and resumed at 15.00.)

IN THE CHAIR: Miroslav OUZKÝ
Vice-President

8. Approval of Minutes of previous sitting

Małgorzata Handzlik had informed the Presidency that she had been present but that her name was not on the attendance register.

Mia De Vits and Véronique De Keyser had pointed out that a technical problem had prevented them from taking part in the first few votes at voting time the previous day.

The Minutes of the previous sitting were approved.
9. Debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law (debate)

(For the titles and authors of the motions for resolutions, see Minutes of 16.05.2006, Item 3)

9.1. Nepal


Thomas Mann, Marcin Libicki, Jan Mulder, Neena Gill, Raül Romeva i Rueda and Jaromír Kohlíček introduced motions for resolutions.

The following spoke: Bernd Posselt, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group, Robert Evans, on behalf of the PSE Group, Alyn Smith, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group, and Andris Piebalgs (Member of the Commission).

The debate closed.

Vote: Minutes of 18.05.2006, Item 14.1.

9.2. Sri Lanka


Carl Schlyter, Tobias Pflüger, Geoffrey Van Orden, Elizabeth Lynne and Robert Evans introduced motions for resolutions.

The following spoke: Nirj Deva, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group, Neena Gill, on behalf of the PSE Group, Jan Mulder, on behalf of the ALDE Group, Jaromír Kohlíček, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg and Andris Piebalgs (Member of the Commission).

The debate closed.

Vote: Minutes of 18.05.2006, Item 14.2.

9.3. Taiwan

Motions for resolution B6-0284/2006 and B6-0285/2006

Marios Matsakis and Raül Romeva i Rueda introduced motions for resolutions.

The following spoke: Astrid Lulling, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group, Martine Roure, on behalf of the PSE Group, Bastiaan Belder, on behalf of the IND/DEM Group, Marcin Libicki, on behalf of the UEN Group, Maciej Marian Giertych, Non-attached Member, Charles Tannock, Glyn Ford, Kathy Sinnott, Jean-Pierre Audy, Józef Pimior, Paulo Casaca and Andris Piebalgs (Member of the Commission).

The debate closed.

Vote: Minutes of 18.05.2006, Item 14.3.

10. Agenda

In the light of the Conference of Presidents' decision of 18.05.2006, the President proposed the following change to the agenda of the sitting of 01.06.2006 in Brussels:

Thursday, 01.06.2006

Inclusion in voting time of motions for resolution on the humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian Territory and the role of the Union.
Deadlines for tabling amendments and motions for resolution:
— motions for resolution: Monday, 29.05.2006, 17.00
— amendments and joint motions for resolution: Wednesday, 31.05.2006, 15.00.
Parliament agreed to the proposal.

11. Membership of Parliament
The Lithuanian authorities had given notice of the appointment of Eugenijus Maldeikis to replace Rolandas Pavilonis as Member of Parliament with effect from 18.05.2006.
The President drew attention to the provisions of Rule 3(5).

12. Membership of political groups
Donata Gottardi, elected to the European Parliament in place of Enrico Letta, had joined the PSE Group;
Andrea Losco, elected to the European Parliament in place of Massimo D’Alema, had joined the ALDE Group;
Achille Occhetto, elected to the European Parliament in place of Antonio Di Pietro, had joined the PSE Group;
Gianluca Susta, elected to the European Parliament in place of Pier Luigi Bersani, had joined the ALDE Group.

13. Membership of committees and delegations
At the request of the PSE Group, Parliament ratified the following appointments:
TRAN Committee:
Silvia Adriana Ticaău as an Observer to replace Adrian Severin
AFCO Committee:
Adrian Severin as an Observer.

14. Voting time
Details of voting (amendments, separate and split votes, etc.) appear in the ‘Results of votes’ annex to the Minutes.

14.1. Nepal (vote)
(Simple majority)
(Voting record: ‘Results of votes’, Item 12)
tabled by the following Members:
Thomas Mann and Bernd Posselt, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group,
Pasqualina Napoletano, Neena Gill, Robert Evans and Elena Valenciano Martinez-Orozco, on behalf of the PSE Group,
Elizabeth Lynne, Marios Matsakis and Frédérique Ries, on behalf of the ALDE Group,
Raül Romeva i Rueda, Jean Lambert, Gérard Onesta, Hélène Flautre and Bart Staes, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group,
Jonas Sjöstedt and Vittorio Agnolotto, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group,
Eoin Ryan, on behalf of the UEN Group
Adopted (P6_TA(2006)0226)
14.2. Sri Lanka (vote)


(Simple majority)
(Voting record: ‘Results of votes’, Item 13)

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION RC-B6-0281/2006

tabled by the following Members:

Geoffrey Van Orden, Charles Tannock, Thomas Mann, Philip Bradbourn and Bernd Posselt, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group,
Pasqualina Nepoletano, Robert Evans, Neena Gill, Emilio Menéndez del Valle and Elena Valenciano Martínez-Orozco, on behalf of the PSE Group,
Elizabeth Lynne, Sajjad Karim and Marios Matsakis, on behalf of the ALDE Group
Jean Lambert, Raül Romeva i Rueda, Gérard Onesta and Frithjof Schmidt, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
Eoin Ryan, on behalf of the UEN Group

Adopted (P6_TA(2006)0227)

The following spoke on the vote:

Nirj Deva, who moved an oral amendment to paragraph 11, which was incorporated.

(Motion for a resolution B6-0283/2006 fell.)

14.3. Taiwan (vote)

Motions for resolution B6-0284/2006 and B6-0285/2006

(Simple majority)
(Voting record: ‘Results of votes’, Item 14)

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION RC-B6-0284/2006
(replacing B6-0284/2006 and B6-0285/2006):

tabled by the following Members:

Astrid Lulling and Bernd Posselt, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group,
Graham Watson, Alexander Lambsdorff, Cecilia Malmström and Marios Matsakis, on behalf of the ALDE Group,
Raül Romeva i Rueda and Eva Lichtenberger, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group,
Bastiaan Belder, on behalf of the INDEDEM Group,
Cristiana Muscardini, Konrad Szymański and Roberts Zile, on behalf of the UEN Group

Adopted (P6_TA(2006)0228)

15. Corrections to votes and voting intentions

Corrections to votes:

Corrections to votes appear on the ‘Séance en direct’ website under ‘Votes’/‘Results of votes’/‘Roll-call votes’. They are published in hard copy in the ‘Result of roll-call votes’ annex.

The electronic version on Europarl will be regularly updated for a maximum of two weeks after the day of the vote concerned.

After the two-week deadline has passed, the list of corrections to votes will be finalised so that it can be translated and published in the Official Journal.
16. Decisions concerning certain documents

**Authorisation to draw up own-initiative reports (Rule 45)**

**AFET Committee:**
- Accession of Romania (2006/2115(INI))
  (opinion: DEVE, INTA, BUDG, CONT, ECON, EMPL, ENVI, ITRE, IMCO, TRAN, REGI, AGRI, PECH, CULT, JURI, LIBE, AFCO, FEMM, PETI)
- Accession of Bulgaria (2006/2114(INI))
  (opinion: DEVE, INTA, BUDG, CONT, ECON, EMPL, ENVI, ITRE, IMCO, TRAN, REGI, AGRI, PECH, CULT, JURI, LIBE, AFCO, FEMM, PETI)

**ECON Committee:**
- Commission White Paper on services of general interest (2006/2101(INI))
  (opinion: DEVE, INTA, EMPL, ITRE, IMCO, TRAN, REGI, CULT, JURI)
- Green Paper on mortgage credit (2006/2102(INI))
  (opinion: EMPL, IMCO, JURI)
- Eurozone enlargement (2006/2103(INI))

**EMPL Committee:**
  (opinion: ITRE, CULT, FEMM)

**ITRE Committee:**
- A European strategy for sustainable, competitive and secure energy — Green paper (2006/2113(INI))
  (opinion: DEVE, INTA, ECON, ENVI, TRAN, REGI)

**TRAN Committee:**
- European road safety action programme, 2003 — Mid-term Review (2006/2112(INI))
  (opinion: ENVI, ITRE)

**REGI Committee:**
- The consequences of future enlargements on the effectiveness of cohesion policy (2006/2107(INI))
  (opinion: BUDG)
- The islands and natural and economic constraints in the context of the regional policy (2006/2106(INI))
- The contributions of the future regional policy to the innovative capacity of the European Union (2006/2104(INI))
  (opinion: BUDG)
- Housing and regional policy (2006/2108(INI))

**AGRI Committee:**
- Wine sector: common organisation of the market (2006/2109(INI))

**PECH Committee:**
- Fishing industry: improving the economic situation (2006/2110(INI))
  (opinion: ENVI)

**LIBE Committee:**
  (opinion: AFET)
Referral to committees

AFET and EMPL Committees:
— Fighting trafficking in human beings — an integrated approach and proposals for an action plan (2006/2078(INI))
  committee responsible: LIBE
  (opinion: AFET, EMPL, FEMM)

Enhanced cooperation between committees

ECON Committee:
— Green Paper on mortgage credit (2006/2102(INI))
  (opinion: EMPL, JURI)
  Enhanced cooperation between committees: ECON, IMCO
  (Following the Conference of Presidents' decision of 11.05.2006)
— Commission White Paper on services of general interest (2006/2101(INI))
  (opinion: DEVE, INTA, EMPL, ITRE, IMCO, TRAN, REGI, CULT, JURI)
  Enhanced cooperation between committees: ECON, IMCO
  (Following the Conference of Presidents' decision of 11.05.2006)

ENVI Committee:
  (opinion: ITRE)
  Enhanced cooperation between committees ENVI, IMCO
  (Following the Conference of Presidents' decision of 11.05.2006)
  (opinion: ITRE, IMCO)
  Enhanced cooperation between committees ENVI, JURI
  (Following the Conference of Presidents' decision of 11.05.2006)

ITRE Committee:
  (opinion: BUDG, JURI)
  Enhanced cooperation between committees ITRE, TRAN
  (Following the Conference of Presidents' decision of 11.05.2006)

LIBE Committee:
— Area of freedom, security and justice: strategy for the external dimension (2006/2111(INI))
  Enhanced cooperation between committees LIBE, AFET
  (Following the Conference of Presidents' decision of 11.05.2006)
17. Written declarations included in the register (Rule 116)

Number of signatures obtained by the written declarations in the register (Rule 116(3)):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document No</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Signatures</th>
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<tr>
<td>12/2006</td>
<td>Jean-Claude Martinez</td>
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<td>Maciej Marian Giertych</td>
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<td>Janusz Wojciechowski, Caroline Lucas, Ioannis Gklavakis and Thijs Berman</td>
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<td>Andreas Mölzer</td>
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<td>16/2006</td>
<td>Matteo Salvini</td>
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<td>17/2006</td>
<td>Daniel Strož</td>
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<td>18/2006</td>
<td>Roger Helmer, Ashley Mote, James Hugh Allister and Anna Záborská</td>
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<td>19/2006</td>
<td>Elly de Groen-Kouwenhoven, Michael Cashman, Erik Meijer, Alexander Lambsdorff and Geoffrey Van Orden</td>
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<td>Cristiano Muscardini</td>
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<td>Margrietus van den Berg, Jean-Marie Cavada, Harlem Désir and Caroline Lucas</td>
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<td>41/2006</td>
<td>Feleknas Uca, Raül Romeva i Rueda, Karin Scheele, Jürgen Schröder and Nicholson of Winterbourne</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18. Forwarding of texts adopted during the sitting

Pursuant to Rule 172(2), the Minutes of that day’s sitting would be submitted to Parliament for its approval at the beginning of the next sitting.

With Parliament’s agreement, the texts that had been adopted would be forwarded forthwith to the bodies named therein.
19. Dates for next sittings

The next sittings would be held on 31.05.2006 and 01.06.2006.

20. Adjournment of session

The session of the European Parliament was adjourned.

The sitting closed at 16.15.

Julian Priestley
Secretary-General

Josep Borrell Fontelles
President
Observers:

ANNEX I

RESULTS OF VOTES

Abbreviations and symbols

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
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<td>-</td>
<td>rejected</td>
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<td>↓</td>
<td>lapsed</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCV (...,..., ...)</td>
<td>roll-call vote (for, against, abstentions)</td>
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<td>EV (...,..., ...)</td>
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<td>rec</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOT</td>
<td>motion for a resolution</td>
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<tr>
<td>JT MOT</td>
<td>joint motion for a resolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEC</td>
<td>secret ballot</td>
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</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
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2. Cohesion policy in support of growth and jobs

Report: Constanze Angela KREHL (A6-0175/2006)

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3. Financing instrument for development and economic cooperation


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vote: amended proposal  

vote: legislative resolution

4. EU Solidarity Fund


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vote: amended proposal  

vote: legislative resolution

Requests for roll-call votes

GUE/NGL ams 42, 43 and 46

Requests for separate votes

GUE/NGL am 5
### 5. Conclusion of the Energy Community Treaty

**Recommendation**: Giles CHICHESTER (A6-0134/2006)

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### 6. Human Rights in the World in 2005 and EU policy


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Requests for split votes

PSE

am 8

First part: ‘Considers it a positive development … representative of EU action;’
Second part: ‘takes the view that … parliamentary control’

Verts/ALE:

§ 97

First part: ‘reiterates … with third countries’
Second part: ‘and the pilot Regional Protection Programmes … international solidarity’

GUE/NGL

§ 29

First part: ‘Congratulates the Council … as a weapon of war;’
Second part: ‘urges the EU … in the region’
Third part: ‘urges the EU to continue … various parties’

§ 38

First part: ‘Expresses concern … nevertheless’
Second part: ‘welcomes … in Iraq’
Third part: ‘calls for increased … can be addressed;’
Fourth part: ‘calls on the Council … high standards’

PPE-DE

am 7

First part: the words ‘and in China, Belarus, Cuba and North Korea in particular’
Second part: the ‘deletion’
Thursday, 18 May 2006

Requests for roll-call votes

PSE: final vote
Verts/ALE: am 4
GUE/NGL: ams 11, 12 and 13

Requests for separate votes
GUE/NGL: §§ 50 and 87


Report: James ELLES (A6-0154/2006)

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The aim of amendment 17 was to replace paragraph 25, not to insert a new paragraph 25a.

Requests for roll-call votes

IND/DEM final vote

PPE-DE: § 5
Verts/ALE: am 13

Requests for split votes

PPE-DE

§ 19

First part: ‘underlines … and internally’
Second part: ‘including at economic and social level’

§ 29

First part: ‘stresses … years to come’
Second part: ‘intends to provide … Schengen area’

am 7

First part: addition: ‘and Goeteborg’
Second part: addition: ‘and promote democracy and human rights’

Requests for separate votes

PPE-DE: § 22


8. Natural disasters — agricultural aspects


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vote: resolution (as a whole)

RCV | + | 398, 70, 26 |

Requests for split votes

IND/DEM

recital M

First part: ‘whereas the EU needs … civil protection and solidarity’
Second part: ‘as well as of a specific … and management for forest fires’

IND/DEM, ALDE

§ 2

First part: ‘Believes that an adequate response … and the new Life+ programme’
Second part: text as a whole without the words ‘that these mechanisms should be endowed with increased financial resources’
Third part: those words

GUE/NGL

§ 16

First part: text as a whole without the words ‘by farmers’
Second part: those words
Requests for separate votes

ALDE: § 25 and recital O
IND/DEM: ams 13, 25 and 27

Requests for roll-call votes

IND/DEM: § 16 and recital I
GUE/NGL: ams 1 and 2

rapporteur: resolution as a whole

Miscellaneous

Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos (rapporteur) moved an oral amendment to paragraph 13, which then read as follows:

13. Believes that it is essential, in the context of the Financial Framework for 2007-2013, to establish a Community programme for protection against forest fires, with a view to promoting awareness campaigns, risk-prevention, and risk-management measures regarding forest fires, suitably funded and complementing agricultural and structural policy; calls for this programme to lead specifically to the clear identification of financing allocated to appropriate measures aimed at preventing forest fires, either by the establishment of a specific regulation with the corresponding financing or by the creation of a dedicated budget heading for these measures both within the EAFRD Regulation and the draft regulation LIFE+: stresses that such a programme must take account of the specific characteristics of the Mediterranean forests;

9. Natural disasters — regional development aspects


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## Requests for roll-call votes

PPE-DE: final vote
IND/DEM: ams 9, 10 and recital M

## Requests for split votes

IND/DEM

### § 15

First part: ‘Considers that the Commission … management of floods’
Second part: ‘also considers … drought-risk prevention and management’
Third part: ‘and asks it to look … of the seventh framework research programme (2007-2013):’

### § 22

First part: ‘Deplores the fact … in the near future’
Second part: ‘and which must contain … Natura 2000 network’

ALDE

### § 7

First part: ‘Stresses the need … to tackle the disasters’
Second part: ‘urges that, in the forthcoming … in the event of disasters’
§ 14

First part: text as a whole without the words ‘calls on the Commission … the Interreg programme’
Second part: those words

§ 20

First part: ‘Notes the launching … of natural disasters’
Second part: ‘and urges … within the Member States’

§ 29

First part: text as a whole without the words ‘with the possibility of Community funding for transport expenditure’
Second part: those words

10. Natural disasters — environmental aspects


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### Vote: Resolution (as a Whole)

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<th>Subject</th>
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### Request for Roll-call Vote

Rappeporteur: Resolution as a whole

**Requests for Split Votes**

**ALDE**

**Recital D**

*First part:* Text as a whole without the words ‘and greater funding assigned to it’

*Second part:* Those words

**§ 7**

*First part:* ‘Invites the Commission to set … the Forest Focus programme.’

*Second part:* ‘Increasing funding and making the rules governing application more flexible;’

**PSE**

**Recital K**

*First part:* ‘Whereas the measures … to natural disasters’

*Second part:* ‘And whereas the diversity … favour effective action’

**IND/DEM**

**§ 10**

*First part:* ‘Believes that the reconstruction … conservation of species’

*Second part:* ‘Urges the Member States … forest renewal’

**ALDE, IND/DEM**

**§ 2**

*First part:* ‘Highlights the need to promote … fires and floods’

*Second part:* ‘To be funded by the European Social Fund or within the context of specific programmes such as Forest Focus;’

*Third part:* ‘To be funded … starting with schoolchildren’
ALDE,Verts/ALE

§ 6

First part: ‘Urges the Member States ... Europe's forests’

Second part: ‘and particularly the specific nature of Mediterranean forests’

Third part: ‘and particularly ... exercise their responsibilities scrupulously’

Requests for separate votes

ALDE: §§ 4, 9, 10, 13, 14 and recital F

PPE-DE: § 14

IND/DEM: §§ 12, 14 and 18

11. Treaty establishing the Energy Community

Motion for a resolution: B6-0279/2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Am No</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>RCV, etc.</th>
<th>Vote</th>
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Motion for a resolution B6-0279/2006

ITRE Committee

vote: resolution (as a whole)

+ 

12. Nepal


<table>
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<th>Subject</th>
<th>Am No</th>
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Joint motion for a resolution RC-B6-0282/2006

(PPE-DE, PSE, ALDE, Verts/ALE, GUE/NGL, UEN)

vote: resolution (as a whole)

+ 

Motions for resolutions by political groups

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>B6-0292/2006</td>
<td>PSE</td>
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<td>B6-0294/2006</td>
<td>Verts/ALE</td>
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13. Sri Lanka


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| Joint motion for a resolution RC-B6-0281/2006 (PPE-DE, PSE, ALDE, Verts/ALE, UEN) | | | | | §11 oral amend-
ment |
| Motions for resolutions by political groups | | | | | |
| B6-0281/2006 | Verts/ALE | | ↓ | | |
| B6-0283/2006 | GUE/NGL | | ↓ | | |
| B6-0286/2006 | PPE-DE | | ↓ | | |
| B6-0290/2006 | ALDE | | ↓ | | |
| B6-0293/2006 | PSE | | ↓ | | |

Miscellaneous:

Nirj Deva moved an oral amendment to paragraph 11, which then read as follows:

11. Welcomes therefore the announcement of new members of Sri Lanka's Human Rights Commission and stresses the need for an effective independent investigation into all alleged human rights violations by security forces or armed groups, bringing the perpetrators to justice in accordance with international fair trial standards; insists that all parties should subscribe to comprehensive human rights agreements as a key element of future peace negotiations;

14. Taiwan


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Am No</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>RCV, etc.</th>
<th>Vote</th>
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Requests for roll-call votes

PPE-DE: final vote
Requests for split votes

PSE:

**recital 3**

*First part:* ‘Having regard to its report … through the WHO’

*Second part:* ‘and therefore believes … in the WHO’

Requests for separate votes

PSE: § 5

Miscellaneous

The PSE Group had withdrawn its signature from joint motion for a resolution RC-B6-0284/2006.
RESULT OF ROLL-CALL VOTES


Amendment 43

For: 96

ALDE: Virrankoski

GUE/NGL: Agnoletto, Brie, Catania, de Brún, Figueiredo, Henin, Kaufmann, Kohlíček, Liotard, Manolakou, Markov, Morgantini, Musacchio, Pflüger, Portas, Remek, Seppänen, Sjöstedt, Strož, Svensson, Toussaus, Triantaphyllides, Uca, Wurtz

IND/DEM: Grabowski, Krupa, Pek, Piotrowski, Sinnott, Tomczak, Zapałowski

NI: Belohorská, Borghelio, Chruszcz, Helmer, Speroni, Wojciechowski Bernard Piotr


PSE: Capoulas Santos, Casaca, Castex, Díez González, Estrela, Fernandes, Guy-Quint, Hasse Ferreira, Hughes, Madeira, Pittella, Pleguezuelos Aguilar, Prets, dos Santos

Verts/ALE: Bennahmias

Against: 428


NI: Allister, Bobošíková, Czarnecki Marek Aleksander, Czarnecki Ryszard, De Michelis, Masiel, Mote, Piskorski, Rivera, Romagnoli, Rutowicz


PSE: Capoulas Santos, Casaca, Castex, Díez González, Estrela, Fernandes, Guy-Quint, Hasse Ferreira, Hughes, Madeira, Pittella, Pleguezuelos Aguilar, Prets, dos Santos

UEN: Aylward, Crowley, Kamiński, Ó Neachtain, Podkański, Ryan, Szymański, Wojciechowski Janusz

IND/DEM: Belder, Blokland, Coûteaux, Goudin, Lundgren, Wohlin

NI: Allister, Bobošíková, Czarnecki Marek Aleksander, Czarnecki Ryszard, De Michelis, Masiel, Mote, Piskorski, Rivera, Romagnoli, Rutowicz


PSE: Capoulas Santos, Casaca, Castex, Díez González, Estrela, Fernandes, Guy-Quint, Hasse Ferreira, Hughes, Madeira, Pittella, Pleguezuelos Aguilar, Prets, dos Santos

UEN: Aylward, Crowley, Kamiński, Ó Neachtain, Podkański, Ryan, Szymański, Wojciechowski Janusz

Verts/ALE: Bennahmias

**UEN**: Berlato, Krasts, Kristovskis, Pahor, Pallo, Vaidere


**Abstention**: 22

**IND/DEM**: Booth, Clark, Farage, Knapman, Nattrass, Wise

**NI**: Claey, Dillen, Gollnisch, Lang, Le Rachinel, Martinez, Mölzer, Mussolini, Schenardi

**PSE**: Chiesa

**UEN**: Bielan, Camre, Foltyn-Kubicka, Janowski, Kuźmiuk, Libicki

**Corrections to votes**

**For Sérgio Sousa Pinto**


Amendment 46

**For**: 64

**GUE/NGL**: Agnoletto, Brie, Catania, de Brún, Figueiredo, Guerreiro, Henin, Kohlíček, Manolakou, Maštálka, Meyer Pleite, Morgantini, Musacchio, Papadimoulis, Pfluiger, Portas, Reméik, Strož, Triantaphyllides, Uca, Wurtz, Zimmer

**IND/DEM**: Grabowski, Krupa, Přik, Piotrowski, Sinnott, Tomczak, Zapalowski

**NI**: Chruszcz, Wojciechowski Bernard Piotr

**PPE-DE**: Coelho, Duchon, Fajmon, Freitas, Graça Moura, Iturgaiz Angulo, Marques, Ouzký, Pinheiro, Queiró, Silva Peneda, Škotová, Strejček, Vlasák, Zahradil, Zvěřina

**PSE**: Berlinguer, Hughes, dos Santos

**UEN**: Aylward, Bielan, Crowley, Kamiński, Krasts, Kristovskis, Libicki, Ó Neachtain, Ryan, Szymański, Vaidere, Wojciechowski Janusz, Zile

**Verts/ALE**: Bennahmias

Against: 477

Thursday, 18 May 2006

GUE/NGL: Liotard, Sjöstedt, Svensson

IND/DEM: Belder, Blokland, Booth, Clark, Farage, Goudin, Knapman, Lundgren, Nattrass, Wise, Wohlin

NI: Allister, Bobošíková, Borghezio, Czarnecki Marek Aleksander, Czarnecki Ryszard, De Michielis, Helmer, Masiel, Mote, Mussolini, Piskorski, Rivera, Rutowicz, Speroni


UEN: Berlato, Pirilli


Abstention: 18

GUE/NGL: Kaufmann, Markov, Seppänen

IND/DEM: Coûteaux

NI: Claes, Dillen, Gollnisch, Lang, Le Pen Jean-Marie, Martínez, Mólzer, Romagnoli, Schenardi

PSE: Chiesa

UEN: Camre, Janowski, Kužmiuk, Podkański

Amendment 42

For: 153


GUE/NGL: Agnoletto, Brie, Catania, de Brún, Figueiredo, Guerreiro, Henin, Kaufmann, Kohlíček, Manolakou, Markov, Maštálka, Meyer Pleite, Morgantini, Musacchio, Papadimoulis, Pflüger, Portas, Remek, Strož, Toussas, Triantaphyllides, Uca, Wurtz, Zimmer

IND/DEM: Grabowski, Krupa, Pęk, Piotrowski, Tomczak, Zapalowski

NI: Borghexe, Chruszcz, Helmer, Wojciechowski Bernard Piotr


PSE: Capoulas Santos, Casaca, Correia, Estrela, Fernandes, Ferreira Elisa, Gomes, Harangozó, Hasse Ferreira, Hughes, Madeira, Martin David, Occhietto, dos Santos, Sousa Pinto

UEN: Aylward, Crowley, Libicki, Ō Neachtain, Podkański, Ryan, Wojciechowski Janusz

Verts/AL: Bennahmias

Against: 395

ALDE: Malmström, Toia

GUE/NGL: Liotard, Sjöstedt, Svensson

IND/DEM: Belder, Blokland, Bonde, Booth, Clark, Farage, Goudin, Knapman, Lundgren, Nattrass, Sinnott, Wise, Wohlín

NI: Allister, Bobošková, Claes, Czarnecki Marek Aleksander, De Michelis, Dillen, Masiel, Messonnier, Mussolini, Pikorski, Rivera, Rutowicz

Thursday, 18 May 2006


UEN: Berlato, Camre, Kamiński, Krasts, Kristovskis, Pirilli, Vaidere, Zile


Abstention: 16

ALDE: Morillon

GUE/NGL: Seppänen

NI: Gollnisch, Lang, Le Pen Jean-Marie, Le Rachinel, Martinez, Mölzer, Schenardi

PPE-DE: Pinheiro, Siekierski

UEN: Bielan, Foltyn-Kubicka, Janowski, Kuźmiuk, Szymański

Corrections to votes

For

David Casa; Neil Parish; Charles Tannock

Against

Salvador Garriga Polledo; José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil


Amendment 11

For: 61

GUE/NGL: Agnoletto, Brie, Catania, de Brún, Figueiredo, Guerreiro, Henin, Kaufmann, Kohlíček, Liotard, Manolakou, Markov, Maštálka, Meyer Pleite, Morgantini, Musacchio, Papadimoulis, Pflüger, Portas, Remek, Seppänen, Sjöstedt, Strö, Svensson, Toussas, Triantaphyllides, Uca, Wurtz, Zimmer

NI: Czarnecki Ryszard

PPE-DE: Dover, Gała, Schierhuber, Varvitsiotis

PSE: Arnaoutakis, Batzeli, Beglitis, Berlinguer, Bono, Bourzai, Chiesa, Grech, Hazan, Masip Hidalgo, Muscat, Myller, Occhettò, Peillon, Roure, Trautmann, Tzampazi

Verts/ALE: Evans Jill, Hassi, Lambert, Lucas, Romeva i Rueda, Schlyter, Schmidt, Schroedter, Staes, Ždanoka
Against: 470


IND/DEM: Belder, Blokland, Booth, Grabowski, Knapman, Krupa, Pēk, Pietrovski, Sinnott, Tomczak, Wohlin, Zapałowski

NI: Allister, Belohorská, Bobošiková, Borghezio, Chruszczyk, Claeyts, Czarnecki Marek Aleksander, De Michielis, Dillen, Helmer, Masiel, Mølzer, Mote, Piskorski, Rivera, Rutowicz, Speroni, Wojciechowski Bernard Piotr

Thursday, 18 May 2006

PPE-DE: Brepoels, Ventre

PSE: Castex

Verts/ALE: Aubert, Bennahmias, Breyer, Cramer, Flautre, Isler Béguin, Joan i Marí, Lagendijk, Lichtenberger, Özdemir, Onesta, Voggenhuber

Corrections to votes

Against

John Attard-Montalto; Louis Grech:


Amendment 13

For: 230

GUE/NGL: Agnoletto, Brie, Catania, de Brún, Figueiredo, Guerreiro, Henin, Kaufmann, Kohlíček, Liotard, Manolakou, Markov, Maštálka, Meyer Pleite, Morgantini, Musacchio, Papadimoulis, Pflüger, Portas, Remek, Seppáinen, Sjöstedt, Stožič, Svensson, Toussas, Triantaphyllides, Uca, Wurtz, Zimmer

IND/DEM: Bonde, Goudin, Grabowski, Krupa, Lundgren, Pęksa, Piotrowski, Tomczak, Zapałowski

NI: Czarnecki Ryszard

PPE-DE: Brepoels, Busuttil, Cabrnoch, Seeberg


UEN: Kamiński, Wojciechowski Janusz


Against: 325


IND/DEM: Belder, Blokland, Booth, Clark, Coûteaux, Farage, Knapman, Nattrass, Sinnott, Wise, Wohlin

NI: Belohorská, Bobošíková, Borghezio, Claeys, Czarnecki Marek Aleksander, De Michielis, Dillen, Helmer, Masiel, Mote, Piskorski, Rivera, Rutowicz, Speroni
Thursday, 18 May 2006


PSE: Hegyi, Ilves, Thomsen, Zani

UEN: Aylward, Berlato, Bielan, Crowley, Foltyn-Kubicka, Janowski, Krasts, Kristovskis, Kužmiuk, Libicki, Ūč Neachtain, Pirilli, Podkański, Ryan, Szmyrski, Vaiidere, Zvěřina

Vertsx/ALEx: Cohn-Bendit

Abstention: 19

ALDE: Matsakis

NI: Allister, Chruszcz, Gollnisch, Lang, Le Pen Jean-Marie, Le Rachinel, Martinez, Mölzer, Mussolini, Romagnoli, Schenardi, Wojciechowski, Bernard Piotr

PPE-DE: Fajmon

PSE: Attard-Montalto, Grech, Guy-Quint, Muscat

UEN: Camre

Corrections to votes

For

Britta Thomsen

Against

Eva-Britt Svensson


Amendment 12

For: 223

ALDE: Malmström, Samuelsen

GUE/NGL: Agnoletto, Brie, Catania, de Brún, Figueiredo, Guerreiro, Henin, Kaufmann, Kohlíček, Liotard, Manolakou, Markov, Maštálka, Meyer Pleite, Musacchio, Papadimoulis, Pflüger, Portas, Remek, Seppänen, Šišková, Štrož, Svensson, Toussas, Triantaphyllides, Uca, Wurtz, Zimmer

IND/DEM: Bonde, Goudin, Grabskow, Krupa, Lundgren, Pek, Piotrowski, Tomczak, Zapalowski
**NI:** Allister, Borghetto, Chruszc, Mote, Piskorski, Speroni, Wojciechowski Bernard Piotr


**Verts/ALE:** Bennahmias, Cohn-Bendit, Cramer, Evans Jill, Hammarström, Hudghton, Isler Béguin, Joan i Mari, Kurstatscher, Lambert, Lucas, Onesta, Romeva i Rueda, Schlyter, Schmidt, Schroeder, Staes

**Against:** 191


**IND/DEM:** Belder, Blokland, Coûteaux, Sinnott, Wohlin

**NI:** Belohorská, Bobošková, Czarnecki Marek Aleksander, Czarnecki Ryszard, De Michels, Gollnisch, Helmer, Lang, Le Pen Jean-Marie, Le Rachinel, Martínez, Maisel, Rivera, Romagnoli, Rutowicz, Schenardi


**PSE:** Hutchinson, Kuc, Locatelli, Siwiec

**UEN:** Aylward, Berlato, Bielan, Camre, Crowley, Foltyn-Kubicka, Janowski, Kamiński, Krasts, Kristovskis, Kužmiuk, Libicki, Ó Neachtain, Pirilli, Podkański, Ryan, Vaidere, Wojciechowski Janusz, Zile

**Absention:** 97

**ALDE:** Hall, Toia

**IND/DEM:** Booth, Clark, Dar, Knapman, Nattrass, Wise

**NI:** Dille, Mussolini

**PPE-DE:** Ashworth, Atkins, Braghetto, Breic, Bushill-Matthews, Buzek, Casa, Chichester, Ehler, Fajmon, Fernández Martín, Galeote Quecedo, Goepel, Graça Moura, Handžlik, Iturgaiz Arango, Jallouck, Kaczmarek, Khorola, Mayer, Montoro Romero, Peterle, Pinheiro, Rudi Ubeda, Silva Peneda, Surján, Szajer, Ventre, Zábovská, Zaleski, Zatloukal
### Corrections to votes

**For**

- Camiel Eurlings

**Abstention**

- Sharon Bowles

### Amendment 4

**For: 478**


- **GUE/NGL**: Zimmer

- **IND/DEM**: Grabowska, Kupa, Lundgren, Pęk, Piotrowski, Tomczak, Wohlin, Zapalowski

- **NI**: Belohorská, Bobošíková, Borgezie, Chruszc, Czarnecki Marek Aleksander, Czarnecki Ryszard, Gollnisch, Helmer, Lang, Le Pen Jean-Marie, Le Rachinel, Martinez, Masel, Mussolini, Piskorski, Rivera, Romagnoli, Rutowicz, Schenardi, Speroni, Wojciechowski Bernard Piotr

Thursday, 18 May 2006


Verts/ALE: Cramer, Schroeder

Against: 72

ALDE: Samuelsen

GUE/NGL: Agnoletto, Brie, Catania, de Brún, Figueiredo, Guerreiro, Henin, Kaufmann, Kohlíček, Liotard, Manolakou, Maštálka, Meyer Pleite, Morgantini, Musacchio, Papadimoulis, Portas, Remek, Seppänen, Sjöstedt, Strož, Svensson, Toussas, Uca, Wurtz

IND/DEM: Belder, Blokland, Booth, Clark, Coutéeaux, Farage, Goudin, Knapman, Nattrass, Sinnott, Wise

PSE: Andersson, Christensen, Hedh, Muscat, Occheto, Segelström, Thomsen


Indabtion: 7

NI: Allister, Claey, Dillen, Mölzer, Mote

UEN: Bielan

Corrections to votes

Against

Holger Krahmer; Elisabeth Schroeder;


Resolution

For: 522

Abstention: 15

GUE/NGL: de Brún, Pflüger
IND/DEM: Grabowski, P, Piotrowski, Zapalowski
NI: Allister, Borghezio, Claeys, Dillen, Helmer, Romagnoli, Speroni
PPE-DE: Friedrich
PSE: Titley


Paragraph 5

For: 510


GUE/NGL: Agnoletto, Musacchio
IND/DEM: Belder, Blokland, Bonde, Goudin, Grabowski, Krupa, Lundgren, Pęc, Piotrowski, Wohlin
NI: Borghezio, Czarnecki Marek Aleksander, Czarnecki Ryszard, Masiel, Piskorski, Rivera, Rutowitz, Speroni


UEN: Aylward, Berlato, Bielan, Camre, Crowley, Foltyn-Kubicka, Janowski, Kamiński, Krasts, Kristovskis, Kuźmiuk, Libicki, Ó Neachtain, Podkański, Ryan, Szymański, Vaidere, Wojciechowski Janusz


Against: 28

ALDE: Harkin

GUE/NGL: Manolakou, Toussas

IND/DEM: Booth, Clark, Farage, Knapman, Nattrass, Tomczak, Wise

NI: Allister, Chruszcz, Gollnisch, Lang, Le Pen Jean-Marie, Le Rachinel, Martínez, Mölzer, Mussolini, Romagnoli, Schenardi, Wojciechowski Bernard Piotr

PPE-DE: Casini, Cederschiöld, Fjellner, Fontaine, Mayer

UEN: Zile

Abstention: 33

GUE/NGL: Brie, Catania, de Brún, Figueiredo, Guerreiro, Henin, Kaufmann, Kohlíček, Liotard, Markov, Maštálka, Meyer Pleite, Morgantini, Papadimoulis, Pflüger, Portas, Remek, Rizzo, Seppänen, Sjöstedt, Stroż, Svensson, Triantaphyllides, Úca, Wurtz, Zimmer

IND/DEM: Coûteaux, Sinnott

NI: Claes, Dillen, Helmer, Mote

PPE-DE: Podestà

Corrections to votes

For

Christofer Fjellner


Amendment 13

For: 189

ALDE: Busk, Jääteenmäki, Jensen, Onyszkwicz, Riis-Jörgensen

GUE/NGL: Manolakou

IND/DEM: Tomczak

NI: Allister, Belohorská, Chruszcz, Czarnecki Marek Aleksander, Czarnecki Ryszard, De Michelis, Wojciechowski Bernard Piotr

PPE-DE: Brejc
Against: 339


IND/DEM: Belder, Blokland, Goudin, Grabowski, Krupa, Lundgren, Pęk, Piotrowski, Sinnott, Wohlin, Zapalowski

NI: Boboštiková, Gollnisch, Helmer, Lang, Le Pean Jean-Marie, Masiel, Mölzer, Mote, Piskorski, Rivera, Romagnoli, Rutowicz, Schenardi

Abstention: 42


IND/DEM: Booth, Clark, Cottéteaux, Farage, Knappman, Nattrass, Wise

NI: Borghezio, Claey, Dillen, Martinez, Mussolini, Speroni

UEN: Camre

** Corrections to votes**

Against

Jonas Sjöstedt


Resolution

For: 514


IND/DEM: Belder, Blokland, Grabowski, Krupa, Pęt, Piotrowski, Sinnott, Tomczak, Zapałowski

NI: Belohorská, Bobošíková, Chruscz, Czarnecki Marek Aleksander, Czarnecki Ryszard, De Michielis, Massel, Piskorski, Rivera, Rutowicz, Wojciechowski Bernard Piotr


PSE: Andersson, Arif, Arnaoutakis, Attard-Montalto, Ayala Sender, Badia I Cutchet, Barón Crespo, Batzeli, Beglitis, Berès, van den Berg, Berlinguer, Berman, Bösch, Bon, Bourzai, Bozkurt, van den Burg, Busquin, Capoulas Santos, Carlotto, Carnero González, Casaca, Cashman, Castex, Cercas, Chiesa, Christensen, Corbetti, Corbetti, Correia, Cottigny, De Keyser, De Rossa, De Vits, Díez González, Douay, Dührkop Dührkop, El Khadraoui, Estela, Ett, Evans Robert, Falbr, Fazakas, Fernandes, Ferreira Elisa, Ford, Fruteau, García Pérez, Gebhardt, Geringer de Oedenberg, Gill, Goebbels, Golik, Gomes, Grabowska, Grech, Gröner, Groote, Gruber,
Thursday, 18 May 2006


Against: 56

GUE/NGL: Agnoletto, Brie, Catania, de Brún, Figueiredo, Guerreiro, Henin, Kaufmann, Kohlíček, Liotard, Manolakou, Markov, Maštálka, Meyer Pleite, Morgantini, Musacchio, Papadimoulis, Pflüger, Portas, Remek, Rizzo, Seppänen, Stjórd, Svensson, Toussas, Triantaphyllides, Uca, Wurtz, Zimmer

IND/DEM: Bonde, Booth, Clark, Farage, Goudin, Knapman, Lundgren, Nattrass, Wise, Wohlin

NE: Allister, Borghelzio, Claes, Dillen, Gollnisch, Lang, Le Pen Jean-Marie, Le Rachinel, Martinez, Mölzer, Mote, Musolí, Romagnoli, Schenardi, Speroni

PPE-DE: Herranz García

Abstention: 8

IND/DEM: Coûteaux

NI: Helmer

PPE-DE: Coveney, Doyle, Higgins, Mitchell, Nicholson

UEN: Camre


Amendment 2

For: 54

ALDE: Neyts-Uyttebroeck

GUE/NGL: Agnoletto, Catania, de Brún, Figueiredo, Guerreiro, Henin, Kohlíček, Manolakou, Maštálka, Meyer Pleite, Morgantini, Musacchio, Papadimoulis, Portas, Remek, Rizzo, Strož, Toussas, Triantaphyllides, Uca, Wurtz

PPE-DE: Becsey, Doorn, Gaša, Maat, Ouzký, Szájer

PSE: Arif, Bono, Bourzai, Castex, Chiesa, Cotogni, De Keyser, Désir, Douay, Fruteau, Golik, Hamon, Navarro, Poignant, Reynaud, Rocard, Roure, Savary, Schapira, Sousa Pinto, Tarabella, Trautmann, Vaugrenard, Vergnaud

UEN: Libicki

Verts/ALE: Lipietz

GUE/NGL: Brie, Kaufmann, Liotard, Markov, Pflüger, Seppänen, Sjöstedt, Svensson, Zimmer

IND/DEM: Belder, Blokland, Bonde, Booth, Clark, Farage, Goudin, Grabowski, Knapman, Krupa, Lundgren, Nattrass, Pek, Potrotski, Sinnott, Tomczak, Wise, Wohlin, Zapałowski

NI: Bobošková, Chruszc, Claes, Czarnecki Marek Aleksander, Czarnecki Ryszard, De Michelis, Dillon, Gollnisch, Helmer, Lang, Le Pen Jean-Marie, Le Rachelin, Martinez, Mastel, Molzer, Mote, Piskorski, Rivera, Romagnoli, Rutowicz, Schenardi, Wojciechowski Bernard Piotr


UEN: Aylward, Berlato, Bielan, Camre, Crowley, Foltyn-Kubicka, Janowski, Kamiński, Krasts, Kristoforovskis, Kužmiuk, Ō Neachtain, Pirilli, Podkisz, Ryński, Szymański, Vaidere, Wojciechowski Janusz, Žil


Against: 518

Thursday, 18 May 2006
Abstention: 7

NI: Allister, Belohorská, Borghezio, Mussolini, Speroni

PSE: Wynn


For: 461


Thursday, 18 May 2006

IND/DEM: Coûteaux

NI: Allister, Belohorská, Borghezio, Mussolini, Speroni

PSE: Wynn

For: 461


IND/DEM: Coûteaux

NI: Allister, Belohorská, Borghezio, Mussolini, Speroni

PSE: Wynn

For: 461


Zanin, Zingaretti
Paragraph 16/2

For: 491


IND/DEM: Coûteaux, Grabowski, Krupa, Pękc, Piotrowski, Tomczak, Zapałowski


UEN: Aylward, Berlato, Bielan, Crowley, Foltyn-Kuckba, Janowski, Kamiński, Krasts, Kristovskis, Kužniuk, O Neachtain, Pirilli, Podkaniński, Ryan, Szymański, Vaidere, Wojciewowski Janusz, Zille


ALDE: Malmström

GUE/NGL: Agnoletto, Brie, Catania, de Brún, Figueiredo, Guerreiro, Henin, Kohlíček, Liotard, Manolakou, Markov, Maštálka, Meyer Pleite, Morgantini, Musacchio, Papadimoulis, Pflüger, Portas, Remek, Seppänen, Sjöstedt, Streng, Toussak, Triantaphyllides, Uca, Wurtz, Zimmer

IND/DEM: Belder, Blokland, Booth, Clark, Farage, Goudin, Knappman, Lundgren, Luttrell, Wise

NI: Belohorská, Bobošková, Claeys, Czarnecki Ryszard, Mote, Rutowicz

PPE-DE: Cerschiöld, Fjellner, Hökmark, Hybšková, Ibsasagic

PSE: Andersson, Christensen, Hedh, Sorensen

Against: 54

ALDE: Samuelsen

IND/DEM: Bonde

NI: Borghezio, Mussolini, Speroni

PPE-DE: Reul

PSE: Scheele, Thomsen, Wynn

UEN: Camre

Abstention: 10

Amendment 1

For: 86

ALDE: Cavada

GUE/NGL: Agnoletto, Catania, de Brún, Figueiredo, Guerreiro, Henin, Kohlíček, Liottard, Manolakou, Maštálka, Meyer Pleite, Morgantini, Musacchio, Papadimoulis, Pflüger, Portas, Remek, Rizzo, Seppänen, Støjstedt, Štrož, Svensson, Triantaphyllides, Wurtz

IND/DEM: Bonde, Coûteaux

NI: Dillon, Gollnisch, Lang, Le Pen Jean-Marie, Le Ratchinel, Martinez, Mölzer, Piskorski, Romagnoli, Schenardi

PPE-DE: Böge, Jalowiecki, Kudrycka

PSE: Attard-Montalto, Chiesa, García Pérez, Golik, Haug, Hazan, McAvan, Paasilinna

UEN: Bielan, Kamiński, Libicki, Szymański, Wojciechowski Janusz


Against: 469


GUE/NGL: Brie, Kaufmann, Markov, Uca, Zimmer

IND/DEM: Belder, Blokland, Goudin, Grabowski, Krupa, Lundgren, Pēk, Piotrowski, Sinnott, Tomczak, Wohlin, Zapalowski

NI: Chruszcz, Claey, Czarnecki Ryszard, De Micheli, Helmer, Masiel, Mote, Rivera, Rutowicz, Wojciechowski Bernard Piotr

Thursday, 18 May 2006


UEN: Aylward, Berlato, Camre, Crowley, Foltyn-Kubicka, Janowski, Krasts, Kristovskis, Kuźmiuk, Ó Neachtain, Pirilli, Podkański, Ryan, Vaidere, Zile

**Abstention: 14**

IND/DEM: Booth, Clark, Farage, Knapman, Nattrass, Wise

NI: Allister, Belohorská, Czarnecki Marek Aleksander, Mussolini, Speroni

PPE-DE: Rübig, Ventre

PSE: Thomsen

**Corrections to votes**

**Against**

Paul Rübig; John Attard-Montalto

**Abstention**

Anders Wijkman;


**Recital I**

**For: 459**

ALDE: Beaupuy, Bourlanges, Cavada, Cicilovo, Costa, Deprez, De Sarnez, Fourtou, Griesbeck, Lambsdorff, Laperrrous, Lekideis, Maaten, Morillon, Mulder, Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Pittelli, Ries


IND/DEM: Grabowski, Piotrowski, Tomczak, Zapalowski

NI: Allister, Belohorská, Chruschz, Czarnecki Marek Aleksander, Czarnecki Ryszard, De Michalis, Gollnisch, Lang, Le Pen Jean-Marie, Le Rachinel, Martínez, Masiel, Mólzer, Piskorski, Rivera, Romagnoli, Rutowicz, Schenardi, Wojciechowski Bernard Piotr

PPE-DE: Andrioni, Antoniotti, Audy, Ayuso González, Bachelot-Narquin, Bars-Pataky, Bauer, Becsey, Belet, Berend, Böge, Braghetto, Brejc, Broz, Brezina, Brok, Busuttil, Buzek, Casa, Casini, Caspary, del Castillo Vera, Çmielewski, Coelho, Coveney, Daul, Dehaene, Descamps, DeR, De Veyrac, Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Dimitrakopoulos, Dombrovski, Doorn, Doyle, Duka-Zólyomi, Eben, Esteves, Eurlings, Ferber, Fernández Martín, Fontaine, Fraço Estévez, Freitas, Friedrich, Gahler, Gál, Gała, Galeote Quededo, Gaubert, Gauzès, Gęwia, Gkakakis, Glattfelder, Goepel, Gomolka, Graça Moura, Gräßle, de Grandes Pascual, ...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EN</td>
<td>Aylward, Berlato, Bielan, Camre, Crowley, Folytn-Kubicka, Janowska, Kaminski, Krasts, Kristovsksis, Kuzmič, Libicki, Neachtain, Ó Neachtain, Pirilli, Podkański, Ryan, Szymarski, Vaihde, Wojciechowski Janusz, Zifé</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verts/ALDE</td>
<td>Andersson, Christensen, Herzog, Segelström, Tarand</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Against:** 108

**IND/DEM:** Belder, Blokland, Booth, Clark, Farage, Goudin, Knapman, Krupa, Lundgren, Nattrass, Pék, Wise, Wohlin

**NI:** Bobošková, Claes, Dillen, Helmer, Moté


**IND/DEM:** Belder, Blokland, Booth, Clark, Farage, Goudin, Knapman, Krupa, Lundgren, Nattrass, Pék, Wise, Wohlin

**NI:** Bobošková, Claes, Dillen, Helmer, Moté

**PPE-DE:** Ashworth, Atkins, Beazley, Bowis, Bushill-Matthews, Cabrnoch, Callanan, Cederschiöld, Chichester, Deva, Dover, Duchoň, Elles, Fajmon, Fjellner, García-Margallo y Marfil, Garriga Polledo, Hannan, Harbour, Hókmark, Hybáková, Ibrisagic, Kamall, Nassauer, Nicholson, Ouzký, Parish, Purvis, Štočková, Stevenson, Strečko, Tannock, Van Orden, Vlasák, Zahradil, Zvěřina

**PSE:** Andersson, Christensen, Herzog, Segelström, Tarand

**Ind/ALDE:** Schlyter

**Abstention:** 8

**ALDE:** Takkula

**IND/DEM:** Bonde, Coûteaux

**NI:** Mussolini, Speroni

**PPE-DE:** Reul

**PSE:** Thomsen, Wynn
Corrections to votes

For

Paul Marie Coûteaux

Against

Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, Eva-Britt Svensson, Jonas Sjöstedt

Abstention

Anders Wijkman


Recital M/2

For: 427

ALDE: Bourlanges, Cavada, Deprez, De Sarnez, Fourtou, Griesbeck, Laperrrouze, Lheureux, Morillon, Ries

GUE/NGL: Agnoletto, Brie, Catania, de Brún, Figueiredo, Guerrero, Henin, Kaufmann, Kohlíček, Liotard, Manolakou, Maštálka, Meyer Pleite, Morgantini, Musacchio, Papadimoulis, Portas, Remek, Rizzo, Sjöstedt, Svensson, Triantaphyllides, Uca, Wurtz, Zimmer

IND/DEM: Coûteaux, Sinnott

NI: Belohorská, Chruszcz, Claëys, Czarnecki Marek Aleksander, Czarnecki Ryszard, De Michelis, Dillen, Gollnisch, Lang, Le Pen Jean-Marie, Le Rachinel, Martinez, Masiel, Mölzer, Piskorski, Rivera, Romagnoli, Rutowitz, Schenardi, Wojciechowski Bernard Piotr


Thursday, 18 May 2006

UEN: Aylward, Berlato, Bielaw, Crowley, Foltyn-Kubicka, Janowski, Kamiński, Krasts, Kristovskis, Kužmiuk, Libicki, Ó Neachtain, Podkański, Ryan, Vaidere, Wojciechowski Janusz, Zile


Against: 116


IND/DEM: Belder, Blokland, Booth, Clark, Farage, Goudin, Grabowski, Knapman, Krupa, Lundgren, Nattrass, Pět, Piotrowski, Tomczak, Wise, Wollin, Zapałowski

NI: Allister, Bobošiková, Helmer


PSE: Andersson, Christensen, Hedh, Ilves, Paasilinna, Segelström

Verts/ALE: Schlyter

Abstention: 10

IND/DEM: Bonde

NI: Borghezio, Mote, Mussolini, Speroni

PPE-DE: Reul

PSE: Thomsen, Wynn

UEN: Camre

Verts/ALE: Isler Béguin

Corrections to votes

Against

Paul Marie Coûteaux, Jonas Sjöstedt, Eva-Britt Svensson, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen


Resolution

For: 398

ALDE: Beaupuy, Bourlanges, Cavada, Cicilovo, Costa, Deprez, De Sarnez, Fourtou, Griesbeck, Lambsdorff, Laperrouze, Lehideux, Manders, Morillon, Newton Dunn, Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Pistelli, Ries, Riis-Jörgensen, Veraldi

GUE/NGL: Agnoletto, Brie, Catania, de Brún, Figueiredo, Guerreiro, Henin, Kohlíček, Manolakou, Markov, Maštálka, Meyer Pleite, Musacchio, Papadimoulis, Pflüger, Portas, Remek, Rizzo, Strož, Toussas, Triantaphyllides, Uca, Wagenknecht, Wurtz

IND/DEM: Krupa, Pět, Piotrowski, Sinnott, Tomczak, Zapałowski
Thursday, 18 May 2006

NI: Belohorská, Chruszcz, Claey's, De Michielis, Gollnisch, Le Pen Jean-Marie, Mölszer, Piskorski, Rivera, Romagnoli, Schenardi, Speroni, Wojciechowski Bernard Piotr


UEN: Aylward, Berlato, Camre, Crowley, Janowski, Kristovskis, Kuźmiuk, Libicki, Łaszczuk, Łuczyk, Łukaszewski, Maidere, Zille


Against: 70


GUE/NGL: Sjöstedt, Svensson

IND/DEM: Belder, Blokland, Clark, Goudin, Knapman, Lundgren, Nattrass, Wise

NI: Allister, Bobošiková, Mote

PPE-DE: Brok, Cabrnoch, Cederschiöld, Duchon, Fajmon, Fjellman, Hannan, Hökmark, Ibrisagic, Klich, Marques, Ouzký, Pomés Ruiz, Strejček, Zahradil

PSE: Andersson, Hedh, Selgelström

Verts/ALE: Romeva i Rueda, Schlyter
Abstention: 26

IND/DEM: Coûteaux

NI: Borghezio, Helmer, Le Rachinel, Martinez, Mussolini


PSE: Christensen

Corrections to votes

For

Raul Romeva i Rueda

Against

Alfonso Andria; Feleknas Uca; Karin Riis-Jørgensen; Bill Newton Dunn


Amendment 9

For: 57

ALDE: Krahmer

IND/DEM: Belder, Blokland, Bonde, Coûteaux, Pék, Sinnott, Tomczak, Wohlin

NI: Allister, Belohorská, Bobošiková, Chruszcz, Claëys, Czarnecki Ryszard, Dillen, Mote, Romagnoli, Wojciechowski, Bernard Piotr

PPE-DE: Higgins, Weisgerber, Zvěřina

UEN: Camre


Against: 500


IND/DEM: Booth, Clark, Farage, Knapman, Krupa, Nattrass, Wise

NI: Borghezio, Czarnecki Marek Aleksander, De Michelis, Helmer, Masie, Piskorski, Rivera, Rutowicz, Speroni

PPE-DE: Andräkienė, Antoniouzzi, Ashworth, Atkins, Audy, Ayuso González, Bachelot-Narquin, Barsi-Pataky, Bauer, Beazley, Becsue, Belet, Berend, Böge, Bowis, Braghetto, Brejc, Brepoels, Březina, Brok, Bushill-Matthews, Busuttil, Buzek, Cabrnich, Callanan, Casa, Casini, Caspary, del Castillo Vera, Cederschiöld, Chichester, Chmielewski, Coelho, Covene, Duail, Dehaene, Descamps, Deë, Deva, De Veyrac, Diáez de Mera García Consuegra, Dimitrakopoulos, Dombrovskis, Doorn, Dover, Doyle, Duchon, Duka-Zólyomi, Eben, Elles, Esteves, Eurlings, Fajmon, Ferber, Fjellner, Fontaine, Fraga Estévez, Freitas, Friedrich, Gäl, Gafa, Galeote Quecedo, García-Margallo y Marfil, Garriga Polledo, Gaubert, Gauzès, Gewalt, Gklavakis, Glattfelder,
Against: 88

ALDE: Maaten, Malmström, Manders, Mulder

GUE/NGL: Sjöstedt, Svensson, Triantaphyllides

IND/DEM: Belder, Blokland, Booth, Clark, Coûteaux, Farage, Goudin, Knapman, Lundgren, Nastrass, Sinnott, Wise, Wohlin

NI: Bobošíková, Lang, Le Pen Jean-Marie, Le Rchalinel, Mölzer, Mote, Mussolini, Schenardi

Thursday, 18 May 2006

**PSE:** Grech, Haug, Myller, Paasilinna, Szejna

**Verts/ALE:** Aubert, Bennahmias, Breyer, Cohn-Bendit, Cramer, Evans Jill, Frassoni, de Groen-Kouwenhoven, Hammerstein Mintz, Harms, Hassi, Horáček, Hudghton, Isler Béguin, Ioan i Marí, Kallenbach, Kuusatscher, Lagendijk, Lambert, Lichtenberger, Lucas, Özdemir, Onesta, Romeva i Rueda, Rühle, Schlyter, Schmidt, Schroedter, Staes, Trüpel, Voggenhuber, Ždanoka

**Abstention:** 10

**IND/DEM:** Bonde, Pęk

**NI:** Belohorská, Borgezio, Gollnisch, Martinez, Romagnoli, Speroni

**PPE-DE:** Reul

**UEN:** Foltyn-Kubicka

**Corrections to votes**

**For**
Alexander Radwan

**Against**
Anders Wijkman


**Amendment 10**

**For:** 357


**IND/DEM:** Belder, Blokland, Bonde, Krupa, Pęk, Sinnott, Tomczak, Wohlin

**NI:** Allister, Bobošková, Borgezio, Claeys, Czarnecki Marek Aleksander, Czarnecki Ryszard, Dillen, Gollnisch, Lang, Le Pen Jean-Marie, Le Rachinel, Martinez, Mas, Mølzer, Mote, Piskorski, Romagnoli, Schenardi, Speroni

PSE: Myller, Paasilinna, Pahor


Against: 193

ALDE: Maaten, Malmström, Manders, Mulder


IND/DEM: Booth, Clark, Farage, Knapman, Nattrass, Wise

NI: Belohorská, Chruszcz, De Michielis, Helmer, Mussolini, Rutel, Wojciechowski Bernard Piotr


Abstention: 8

GUE/NGL: Manolakou, Toussas

IND/DEM: Coudert, Goudin, Lundgren

NI: Rivera

UEN: Krasts, Zile

Corrections to votes

Abstention

Jonas Sjöstedt, Eva-Britt Svensson


Recital M

For: 513

Thursday, 18 May 2006

**GUE/NGL:** Agnolotto, Catania, de Brún, Figueredo, Guerreiro, Henin, Kaufmann, Kohlíček, Liotard, Manolakou, Markov, Maštálka, Meyer Pleite, Morgantini, Musacchio, Papadimoulis, Pfälzer, Portas, Remek, Rizzo, Seppänen, Šjostedt, Strom, Svensson, Toussas, Triantaphyllides, Uca, Wagenknecht, Wurtz

**IND/DEM:** Bonde, Booth, Clark, Farage, Knapman, Nattrass, Pēkšēns, Wise

**NI:** Allister, Belohorská, Bobošiňková, Claey, Czarnecki Marek Aleksander, De Michielis, Dillen, Gollnisch, Helmer, Lang, Le Pen Jean-Marie, Le Rachinel, Martínez, Mastel, Mussolini, Piskorski, Rivera, Romagnoli, Rutowicz, Schenardi, Speroni


**EN:**

**Against:** 35

**ALDE:** Maaten, Malmström, Mariners, Mulder

**GUE/NGL:** Brie, Zimmer

**IND/DEM:** Belder, Blokland, Goudin, Krupa, Lundgren, Sinnott, Tomczak, Wohlins
NI: Chruszcz, Czarnecki Ryszard, Mote, Wojciechowski Bernard Piotr
PPE-DE: Cederschiöld, Fjellner, Ibrisagie, Klich, Wijkman
PSE: Beglitis, Berger, Jöns, Schapira
UEN: Aylward, Berlato, Bilan, Camre, Crowley, Ø Neachtain, Pirilli, Ryan

**Abstention: 9**

IND/DEM: Coûteaux
NI: Borghezio
PPE-DE: Hybášková, Reul
PSE: Wynn
UEN: Foltyn-Kubicka, Janowski, Kamiński, Wojciechowski Janusz

**Corrections to votes**

For

Pierre Schapira


Resolution

For: 498


GUE/NGL: Agnoletto, Brie, Catania, de Brún, Figueiredo, Guerreiro, Henin, Kaufmann, Kohlíček, Manolakou, Markov, Maštálka, Meyer Pleite, Morillon, Musacchio, Papadimoulis, Pflüger, Portas, Remek, Rizzo, Seppänen, Streth, Toussaint, Triantaphyllides, Uca, Wagenknecht, Wurtz

IND/DEM: Tomczak

NI: Belohorská, Bobošíková, Borghezio, Claes, Czarnecki Marek Aleksander, Czarnecki Ryszard, De Michels, Dillen, Helmer, Maisel, Mussolini, Piskorski, Rivera, Romagnoli, Rutowicz, Spersoni

Thursday, 18 May 2006


**UEN**: Aylward, Berlato, Bielan, Camre, Crowley, Foltyn-Kubicka, Janowski, Kamiński, Krastel, Kristof, Libicki, O Neachtain, Pirilli, Ryan, Szymański, Vaidere, Wojciechowski Janusz, Żile


**Against**: 35

**ALDE**: Maaten, Malmström, Manders, Mulder

**GUE/NGL**: Sjöstedt

**IND/DEM**: Belder, Blokland, Bonde, Clark, Farage, Goudin, Knapman, Krupa, Lundgren, Nattrass, Pčk, Wise, Wohlin

**NI**: Mote

**PPE-DE**: Cabrnoch, Cederschiöld, Duchoň, Fajmon, Fjellner, Hökmark, Ibrisagic, Ouzký, Škottová, Strejček, Zahradil

**PSE**: Ilves, Paasilinna

**Verts/ALE**: Schmidt, Schroeder, Vogenhuber

**Abstention**: 20

**GUE/NGL**: Liotard, Svensson

**IND/DEM**: Coûteaux, Sinnott

**NI**: Allister, Chruszcz, Gollnisch, Lang, Le Pen Jean-Marie, Le Rachelin, Martinez, Schenardi, Wojciechowski Bernard Piotr

**PPE-DE**: Hennicot-Schoepges, Hybášková, Reul, Venture, Vlasák, Zvěřina

**Verts/ALE**: Schlyter

**Corrections to votes**

**Abstention**

Poul Nyrup Rasmussen
Paragraph 10/2

For: 473


IND/DEM: Belder, Blonkland, Bonde, Sinnott, Wohlin

NI: Allister, Belohorská, Bobošíková, Czarnecki Ryszard, De Michelis, Maisel, Piskorski, Rutowicz, Wojciechowski Bernard Piotr


Thursday, 18 May 2006

**Against:** 39

ALDE: Budreikaitė, Carlshamre, Gentvilas, in't Veld, Lambsdorff, Maaten, Malmström, Manders, Matsakis, Mohácsi, Mulder, Nicholson of Winterbourne, Researtits, Schuth, Staniszewska, Starkevičiūtė

GUE/NGL: Sjöstedt, Svensson

IND/DEM: Borgiazio, Gollnisch, Lang, Le Pen Jean-Marie, Le Ratchinel, Martinez, Romagnoli, Schenardi

PPE-DE: Cederschiöld, Fjellner, Hökmark, Ibrisagic, Seeberg

PSE: Ilves, Paasilinna

Verts/ALE: Schlyter

**Abstention:** 13

ALDE: Harkin, Newton Dunn

IND/DEM: Booth, Clark, Coûteaux, Knapman, Nattrass, Wise

NI: Mussolini, Rivera

PPE-DE: Reul

PSE: Scheele

UEN: Kamiński

**Corrections to votes**

Against

Lars Wohlin


**Resolution**

For: 450


IND/DEM: Wohlin

NI: Belohorská, Chruszcz, Claeyys, Czarnecki Ryszard, De Michelis, Dillen, Gollnisch, Lang, Martinez, Masiel, Mussolini, Piskorski, Rivera, Romagnoli, Rutowicz, Wojciechowski Bernard Piotr


UEN: Aylward, Camre, Crowley, Foltyn-Kubicka, Janowski, Krasts, Kristovski, Libicki, Ó Neachtain, Pirilli, Ryan, Szymański, Vaidere, Zile


Against: 38

ALDE: Chatzimarkakis, in‘t Veld, Lambsdorff, Maaten, Malmström, Manders, Mohácsi, Mulder, Nicholson of Winterbourne, Resaritis, Schacht, Staniszewska, Starkevičiūtė

IND/DEM: Belder, Blokland, Booth, Clark, Goudin, Knapman, Krupa, Lundgren, Pék, Tomczak, Wise

NI: Bobošíková

PPE-DE: Cabrnoch, Cederschiöld, Duchoň, Fajmon, Fjellner, Gutiérrez-Cortines, Hökmark, Ouzký, Škottová, Strejček, Vlasák, Zahradil

Abstention: 13

ALDE: Newton Dunn, Toia

IND/DEM: Bonde, Coüteaux

NI: Borghheizo

PPE-DE: Hennicot-Schoepges, Reul, Zvěřina

PSE: Hasse Ferreira, Wynn

UEN: Bieden, Kamiński

Verts/ALE: Schlyter

Corrections to votes

Against

Lars Wohlin
26. RC B6-0284/2006 — Taiwan

Resolution

For: 66

ALDE: Attwooll, Beaupuy, Harkin, Kulakowski, Lynne, Maaten, Matsakis, Mulder

IND/DEM: Belder, Krupa, Sinnott

NI: Giertych, Wojciechowski Bernard Piotr

PPE-DE: Andrikienė, Audy, Bauer, Bowis, Brepoels, Caspary, Chichester, Chmielewski, Daul, Deß, Duka-Zólyomi, Fontaine, Fraga Estévez, Gaﬁ, Gauzès, Gomolka, Grossetête, Jeggle, Kaczmarek, Karas, Kratsa-Tsaroupooulo, Lulling, Mann Thomas, Mauro, Mavrommatis, Mayer, Ouzký, Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, Plešinská, Posselt, Purvis, Roithová, Samaras, Sommer, Sonik, Sudre, Tannock, Trakatellis, Vatanen, Vlasák, Wieland, Záborská, Zaleski

PSE: Casaca, Gill, Pinior, Sakalas

UEN: Libicki

Verts/ALE: Breyer, Kustatscher, Onesta, Romeva i Rueda, Schlyter

Against: 21

GUE/NGL: Kohlíček, Pflüger, Sjöstedt, Strötz, Triantaphyllides

PPE-DE: Deva

PSE: Ayala Sender, Bono, Bourzai, Ettl, Evans Robert, Ford, García Pérez, Geringer de Oedenberg, Honeyball, Howitt, Martínez Martínez, Medina Ortega, Roure, Sánchez Presedo, Scheele

Abstention: 1

IND/DEM: Coûteaux
The European Parliament,

— having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 272(4), penultimate subparagraph, thereof,

— having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, and in particular Article 177 thereof,

— having regard to Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (1), and in particular Articles 37 and 38 thereof,

— having regard to the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2006, as finally adopted on 15 December 2005 (2),

— having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure (3),


— having regard to Rule 69 of and Annex IV to its Rules of Procedure,

— having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (A6-0181/2006),

A. whereas Draft amending budget No 2/2006 aims to enter in the 2006 budget the surplus from the financial year 2005, amounting to 2 410 million euro;

B. whereas the two main elements of this surplus are an over-registering in revenue of 1 292 million euro and an under-spending in expenditure of 1 077 million euro;

C. whereas the under-spending of payment appropriations, compared to the years before, has decreased overall to about 1 % of the budget, i.e. only 1 077 million euro of the total EU 2005 budget of 105 684 048 940 euro were not used;

D. whereas for agriculture, the sum not spent amounted to 157 million euro, or 0,3 %, of 48 510 million euro, for structural funding it was 58 million euro (0,2 %) of a total 32 641 million euro, for external action it amounted to 181 million (3,5 %) of the total allowance of 5 171 million euro, for administration it was 66 million (1,0 %) of a total 6 292 million euro and for pre-accession strategy it amounted to 463 million euro (13,5 %) of a total of 3 428 million euro;

(2) OJ L 78, 15.3.2006.
E. whereas, compared to 2004, there have been considerable general improvements in the uptake of allocations in the fields of structural funds, where in 2004, 232 million euro or 0.7% of the total budget of 34,431 million euro were not spent, and internal policies, where an amount of 50 million euro (0.7%) of a total of 7,432 million euro was left unused in 2004;

F. whereas there is still some room for improvement, especially in the field of external action, where 181 million euro equalling 3.5% of the total allowance were not spent in 2005, and in pre-accession strategy where the amount unused, compared to 2004, has actually gone up to 463 million euro or 13.5% of the allowance initially planned;

1. Welcomes the positive development in budget implementation over the last few years;

2. Calls on the Commission to continue its efforts to fully implement the budget which is even more important in view of the limited resources that will be available under the new financial framework 2007 — 2013;

3. Has decided to accept Council’s Draft amending budget unamended;

4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission.

P6_TA(2006)0216

Cohesion Policy in support of growth and jobs

European Parliament resolution on preparing for the assent procedure for the Community’s strategic guidelines for the period 2007-2013 (Cohesion Policy in Support of Growth and Jobs) (2006/2086(INI))

The European Parliament,


— having regard to Articles 23 and 24 of the proposal for a Council regulation laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and having regard to its resolution of 6 July 2005 (†),

— having regard to the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund and having regard to the position it took thereon at first reading on 6 July 2005 (‡),

— having regard to the proposal for a Council regulation establishing a Cohesion Fund and having regard to its resolution thereon of 6 July 2005 (§),

— having regard to the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Social Fund and having regard to the position it took thereon at first reading on 6 July 2003 (1),

— having regard to the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European grouping of cross-border cooperation and having regard to the position it took thereon at first reading on 6 July 2005 (2),

— having regard to Articles 158 and 161 of the EC Treaty,

— having regard to the conclusions of the Lisbon European Council of 23 and 24 March 2000, of Göteborg of 15 and 16 June 2001 and of Brussels of 22 and 23 March 2005,


— having regard to the Commission communication: ‘Third progress report on cohesion: Towards a new partnership for growth, jobs and cohesion’ (COM(2005)0192),

— having regard to the conclusions of the Brussels European Council of 15 and 16 December 2005 on the financial perspective,

— having regard to the European Charter for small enterprises approved by the Santa Maria da Feira European Council of 19 and 20 June 2000,

— having regard to its resolution of 13 March 2003 on Gender Mainstreaming in the European Parliament (3),


— having regard to Rule 45 of its Rules of Procedure,

— having regard to the report of the Committee on Regional Development and the opinions of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the Committee on Transport and Tourism (A6-0175/2006),

A. whereas the cohesion policy guidelines are an important component of a European policy seeking to address global challenges,

B. mindful that the nature of the challenges facing Europe’s cohesion policy has completely changed with EU enlargement to include 10 (and later it will be 12) new Member States,

C. pointing out that conducting negotiations on regulations and guidelines in parallel makes it substantially more difficult to include the social partners, NGOs, municipalities and regions in drawing up the programme, but that Parliament wishes to promote their participation,

D. whereas, in view of the depopulation affecting given European regions, new economic and social development strategies need to be drawn up in order to avert the threat of dwindling populations in rural areas,

E. whereas the reform of the structural policy for the next programming period 2007-2013 seeks to give it a greater strategic focus in order to avoid a situation in which specific actions are at odds with each other,

F. whereas more emphasis must be given to the urban dimension of European structural policy in order to ensure both that conurbations are able to play their pivotal role in boosting European competitiveness and employment more effectively and that specific urban problems such as poverty and social marginalisation, including marginalisation in small and medium-sized towns, can be addressed more effectively,
G. whereas urban areas and the surrounding countryside should be seen as an integrated economic area forming part of the regional context and need a more integrated and symbiotic development strategy to speed up the process of regional competitiveness;

H. whereas the social, economic and territorial cohesion of the Union must not be weakened by efforts to implement the Lisbon Strategy;

I. whereas owing to disparities in prosperity which have become much more pronounced through enlargement, the resources set aside for structural policy are limited and they must therefore be concentrated even more than hitherto on sustainable development concepts and the most necessary and effective measures,

J. welcoming the fact that cohesion and regional policy are being treated as a unity,

K. pointing to the importance of reducing disparities between Member States, on the one hand, and between European regions, on the other,

L. whereas territorial cooperation is an important component of cohesion policy and must be endowed with an appropriate level of financial resources and included in overall strategic planning,

1. Stresses that the Commission's proposal on the strategic guidelines sets the Community's priorities with a view to promoting balanced, harmonious and sustained development and thereby pursues the Lisbon and Göteborg objectives;

2. Maintains, however, that future cohesion policy must help to meet the challenges posed by the most recent enlargement of the European Union by helping to reduce regional disparities and fostering a society based on full employment, equal opportunities, inclusion, and social cohesion;

3. Takes the view that the strategic guidelines should not restrict the scope of the regulations on the individual funds, but only clarify the EU's strategic priorities and points in this connection to the need to ensure that the regions have sufficient flexibility to be able to react specifically to requirements in the regions, since there are many ways and means of achieving successful sustainable development, particularly where the regions' and local authorities' experiences concerning their own development potential are fully incorporated into regional strategies;

4. Refers in this connection to the differing needs of industrial regions, rural areas, cities and urban areas, sparsely populated areas and the and very outermost regions and island, mountain and border regions;

5. Calls also for aid to be channelled towards areas suffering structural disadvantages such as depopulation, population ageing, or inaccessibility and for the economic and social development of those areas to be boosted;

6. Stresses, however, that the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy is primarily a matter for the Member States and that cohesion policy has to form a unified whole with the Lisbon and Göteborg objectives and become a key factor in their attainment through national and regional development programmes;

7. Welcomes the evidence of linkage between job growth and an increase in productivity and notes that the essential purpose underlying it is to create high-quality permanent jobs.

8. Considers it necessary to concentrate the scant financial resources available in an intelligent and efficient manner in order to achieve maximum European added value instead of scattering funds;

9. Stresses once again the importance of a sound partnership between all the parties concerned and calls for this partnership to be clearly enshrined in the regulations and guidelines and thus supports the strengthening of civil society;

10. Calls on the Commission proactively to support public-private partnerships (PPPs) as a funding instrument and not to treat the Member States differently; supports specifically the possibilities offered by JESSICA, JEREMIE and JASPERS in this connection; endorses the Commission proposal regarding the role of the European Investment Bank in helping to finance the implementation of cohesion policy;
11. Points to the importance of laying down rules to govern the formation of public-private partnerships (PPPs) and of simplifying programme management and monitoring procedures so as to ensure that projects can be and are implemented rapidly;

12. Stresses how important it is for regions to share information and best practice gained from previous programmes so that they can use them in future programming periods;

13. Welcomes the fact that the guidelines focus on three priorities and specifically requests that active attention be given to equality of opportunities between men and women in all three priorities;

Making Europe and its regions more attractive to investors and workers

14. Supports the decision to establish a durable transport infrastructure, including the promotion of a railway infrastructure and local public transport services together with sea transport, which also ensures access to these means of transport; asks for support measures to optimise traffic management, taking into account road safety; considers it essential to complete the trans-European transport network so as to enable the advantages of the internal market to be fully exploited;

15. Calls for an express requirement for and recognition of the principle and practice of accessibility for disabled persons in the strategic guidelines and in the evaluation process required by the strategic guidelines;

16. Believes that transport infrastructures should be developed, particularly at the EU’s former external borders with the new Member States and between Member States where they are not yet adequately developed; refers in this respect to particular regional problems and requests that intelligent and sustainable transport concepts be put forward;

17. Calls for a specific reference to the secondary road networks to be included in the Community strategic guidelines, given that support for the construction of regional roads can be of importance in increasing the mobility of workers and thereby in improving access to employment opportunities;

18. Stresses that sustainable development in all Member States means complying with environmental legislation on water, waste, air, and the protection of the environment and biodiversity and calls for a sustainable use of natural resources, in particular water; further calls for specific support for the implementation of environmental priorities such as Natura 2000, the Water Framework Directive and the sustainable prevention of natural disasters;

19. Also believes that smaller scale infrastructure projects in all areas should be taken into consideration and strongly supports investment in secondary connections to major networks;

20. Specifically supports the possibility of the funds intervening in the sphere of sustainable energy policy and specifically welcomes the use of all renewable energy in electricity, heating, cooling and transport; calls for support for energy saving and efficiency; stresses the importance and the potential, especially for SMEs, of the use and generation of renewable energy and the development of energy efficiency technologies, with their special role in local and regional development potential;

21. Refers in this connection to the need to adopt an integrated approach to urban development and to the development of urban areas in order to achieve greater energy efficiency; in this context, investments improving the energy efficiency of large-panel prefabricated housing estates in the new Member States are especially important;

22. Notes that housing makes a major contribution to the production of greenhouse gases and that an effort must consequently be made in this sector too in order to attain the Kyoto objectives and encourage the process of sustainable urban development; recalls in this connection the above-mentioned positions and resolutions it adopted on 6 July 2005 in connection with the reform of the Structural Funds;

23. Demands that sustainable urban development and the specific links between towns and cities and their surrounding areas be strengthened, with account being taken of existing partnerships; further supports the implementation of strategies aimed at complementary development at every level;

24. Notes that there are great opportunities for rural areas in particular to boost their prosperity by stepping up the use of renewable bio-resources both for energy and as materials, and that agriculture too stands to benefit greatly from reinforcing sustainable structures;
25. Welcomes the specific focus on research and development (R&D), in particular support for the formation of high technology clusters, innovative industrial regions and SMEs in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector; points, however, to the need to reduce the technology divide within and between regions and Member States by strengthening technological cooperation networks;

26. Urges, firstly, that measures and investments to promote innovation should not be confined to technological innovation but should apply to all types of innovation enabling businesses to carry out economic and social modernisation, and secondly, that specific efforts should be made to develop the innovation potential of small and micro-businesses, particularly in traditional sectors;

27. Urges the Commission to accord special importance to programmes to promote ICT, given that these have far-reaching social, territorial, and cultural implications, and make them fully accessible to citizens;

28. Points to the close ties existing between R&D and training and calls on the Commission to make provision for simple and transparent means of joint financing through the funds in the case of integrated projects, for instance by making joint financing more attractive to private investments by fostering cooperation between universities and businesses, and calls on the Member States to use instruments such as risk funds and micro-credits for this purpose;

29. Stresses the decisive contribution which will be made by the improved access to funding being proposed in terms of promoting research, innovation and entrepreneurship, and establishing new and expanding existing European companies;

30. Repeats its demand that all regions should be able to carry out PPP projects under the same conditions in the R&D, innovation and ICT fields, since this would help to reduce the technology divide;

31. Notes that rural areas must not be cut off from the development of the information society;

32. Supports the principle of developing business support services; considers that information, advice and assistance activities carried out by intermediary organisations, particularly for small and micro-businesses and craft businesses, are essential if these businesses are to achieve the objectives of the cohesion policy; calls, therefore, for support to such activities to be treated as a priority at regional level;

33. Calls for regions to build their research and innovation capacities by ensuring complementarity and synergy between FP7, CIP and the structural and cohesion funds;

More and better jobs

34. Emphasises the importance of investing in human capital, particularly in view of the demographic change facing our society over the next few years, and of focusing particular attention on the full integration of immigrants;

35. Demands that the European Social Fund support those Member State policies which are in line with the integrated guidelines and recommendations within the framework of the European employment strategy and with the relevant Community objectives as regards social inclusion, anti-discrimination, the promotion of equality and general and professional training;

36. Calls for accompanying and support measures seeking to prevent the social exclusion of disadvantaged groups to be incorporated in support measures, with a view to enhancing their employability;

37. Welcomes the three action priorities of the employment policy guidelines and stresses that they must not under any circumstances be accompanied by a deterioration in the situation of workers;

38. Calls on the Commission to explain what it means by ‘an employment policy approach that is geared towards the entire life-cycle’: assumes that it means projects specifically intended to support young people, women and elderly workers;
39. Welcomes the Commission’s commitment to active policies, especially for the purpose of fostering entrepreneurship at every level of education and continuing training; calls, in this connection, for greater support for ‘lifelong learning’ projects involving support both for improvements in educational infrastructures and staff qualifications, and support for new options starting as early as the school and preschool stage;

40. Points out that qualified workers are not the product of vocational training alone, but that the foundations are already laid in childhood and adolescence, and therefore expects that access to preschool facilities and school education will be improved;

41. Expects further training and lifelong learning to be viewed as an investment in people and not therefore considered and registered as a form of assistance to be notified, where appropriate; supports the Commission’s approach, as in the past under the Equal programme, of giving all migrants, including asylum seekers, greater access to the labour market, for example through the recognition of qualifications or through language acquisition;

42. Emphasises the need to improve the matching of training and education actions to labour market needs;

43. Calls on the Commission, particularly as regards the development of human capital, to support the cooperation of Member States and to notify cohesion policy players of the most innovative projects in an appropriate manner; points to the special importance of exchanges of information between the old and new Member States;

44. Welcomes the possibility of investing in health infrastructures and in averting health risks;

45. Calls on the Commission to ensure that the strategic guidelines only contain items which can be supported through Structural Fund investments;

46. Calls on the Commission, in the event of a general failure to meet the criteria of:
   — sustainable development,
   — gender mainstreaming,
   — the rights set out in Article 13 of the EC Treaty (prohibition of discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation),
   — environmental law,

   to demand improvements or the repayment of monies already disbursed;

The territorial aspect of cohesion policy

47. Supports, as a matter of principle, the importance of the objective of territorial cohesion as an essential and integral supplement to the objective of economic and social cohesion;

48. Reiterates its demand for an increase in aid for urban areas; supports particularly, in this connection, the need for the flexibility of regions in developing projects, since it is not necessarily clear at the beginning of a subsidy period which urban areas will need support for their projects during that period; stresses the important role cities and their surrounding areas play in realising the objectives of the European Union’s regional policy, including their function as motors of economic development in Europe; calls on Member States to foster multi-level governance by including cities, their functional urban areas and rural peripheral areas in both the development and the implementation of national strategic reference frameworks and operational programmes;

49. Points to the need to recognise the diverse nature of European local players; notes that Europe is distinguished by a unique multicentric structure consisting of large, medium-sized, and small towns and cities and that most Europeans live in medium-sized and small towns; considers it essential that measures for urban areas should extend beyond traditional metropolises and also allow for the role of the cities, satellite towns, and urban marketplaces linked to the leading urban centres;
Thursday, 18 May 2006

50. Confirms its support for cross-border cooperation as a key instrument of European integration and calls for due attention to be paid, within the framework of this instrument, to the following sectors, inter alia: culture, the environment, R&D, ICT, exchanges between administrative authorities, disaster prevention and health;

51. Calls on that Member States to specify a priority for innovative measures and transnational cooperation in their operational programmes;

52. Calls for clear and transparent rules on both resource allocation and spending controls and for Member States to take full responsibility for expenditure of cohesion policy funding;

* * *

53. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

P6_TA(2006)0217

Financing Instrument for development and economic cooperation ***I


(Codecision procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

— having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2004)0629 (1)),
— having regard to Article 251(2) and Articles 179(1) and 181a(2) of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C6-0128/2004),
— having regard to the opinion of the Committee on Legal Affairs on the proposed legal basis,
— having regard to Rules 51, 168 and 35 of its Rules of Procedure,
— having regard to the report of the Committee on Development and the opinions of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on International Trade and the Committee on Budgets (A6-0060/2006),
— having regard to the second report of the Committee on Development and the opinions of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on International Trade (A6-0109/2006);

1. Approves the Commission proposal as amended;

2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it intends to amend the proposal substantially or replace it with another text;

3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and the Commission.

(1) Not yet published in OJ.

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 179(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Acting in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 251 of the Treaty (1),

Whereas:

(1) A new procedural framework for planning and delivering assistance is proposed in order to make the Community's external assistance more effective. Council Regulation (EC) No …/… of … establishes an Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA) for Community assistance to candidate and potential candidate countries (2). Regulation (EC) No …/… of the European Parliament and of the Council of … establishes a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) (3). This Regulation is the third general procedural instrument providing direct support for the European Union’s external policies, and in particular its development cooperation policy.

(2) A new Regulation on [Community assistance to third countries for the promotion and protection of democracy and human rights] is to be proposed.

(3) The Community pursues a development cooperation policy aimed at achieving the objectives of poverty reduction, sustainable economic and social development and the smooth and gradual integration of developing countries into the world economy.

(4) The Community pursues a cooperation policy that fosters cooperation, partnerships and joint undertakings between economic players in the EU and partner countries and regions, and promotes dialogue between political, economic and social partners in relevant sectors.

(5) The Community's development cooperation policy and action in international fora are aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2000, and the main development objectives and principles which the Community has approved in the context of the United Nations and other competent international organisations in the field of development cooperation.

(6) A political environment which guarantees peace, respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, gender equality, democratic principles, the rule of law and good governance is fundamental to long-term development.

(7) Sound and sustainable economic policies are a pre-requisite for development.

(8) The Joint statement by the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on European Union Development Policy: 'The European Consensus' of 20 December 2005 (4), and its subsequent modifications, provides the general framework for action by the Community on development matters.

(2) OJ L […] of […], p. […].
(3) OJ L […] of […], p. […].
The Community and its Member States have concluded partnership and cooperation agreements aimed at making a significant contribution to the long-term development of the partner countries and the well-being of their people.

The implementation of these partnership and cooperation agreements should be based on the common and universal values of respect for and promotion of human rights, fundamental freedoms, good governance, democratisation, and the rule of law.

In implementing the Community's development policy, more effective aid, greater complementarity and better harmonisation, uniformity and coordination of procedures, both within the European Union and in relations with other donors and development players, are essential to ensuring the consistency and relevance of aid whilst at the same time reducing the costs borne by partner countries.

A crucial objective is to pursue a differentiated approach depending on development contexts and needs, providing partner countries or regions with specific, tailor-made programmes, based on their own needs, strategies, priorities and assets.

The key to the success of development policies is whether the partner countries take ownership of the development strategies and, to this end, the greatest possible involvement of all sections of society should be encouraged. With a view to ensuring efficiency and transparency and encouraging countries to take ownership, donors' cooperation strategies and implementation procedures should be aligned on those of the partner countries.

The Community's external action and its internal policies should be coherent with the objectives of its development cooperation policy.

The Commission has adopted two communications entitled 'Linking Relief Rehabilitation and Development' (1) and 'Linking Relief Rehabilitation and Development — An assessment' (2), followed up by resolutions of the European Parliament and conclusions of the Council, emphasising the need to ensure effective bridging between humanitarian reconstruction and long-term development assistance.

Untying aid is a key factor in adding value to aid and in building local capacity.

This Regulation lays down for the period 2007-2013 a financial envelope constituting the prime reference, within the meaning of Point 37 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and sound financial management (3), for the budgetary authority during the annual budgetary procedure.

Since the objectives of the proposed action, namely support for development cooperation, economic cooperation, financial cooperation, scientific and technical cooperation and any form of development cooperation with developing countries and regions comprising more than one developing country that are not Community Member States and are not eligible for Community aid under the IPA or the ENPI instruments, cannot always be sufficiently achieved by the Member States and can, by reason of the scale of the action, sometimes be better achieved at Community level, the Community may adopt measures in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty. In accordance with the principle of proportionality as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary to achieve these objectives.

(2) COM(2001)0153.
(3) OJ ...
This Regulation makes it necessary to repeal or revise the following Regulations:


(c) Regulation (EC) No 2493/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 November 2000 on measures to promote the full integration of the environmental dimension in the development process of developing countries (3),

(d) Regulation (EC) No 2494/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 November 2000 on measures to promote the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests and other forests in developing countries (4),


(f) Council Regulation (EC) No 1659/98 of 17 July 1998 on decentralised cooperation (6),

(g) Council Regulation (EC) No 1658/98 of 17 July 1998 on co-financing operations with European non-governmental development organisations (NGOs) in fields of interest to the developing countries (7),


(j) Council Regulation (EEC) No 443/92 of 25 February 1992 on financial and technical assistance to, and economic cooperation with, the developing countries in Asia and Latin America (11),

(k) Council Regulation (EC) No 2258/96 of 22 November 1996 on rehabilitation and reconstruction operations in developing countries (12),


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(13) OJ L 225, 23.4.1999, p. 34.
Council Regulation (EC) No 1484/97 of 22 July 1997 on aid for population policies and programmes in the developing countries (1) and

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

TITLE I

OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES

Article 1

Overall purpose and scope

(1) In accordance with Article 179 of the Treaty, the Community shall finance measures aimed at supporting cooperation with developing countries included in Part I of the List of Aid Recipients of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD/DAC), and regions comprising more than one developing country, (hereinafter referred to as 'partner countries and regions') which are not Member States of the Community or Overseas Countries and Territories, or eligible for Community assistance under the pre-accession instrument or the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument.

For the purposes of this Regulation, a region is defined as a geographical entity comprising more than one developing country.

(2) In accordance with Article 179 of the Treaty, Community assistance shall support development cooperation, being economic, financial, scientific and technical cooperation and all other forms of cooperation with partner countries and regions, and international measures to promote the objectives of Community development cooperation as defined in paragraph 3.

(3) The primary objective of such cooperation shall be to reduce and eventually eradicate poverty in partner countries and regions, within the framework of the Millennium Declaration adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2000, and particularly to achieve the MDGs. This entails cooperation measures that:

— foster the sustainable economic, social and environmental development of the developing countries, and more particularly the most disadvantaged among them;
— encourage their smooth and gradual integration into the world economy;
— consolidate and support democracy and peace, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, gender equality and the principles of international law; and
— strengthen the relationship between the Community and partner countries.

(4) Community cooperation under this Regulation shall comply with the commitments and objectives in the field of development cooperation that the Community has approved in the context of the United Nations and other competent international organisations in the field of development cooperation.

(5) Community Development Policy, as laid down in Title XX of the Treaty, shall provide the general framework of cooperation with partner countries and regions. The Joint Statement by the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on European Union Development Policy: 'The European Consensus', and its subsequent modifications, shall provide the general framework, orientations and focus to guide the implementation of Community cooperation policy with partner countries and regions under this Regulation.

(6) Measures financed under this Title shall fulfil the criteria for eligibility as Official Development Assistance established by the OECD/DAC.

(7) Community assistance under this Regulation shall not be used to finance:
— the procurement of arms or ammunition;
— military expenditure, other than training in respect for human rights.

(8) Measures covered by, and eligible for funding under, Council Regulation (EC) No …/[… of … [on the ‘Stability Instrument’] (1) shall not be funded under this Regulation.

Without prejudice to the need to ensure continuity of cooperation from crisis to stable conditions for development, measures covered by, and eligible for funding under, Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid (2) shall not be funded under this Regulation.

Article 2

General principles

(1) The Union is based on the values of peace and democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and shall develop and consolidate a commitment to these values in partner countries and regions through dialogue and cooperation.

(2) All measures financed under this Regulation shall be subject to an ex-ante development impact assessment, including an assessment of their impact in the fields of human rights, the environment, gender equality, children’s rights and effects on other vulnerable or excluded groups.

(3) In the selection of measures to be financed under this Regulation, a differentiated approach depending on development contexts and needs shall be pursued so that partner countries or regions are provided with specific, tailor-made cooperation, based on their own needs, strategies, priorities and assets.

Priority shall be given to the poorest among partner countries, especially the least developed countries, and to the poorest sectors of society within all partner countries.

(4) For all measures financed under, and all areas of cooperation covered by, this Regulation the Community shall aim to ensure coherence between the different areas of external action and other Community policies and its development cooperation policy, in conformity with Article 178 of the Treaty. Such coherence shall be ensured in formulating policy, strategic planning and the programming and implementation of measures.

(5) The Community and the Member States shall coordinate their policies on development cooperation. The Commission shall seek regular and frequent exchanges of information with the European Parliament and the Member States as well as with other development players, including other donors, and shall promote shared analyses, a joint programming process, and harmonised implementation and reporting mechanisms.

(6) Within their respective spheres of competence, the Community, through the Commission, in consultation with the European Parliament and the Member States, shall promote a multilateral approach to global challenges and foster cooperation with multilateral and regional organisations and bodies such as international financial institutions, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and bilateral donors.

(1) Of …
The Community's cooperation activities shall promote effective cooperation modalities and instruments, adapted to the particular circumstances of each partner country or region, with a focus on programme-based approaches using budgetary support in specific and clearly justified cases, subject to strict monitoring and conditionality, on delivery of predictable aid funding, and the development and use of country systems based on the MDG targets and indicators.

The Community shall promote effective cooperation with partner countries and regions in line with international best practice. The following principles shall apply:

(a) the promotion of a development process that is partner country led and owned by the local population. The Community shall increasingly align its support with partner countries' national development strategies, reform policies and procedures and shall favour local expertise and local employment;

(b) a contribution to the strengthening of the process of accountability, including accountability of donors and partner countries and regions to their parliaments, and mutual accountability between partner countries and donors;

(c) the promotion of inclusive and participatory approaches to development and a broad involvement of all segments of society, especially vulnerable groups, in the development process and in national dialogue;

(d) the promotion of an improved impact of policies and programming through coordination and harmonisation between donors with a view to reducing overlap and duplication, improving complementarity and coherence and supporting donor-wide initiatives and measures taken by donors in consultation with beneficiaries. Coordination shall take place in partner countries using agreed guidelines and principles of best practice on coordination and aid effectiveness.

TITLE II
POLICY SETTING, PROGRAMMING AND ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Article 3

General framework for policy setting, programming, and allocating funds

(1) Measures shall be financed under geographical or thematic programmes, or in the context of global initiatives.

A geographical programme shall encompass cooperation in all appropriate areas of activity with partner countries and regions determined on a geographical basis.

A thematic programme shall encompass a specific area of activity of interest to a group of partner countries not determined by geography, or cooperation activities addressed to various regions or groups of partner countries, or an international operation that is not geographically specific, including multilateral or global initiatives.

A global initiative is a partnership and related action whose benefits cut across more than one region of the world, and in which the partners reach express agreements on objectives, agree to establish a new formal or informal organisation or generate new products or services, and contribute dedicated resources to the action.

The Commission shall adopt the geographical and thematic programmes, specifying their geographical scope, in accordance with the management procedure set out in Article 22(2).

The Commission shall propose a multiannual financial framework allocating funds by global thematic and by regional geographical programmes. The multiannual financial framework shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty.
Spending targets shall be set by the legislative authority within those thematic and regional geographical programmes, and shall be adhered to in the implementation of the programmes.

(2) Policy priorities for thematic programmes, global initiatives or geographical programmes at regional or continental level shall be established by separate regulations, each of which shall be specific to a broad thematic programme and/or global initiative, or to a geographical programme at regional or continental level. Each regulation shall set down details of the policy to be applied for the broad thematic programme and/or global initiative or geographical programme to which it relates. Each regulation shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty.

(3) In the case of geographical programmes, the Commission shall adopt, with the approval of the European Parliament, in accordance with the management procedure set out in Article 22(2), a strategy paper and a multiannual indicative programme for each partner country or region, as provided for in Article 5, and adopt an action programme for each partner country or region, as provided for in Article 8.

In the case of thematic programmes, the Commission shall adopt, in accordance with the management procedure set out in Article 22(2), thematic strategy papers, as provided for in Article 6, and adopt action programmes, as provided for in Article 8.

In exceptional circumstances, Community support may also take the form of special measures not covered in strategy papers or multiannual indicative programmes, as provided for in Article 9. The European Parliament and the Council shall be immediately informed of the special measures and may call for the suspension of such special measures if they are not satisfied that the special measures are warranted.

(4) In establishing geographical programmes, the Commission shall determine the multiannual indicative financial allocations to be used for financing cooperation with each partner country or region within each programme. These allocations shall be coherent with the global allocations set out in the multiannual financial framework and shall be determined using standard, objective and transparent criteria, based on the needs and performance of the partner country or region concerned and taking into account the particular difficulties faced by countries or regions in, or having just emerged from, crisis or conflict.

Article 4

Policy-setting regulations and the multiannual financial framework

(1) The regulations setting policy priorities for thematic programmes, global initiatives or geographical programmes at regional or continental level mentioned in Article 3 shall cover no more than the period of validity of this Regulation. Each shall establish details of the policy priorities to be applied for the programme to which it relates, taking into account, where applicable, the principles and procedures laid down in the partnership and cooperation agreements concluded with the partner countries and regions.

All strategy papers and multiannual programmes shall be coherent with the policy priorities established in the corresponding regulation.

If necessary the regulations shall be reviewed on an ad hoc basis prior to their expiry.

(2) The multiannual financial framework shall be established for an initial period of four years. Before the expiry of this period, a second multiannual financial framework shall be established, based on the mid-term review and covering the remaining period of validity of this Regulation.

Any allocation established in the multiannual financial framework may be increased or decreased by a maximum of 5%. Any increase or decrease in allocations by more than 5% shall be subject to the agreement of the European Parliament and the Council.

Article 5

Strategy papers and multiannual programming of geographical programmes

(1) Strategy papers for partner countries and regions shall cover no more than the period of validity of this Regulation and aim to provide a coherent framework for cooperation between the Community and the partner country or region concerned. They shall be based on the policy-setting regulations and provide the basis for drafting multiannual programmes.
Strategy papers shall be reviewed at mid-term, or ad hoc if necessary, in accordance where applicable with the principles and procedures laid down in the partnership and cooperation agreements concluded with the partner countries and regions. The ad hoc review shall take place at the initiative of the Commission or following a request by the European Parliament or the Council or the partner country or region concerned. In cases of threats to democracy, the rule of law, human rights or fundamental freedoms, the European Parliament may call for an urgent revision of the strategy papers.

(2) Strategy papers shall be based on the provisions of the relevant policy-setting regulations and shall, in principle, be based as far as possible on dialogue with the partner country or region which involves civil society and regional and local authorities at the initial stage of the procedure, so as to ensure that the country or region concerned takes sufficient ownership of the process and to guarantee consistency with national and local development strategies, particularly those for reducing poverty.

(3) Multiannual indicative programmes shall be drawn up on the basis of the strategy papers for each partner country or region, in keeping with a partnership-based approach and on the basis of their proposals. In principle they shall be the subject of an agreement with the country or region, unless the political dialogue has been interrupted. Such programmes shall not be regarded as adopted until the European Parliament has been informed and has had the opportunity fully to debate the proposals.

Multiannual indicative programmes shall set out the priority areas selected for Community financing, the specific objectives, the expected results and the performance indicators.

The programmes shall also set out the indicative financial allocation, both overall and per priority area. This may be given in the form of a range, where appropriate. These allocations shall be consistent with the global allocations set out in the multiannual financial framework.

The programmes shall be adjusted where necessary, taking into account any mid-term or ad hoc reviews of strategy papers.

In exceptional circumstances a multiannual indicative allocation may be increased or decreased as a result of reviews and in conformity with the provisions of Article 4, particularly in the light of special needs such as those of a post-crisis situation, or where performance has been exceptional or unsatisfactory.

(4) In circumstances such as crises, post-conflict situations or threats to democracy, the rule of law, human rights or fundamental freedoms, a special emergency procedure may be used to conduct an ad hoc review of the country's or region's cooperation strategy. The ad hoc review shall take place at the initiative of the Commission or following a request by the European Parliament or the Council or the partner country or region concerned. Such reviews may propose a country or region strategy to make the transition to long-term cooperation and development. The strategy shall ensure that measures taken under this Regulation are consistent with, and avoid duplication with, measures funded under other Community instruments, in particular the Instrument for Stability and Regulation (EC) No 1257/96. Where partner countries or groups of partner countries are directly involved in, or affected by, a crisis or post-crisis situation, multiannual programming shall place special emphasis on stepping up coordination between relief, rehabilitation and development to help them make the transition from an emergency situation to the development phase; programmes for countries and regions regularly subject to natural disasters shall provide for disaster preparedness and prevention and the management of the consequences of such disasters.

(5) To foster regional cooperation, the Commission may decide, when adopting action programmes as referred to in Article 8 or special measures as referred to in Article 9, that other developing countries listed in Part I of the OECD/DAC list are eligible, where the project or programme to be implemented is of regional or cross-border nature. Provision may be made for this in the strategy papers and multiannual indicative programmes referred to in Articles 5 and 6.
The Commission and the Member States shall consult each other, and other donors and development players, including representatives of civil society, local authorities and their associations, at the initial stage of the programming procedure in order to ensure that their cooperation activities are taken into account.

Article 6

Strategy papers and multiannual programming of thematic programmes

(1) Thematic strategy papers shall cover no more than the period of validity of this Regulation. They shall be consistent with the provisions of the relevant policy-setting regulations and shall set out the Community's strategy for the theme concerned, the Community's priorities, the international situation and the activities of the main partners.

The Commission shall ensure consistency between thematic and geographical programmes by checking that the operations implemented through thematic programmes are consistent with the strategy papers and multiannual indicative programmes drawn up for the partner countries or regions.

Thematic strategy papers shall be consistent with the provisions of the relevant policy-setting regulations and shall set out the specific objectives, the expected results and the performance indicators.

The thematic strategy papers shall also give the indicative financial allocation, both overall and per priority area: this allocation shall be consistent with the global allocations set out in the multiannual financial framework; it may be given in the form of a range, where appropriate.

Strategy papers shall be reviewed at mid-term, or ad hoc if necessary. The ad hoc review shall take place at the initiative of the Commission or following a request by the European Parliament or the Council.

(2) The Commission and the Member States shall consult each other, and other donors and development players, including representatives of civil society, local authorities and their associations, at the initial stage of the programming procedure in order to ensure that their cooperation activities complement each other.

(3) Resources and intervention priorities shall be laid down for participation in global initiatives.

Article 7

Adoption of policy-setting regulations, the multiannual financial framework, strategy papers and multiannual programming papers

The regulations establishing policy priorities for each thematic programme, global initiative or geographical programme at regional or continental level and the multiannual financial framework shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty.

Before adopting the strategy papers and multiannual indicative programmes referred to in Articles 5 and 6, and any reviews thereof referred to in Article 5(1) and (3) and Article 6(1), the Commission shall submit a draft text to the European Parliament and to the Council. Within three months of the submission of the draft text, each institution may either suggest amendments, if it considers that the text does not meet the objectives laid down by the legislative authority, or object to the adoption of the text and, if appropriate, ask the Commission to submit a proposal for a legislative act to be adopted in accordance with Article 251 of the Treaty.

The European Parliament and the Council shall both have the right to call for the programmes to be suspended, if they deem it necessary.
TITLE III

IMPLEMENTATION

Article 8

Adoption of action programmes

For the adoption of action programmes or measures not provided for in an action programme, the management procedure set out in Article 22(2) shall apply.

The Commission shall send such action programmes or measures not provided for in action programmes to the European Parliament and the Member States for their information within one month of adopting its decision.

Article 9

Adoption of special measures not provided for in the strategy papers or multiannual indicative programmes

(1) In the event of unforeseen needs or circumstances relating to natural disasters, civil strife or crises, which cannot be funded under Regulation (EC) No .../... [on the 'Stability Instrument'] or Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96, the Commission shall, after consultation with the European Parliament and the Council, adopt special measures not provided for in the strategy papers or multiannual indicative programmes (hereinafter referred to as 'special measures').

Special measures may also be used to fund measures to ease the transition from emergency aid to long-term development operations.

Special measures must be based on the policy priorities established in the relevant geographical policy-setting regulation.

(2) Where the cost of such measures exceeds 5 000 000 Euro, the Commission shall adopt them under the consultation procedure referred to in Article 22(3).

(3) Special measures shall specify the objectives pursued, the intervention areas, the expected results, the management procedures and the total amount of financing. They shall contain a description of the operations to be financed, an indication of the amounts allocated for each operation and the indicative timetable for their implementation.

(4) Where the cost of the special measures remains below 5 000 000 Euro, the Commission shall inform the Member States and the European Parliament of the measures adopted within one month of adopting its decision.

(5) The procedure laid down in Article 22(3) need not be used for amendments to special measures which only make technical adjustments, provided that those amendments do not affect the initial objectives set out in the Commission decision. Any such technical adjustments shall be communicated immediately to the European Parliament and the Council.

Article 10

Eligibility

(1) The following, inter alia, shall be eligible for funding under this Regulation for the purposes of implementing the measures provided for in the strategy papers or multiannual indicative programmes referred to in Articles 5 and 6 or special measures of the kind referred to in Article 9:

(a) partner countries and regions, and their institutions;

(b) decentralised bodies in the partner countries, such as municipalities, provinces, departments and regions:
(c) joint bodies set up by the partner countries and regions with the Community;

(d) international organisations, including regional organisations, UN bodies, departments and missions, international and regional financial institutions and development banks, in so far as they contribute to the objectives of this Regulation;

(e) Community institutions and bodies, but only for the purposes of implementing support measures of the type referred to in Article 12;

(f) European Union agencies;

(g) The following entities and bodies of the Member States, partner countries and regions and any other third country complying with the rules on access to the Community's external assistance set out in Article 17, insofar as they are helping to achieve the objectives of this Regulation:

i. public or para-Statal bodies, local authorities and consortia or representative associations thereof;

ii. companies, firms and other private organisations and businesses;

iii. financial institutions that grant, promote and finance private investment in partner countries and regions;

iv. non-State actors as defined in paragraph 2;

v. natural persons.

2) The non-State, non-profit-making actors eligible for financial support under this Regulation include: non-governmental organisations, organisations representing indigenous peoples, organisations representing national and/or ethnic minorities, local traders’ associations and citizens’ groups, cooperatives, trade unions, organisations representing economic and social interests, organisations fighting corruption and fraud and promoting good governance, civil rights organisations and organisations combating discrimination, local organisations (including networks) involved in decentralised regional cooperation and integration, national and international associations of local authorities working in the development sphere, consumer organisations, women’s and youth organisations, teaching, cultural, research and scientific organisations, universities, churches and religious associations and communities, the media and any non-governmental associations and independent foundations, including independent political foundations, likely to contribute to the attainment of the objectives of this Regulation.

Article 11

Types of financing

Community financing may take the following forms:

(a) projects and programmes;

(b) sectoral or general budget support if the partner country’s management of public spending is sufficiently transparent, reliable, effective and properly controlled by the partner country’s supreme audit institution and parliament, and where the partner country has put in place properly formulated sectoral or macroeconomic policies positively assessed by its principal donors, including, where relevant, the international financial institutions;

(c) sectoral support;

(d) in exceptional cases, sectoral and general import programmes, which may take the form of:

(i) sectoral import programmes in kind,

(ii) sectoral import programmes providing foreign exchange to finance imports for the sector in question, or

(iii) general import programmes providing foreign exchange to finance general imports of a wide range of products;
(e) funds made available to the European Investment Bank or other financial intermediaries on the basis of Commission programmes for the purpose of providing loans (in particular to support investment in and development of the private sector), risk capital (in the form of subordinated or conditional loans) or other temporary minority holdings in business capital, and contributions to guarantee funds in accordance with Article 19;

(f) interest-rate subsidies, especially for environment-related loans;

(g) debt-relief, under internationally agreed debt relief programmes;

(h) food security measures:

(i) grants to finance projects submitted by entities of the type listed in Article 10(1)(b), (c), (d), (f) and (g)(i) to (v);

(j) grants to finance the operating costs of entities of the type listed in Article 10(1)(b), (c), (d), (f) and (g)(j), (iii) and (iv);

(k) funding for twinning programmes between public institutions, local authorities, national public bodies or private-law entities entrusted with public service tasks of a Member State and those of a partner country or region;

(l) contributions to international funds, such as those managed by international or regional organisations;

(m) contributions to national funds set up by partner countries and regions to attract joint financing from a number of donors, or contributions to funds set up by one or more donors for the purpose of the joint implementation of projects;

(n) capital investments in international financial institutions and regional development banks;

(o) human and material resources required for the effective administration and supervision of projects and programmes by partner countries and regions.

Article 12

Support measures

(1) Community financing may cover expenditure associated with the preparation, follow-up, monitoring, audit and evaluation activities directly necessary for the implementation of this Regulation and the achievement of its objectives, e.g. studies, meetings, information, awareness-raising, training and publication activities, training measures for partner countries and bodies in partner countries mentioned in Article 10, expenditure associated with computer networks for the exchange of information, and any other administrative or technical assistance expenditure that the Commission may incur for the management of the programme. It shall also cover expenditure at Commission Delegations on the administrative support needed to manage operations financed under this Regulation. It shall further cover the creation or maintenance of a database in which to store all the experience acquired. This database shall be accessible to any player eligible under Article 13 of this Regulation.

(2) These support measures are not necessarily covered by multiannual programming and may therefore be financed outside the scope of strategy papers and multiannual indicative programmes. However, they may also be financed under multiannual indicative programmes.

The Commission shall adopt support measures not covered by the multiannual indicative programmes in accordance with Article 9.

Article 13

Cofinancing

(1) Measures shall be eligible for cofinancing from the following, inter alia:

(a) Member States, and in particular their public and para-statal agencies and their decentralised bodies;
(b) local and regional administrations or authorities and groupings thereof;

(c) other donor countries, and in particular their public and para-Statal agencies;

(d) international organisations, including regional organisations, and in particular international and regional financial institutions;

(e) companies, firms, other private organisations and businesses, and other non-State players;

(f) partner countries and regions in receipt of funding.

(2) In the case of parallel cofinancing, the project or programme is split into a number of activities which are financed by the different partners providing cofinancing in such a way that the end-use of the financing can always be identified.

In the case of joint cofinancing, the total cost of a project or programme is shared between the partners providing the cofinancing and the resources are pooled in such a way that it is no longer possible to identify the source of financing for any given activity undertaken as part of the project or programme.

(3) In the case of joint cofinancing, the Commission may receive and manage funds on behalf of the bodies referred to in points 1(a), (b) and (c) for the purpose of implementing joint measures. Such funds shall be treated as assigned revenue, in accordance with Article 18 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the financial regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (\(^1\)).

**Article 14**

**Management procedures**

(1) The measures financed under this Regulation shall be implemented in accordance with Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002.

(2) In the event of cofinancing and in other duly justified cases, the Commission may entrust tasks of public authority, and in particular budget implementation tasks, to the bodies referred to in Article 54(2)(c) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 if such bodies are of recognised international standing, comply with internationally recognised systems of management and control, and are supervised by a public authority.

(3) In the case of decentralised management, the Commission may decide to use the procurement or grant procedures of the beneficiary partner country or region after verifying that they respect the basic principles of the Financial Regulation, and provided that:

— the procedures of the beneficiary partner country or region satisfy the principles of transparency, proportionality, equal treatment and non-discrimination and prevent any conflict of interests;

— the beneficiary partner country or region undertakes to check regularly that the operations financed by the Community budget have been properly implemented, to take appropriate measures to prevent irregularities and fraud, and, if necessary, to take legal action to recover funds lost, wrongly paid out or incorrectly used.

**Article 15**

**Budget commitments**

(1) Budget commitments shall be made on the basis of decisions taken by the Commission in accordance with Articles 8(1), 9(1) and 12(2).

Community financing may take one of the following legal forms, inter alia:

— financing agreements;
— grant agreements;
— procurement contracts;
— employment contracts.

Article 16

Protecting the Community's financial interests

(1) Any agreements resulting from this Regulation shall contain provisions ensuring the protection of the Community's financial interests, in particular with respect to irregularities, fraud, corruption and any other illegal activity, in accordance with Council Regulations (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 (1), (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 (2) and Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 (3).

(2) Agreements shall expressly entitle the Commission and the Court of Auditors to perform audits, including document audits or on-the-spot audits of any contractor or subcontractor who has received Community funds, including for the purpose of determining whether the implementation of agreements is in accordance with the provisions of the policy-setting regulations mentioned in Article 3, the principles of international law and the international conventions to which the Community and its Member States are party. They shall also expressly authorise the Commission to carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections as provided for in Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96.

(3) For a period of five years following the last payment, the beneficiary of Community funds shall keep available for inspection by the Commission all supporting documents regarding the expenditure.

(4) All contracts resulting from the implementation of assistance shall ensure the rights of the Commission and the Court of Auditors under paragraph 2 during and after the performance of the contracts.

Article 17

Public procurement procedures, grant award procedures, rules of origin


Documentation pertaining to the realisation of projects under this Regulation should be made available also in the language of the relevant beneficiary.

No contract allowing participation in programmes or measures financed under this Regulation shall be concluded with any authority, public institution or private player directly participating in, actively facilitating, or actively deriving benefit from any violation of international law or international conventions to which Member States are parties.

(2) Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities’ financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15.11.1996, p. 2).
(2) The Community shall introduce a simplified, exceptional procedure for calls for proposals and for the conclusion of grant award agreements with a view to facilitating access to funding for micro- and mesoprojects run by small or medium-sized development players.

Article 18

Prefinancing

Interest generated by prefinancing payments to beneficiaries shall be deducted from the final payment.

Article 19

Funds made available to the European Investment Bank or other financial intermediaries

(1) The funds referred to in Article 11(d) shall be managed by financial intermediaries, the European Investment Bank or any other bank or organisation with the capacity to manage such funds.

(2) The Commission shall adopt implementing provisions for paragraph 1 on a case-by-case basis to cover risk-sharing, the remuneration of the intermediary responsible for implementation, the use and recovery of profits on funds, and the closure of the operation.

Article 20

Evaluation

(1) The Commission shall, through a transparent and participatory process, regularly monitor and review its programmes and evaluate the results of geographical and thematic policies and programmes and of sectoral policies and the effectiveness of programming in order to ascertain whether the objectives have been met and enable it to formulate recommendations with a view to improving future operations.

In addition to its own internal evaluation, the Commission shall, on its own initiative or at the request of the European Parliament or the Council, contract, by means of public tender, independent external evaluations to evaluate its multiannual indicative programmes and to assess the quality of its geographical and thematic programmes, and to provide recommendations for the attainment of their objectives.

In the context of such reviews and evaluations, the Commission shall verify that the programmes properly implement the priorities established in the policy-setting regulations referred to in Article 3.

(2) The Commission, acting on its own initiative or at the request of the European Parliament or the Council, shall conduct similar internal evaluations and, by drawing on independent bodies selected by means of invitations to tender, have external evaluations conducted in order to assess the results of projects and other actions carried out under this Regulation with a view to determining the effectiveness of those projects and actions, ascertaining whether their objectives have been met and enabling the Commission to draw up recommendations designed to improve the effectiveness of future actions.

In the same way, the Commission shall have regular external audits conducted of its financing procedures and of the organisation of those of its services which carry out work under this Regulation.

(3) The Commission shall send its evaluation reports to the European Parliament and to the committee referred to in Article 22 for information. Member States may ask to discuss specific evaluations in the Committee referred to in Article 22.

The results shall feed back into programme design and resource allocation.

(4) The Commission shall associate non-State players in the evaluation phase of the Community assistance provided under this Regulation.
TITLE IV

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 21

Annual report

(1) The Commission shall examine the progress made in implementing the measures taken under this Regulation and shall submit to the European Parliament and the Council an annual report on the implementation and results and, as far as possible, outcomes and impacts of the assistance it provides. This report shall also be submitted to the European Economic and Social Committee and to the Committee of the Regions.

(2) The annual report shall contain information relating to the previous year on the measures financed, the results of monitoring and evaluation exercises, the involvement of the relevant partners, and the implementation of budget commitments and payments, broken down by country, region and cooperation sector. It shall assess the results of the assistance, using as far as possible specific and measurable indicators, and its role in meeting the objectives of this Regulation.

Article 22

Committee

(1) The Commission shall be assisted by a committee on which the European Parliament shall also be represented.

(2) Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 4 and 7 of Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission (¹), shall apply, in accordance with Article 8 of that Decision. The period provided for in Article 4(3) of that Decision shall be 30 days.

(3) Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 3 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, in accordance with Article 8 of that Decision.

The European Parliament’s right to be informed on a regular basis, in accordance with Article 7(3) of that Decision, shall be fully respected.

(4) The committee shall adopt its rules of procedure. These rules shall include provision for the Commission to adopt the special measures referred to in Article 9(1).

(5) The minutes of the committee meetings shall be sent to the European Parliament for information.

(6) A representative from the European Investment Bank shall be present at the committee’s proceedings.

Article 23

Suspension of assistance

Without prejudice to the provisions on suspension of aid in partnership and cooperation agreements with partner countries and regions, where a partner country fails to observe the principles referred to in Article 2(1), and where all attempts at negotiation with the partner country have failed, or if negotiations are refused or in cases of particular urgency, the Council, acting by a qualified majority and after consulting the European Parliament on a proposal from the Commission forwarded simultaneously to the European Parliament and to the Council, may take appropriate steps in respect of any assistance granted to the partner country under this Regulation. Such measures may include the partial or total suspension of assistance.

(¹) OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23.
If irregularities are detected, a beneficiary of Community funds shall be required to submit a detailed explanation within a specified period; if the beneficiary fails to provide a satisfactory answer, the assistance may be cancelled and repayment of the sums already paid out may be sought.

If a partner country is in serious breach of the principles on which the EU itself is founded and which are expressed in Article 6 of the Treaty on European Union, Community assistance to the recipient government under this Regulation shall be scaled down. With a view to avoiding such situations, priority should be given to projects in which EU Member States or organisations strive to support democratic institution-building and the development of human rights and the freedom of the media.

The European Parliament or the Council may ask the Commission to submit a proposal to the Council on taking appropriate measures pursuant to paragraph 1 with regard to any assistance granted under this Regulation. The Commission shall submit its proposal to the Council within 3 months of receiving the request, or shall give its reasons for not doing so.

In the case of full suspension of assistance, Community assistance may continue to be made available to local non-governmental organisations located in partner countries which are in serious breach of the principles on which the EU itself is founded and which are expressed in Article 6 of the Treaty on European Union, to support democratic institution building and the development of human rights and the freedom of the media in the country concerned.

Article 24

Financial provisions

(1) The financial reference amount for implementation of this Regulation over the period 2007-2013 is 47 122 000 000 Euro, 23 572 000 000 Euro of which shall be for financing geographical cooperation with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, excluding South Africa.

(2) Annual appropriations shall be authorised by the budgetary authority within the limits of the financial perspectives.

Article 25

Review

Not later than 31 December 2010, the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and the Council a report evaluating the implementation of this Regulation in the first three years, together with, if appropriate, a legislative proposal introducing the necessary modifications hereto.

Article 26

(1) The following Regulations shall be repealed as of 1 January 2007:


(c) Regulation (EC) No 2493/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 November 2000 on measures to promote the full integration of the environmental dimension in the development process of developing countries;


Council Regulation (EC) No 1658/98 of 17 July 1998 on cofinancing operations with European non-governmental development organisations (NGOs) in fields of interest to the developing countries;


Council Regulation (EEC) No 443/92 of 25 February 1992 on financial and technical assistance to, and economic cooperation with, the developing countries in Asia and Latin America;

Council Regulation (EC) No 2258/96 of 22 November 1996 on rehabilitation and reconstruction operations in developing countries;


Council Regulation (EC) No 1484/97 of 22 July 1997 on aid for population policies and programmes in developing countries;


The repealed Regulations shall continue to apply for legal acts and commitments of pre-2007 budget years.

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union. It shall apply from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2013.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at ..., ...

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President
EU Solidarity Fund


(Codecision procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

— having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2005)0108),
— having regard to Article 251(2), Article 159(3) and Article 181a(2) of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C6-0093/2005),
— having regard to its resolution of 5 September 2002 on floods in Europe (1),
— having regard to its resolution of 8 September 2005 on natural disasters (fires and floods) in Europe this summer (2),
— having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,
— having regard to the report of the Committee on Regional Development and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (A6-0123/2006);

1. Approves the Commission proposal as amended;
2. Points out that the appropriations indicated in the legislative proposal beyond 2006 are subject to the decision on the next multi-annual financial framework;
3. Calls on the Commission, once the next financial framework is adopted, to present, if appropriate, a proposal to adjust the financial reference amount of the programme;
4. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it intends to amend the proposal substantially or replace it with another text;
5. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

(1) Not yet published in OJ.
(2) OJ C 272E, 13.11.2003, p. 471.
Whereas:

(1) A ‘disaster’ is any major destructive event that occasions serious harm to the population and the environment, such as a flood, fire or drought. In the event of major disasters or crisis situations, the Community should show its solidarity with the Member States, and above all with the population concerned, by promptly providing specific financial assistance to contribute to a rapid return to normal living conditions in the affected regions and by contributing to financial compensation for the direct victims, without becoming a substitute for the competent public and private authorities.

(2) The European Union Solidarity Fund (hereinafter ‘the Fund’) enables the Community to intervene in the event of major disasters or crisis situations. It should thus make a substantial contribution to more effective and targeted Community action in areas in which the public expect the Community to act. It is therefore important to ensure that the Fund’s financial resources match its field of application, so that in all circumstances the Community can meet public expectations in an enlarged and further enlarging European Union. This means on the one hand that the field of application should not be overstretched, and on the other hand that the Community should be able to mobilise sufficient funds for clearly defined fields of application, even in years of particularly acute crisis.

(3) The Community should also show solidarity with the countries negotiating their accession to the European Union.

(4) Major environmental, industrial and technological disasters, including river and marine pollution and radiological threats, may be caused by people or accidentally or be the consequence of natural events which have immediate, devastating effects, such as floods and forest fires, or long-term effects, such as droughts and frosts, as well as from acts of terrorism. Existing economic and social cohesion instruments are able to finance risk-prevention measures and the repair of damaged infrastructure. The Fund established by Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 (1) enables the Community to help in mobilising emergency services to meet the immediate needs of the persons directly affected and contribute to the short-term restoration of damaged key infrastructure so that economic activity can resume in the disaster-stricken regions. That Fund is however mainly intended for disasters resulting from natural causes, and provision should also be made to allow the Community to intervene in the event of crisis situations having a non-natural origin and for which responsibility cannot be sufficiently identified.

(5) The objective of the action to be taken is to complement the efforts of the States concerned in such cases where the effects of a disaster or crisis situation are of such gravity that those States cannot tackle the situation with their own means alone. Since this objective cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States and can therefore, by reason of the scale of the action, be better achieved at Community level, the Community may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.

(6) The Solidarity Fund should be financed independently of the financial framework with a maximum amount to be mobilised only when deemed necessary. In order to provide adequate financing, the Fund should be included in the flexibility reserve up to a maximum of 7 billion Euro.

(7) In line with the principle of subsidiarity, action under this Regulation should be confined to major disasters. These should be defined depending on the field. In cases of terrorist attack, the Community should react to events even where the material damage does not reach the threshold for mobilisation of the Fund but the consequences of the attack are so serious that Community solidarity becomes imperative. Consideration should be given to the specific situation of remote and isolated regions, such as the insular and outermost regions, in the context of a reinforced partnership.

(8) Experience acquired in the first years following the establishment of the previous Fund has highlighted the difficulty of applying it to slowly-evolving disasters. This Regulation therefore needs to include a clear definition of the time from which a request is eligible. It is also necessary, as a matter of urgency, to adapt the eligibility rules to the characteristics, intensity and duration of the event at the root of the problem, in particular by ensuring financial coverage for the specific measures adopted to tackle disasters of this type.

(9) Major disasters, particularly those which are of a natural origin, often affect more than one country. Where a major disaster has struck an eligible State, assistance may also be granted to an eligible neighbouring country affected by the same disaster.

(10) Community aid should be complementary to the efforts of the States concerned and be used to cover a share of the public expenditure committed to dealing with the most essential emergency operations resulting from a major disaster.

(11) In line with the principle of subsidiarity, Community aid should only be granted upon the application of an affected State. The Commission should ensure equitable treatment of requests presented by the States.

(12) Applicant States may have an immediate need for financial assistance to help cover expenditure relating to the most urgent steps and rescue operations. Where an applicant State so requests, advance funding should therefore be made upon receipt of that application, subject to budgetary availability.

(13) Prudent financial management is required to ensure that the Community can be in a position to respond where a succession of disasters occurs within a relatively short period.

(14) It is appropriate to allow a rapid decision to be taken to commit specific financial resources and mobilise them as quickly as possible. Administrative procedures should be adjusted accordingly and confined to the minimum absolutely necessary. To this end, the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission of 17 May 2006 on Budgetary Discipline and Sound Financial Management provides for the financing of the Fund (1).

(15) The mechanisms for payment and use of grants made under this Regulation should reflect the urgency of the situation. Therefore a realistic deadline should be laid down for the use of any financial assistance awarded.

(16) A State which benefits from assistance should involve, in accordance with its specific constitutional, institutional, legal or financial context, regional or local authorities in the conclusion and application of the implementation agreements. The beneficiary State should nevertheless remain responsible for the implementation of the assistance and for the management and control of the operations supported by Community financing in accordance with Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (2) (hereinafter ‘the Financial Regulation’).

(17) An operation funded under this Regulation should not receive financial assistance from other Community financial instruments. Where, in relation to an operation, financial assistance is provided from Community or international instruments relating to the compensation of specific damages, that operation should not, for the same purpose, benefit from assistance under this Regulation.

(18) Community action should not relieve of their responsibility third parties who, under the ‘polluter pays’ principle, are liable in the first instance for the damage caused by them, or discourage preventive measures at both Member State and Community level, or be a substitute for public or private insurance provision.

Maximum transparency is required in implementing the Community's financial assistance as well as proper monitoring of the use of resources.

Provision should be made for beneficiary States to justify the use made of any assistance received.

In exceptional cases and depending on the availability of financial resources for solidarity action under this Regulation in the year in which a disaster occurs, provision should be made for supplementary grants under the financial appropriations for the following year.

It is necessary to provide that the competent Community bodies are able to carry out their obligations regarding financial control.

Assistance for expenditure which is subsequently recovered from third parties, or assistance which is not used in accordance with this Regulation or which was received in excess of the final valuation of the damages, should be recovered.

Technical assistance for solidarity action under this Regulation should be provided for in order to improve the ability of Member States to present the Commission and any other relevant body with a duly completed application for assistance and the Commission's ability to assess applications made to it.

Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 should be repealed with effect from the date of entry into force of this Regulation. Its provisions should, however, continue to be applicable to any application made before that date.

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Subject-matter and scope

1. A European Union Solidarity Fund, hereinafter 'the Fund', is established to enable the Community to respond to major disasters or crisis situations affecting Member States or regions thereof, or candidate countries involved in accession negotiations with the European Union, hereinafter 'eligible States'.

2. A candidate country involved in accession negotiations with the European Union may only be awarded assistance from the Fund where a major disaster affects a cross-border land or sea area lying between that country and a Member State.

3. This Regulation lays down rules concerning operations of the Fund in relation to the following:

   a) natural disasters;
   b) industrial and/or technological disasters;
   c) public health emergencies;
   d) acts of terrorism.

Article 2

Major disasters

For the purposes of this Regulation, a disaster or crisis situation shall be considered to be major where it results, in at least one eligible State, in direct damage, the amount of which is estimated as being in excess of 1 billion Euro in 2007 prices or in excess of 0.5% of the gross national income of the State concerned.
However, even if those quantitative criteria are not met, the Commission may in exceptional and duly justified circumstances, recognise that a major disaster or crisis situation has occurred on a specific part of the territory of an eligible State. In such a case the Commission shall take all necessary measures under the Fund.

Special consideration shall be given to remote or isolated regions, such as the insular and outermost regions defined in Article 299(2) of the Treaty.

Article 3

Solidarity operations

1. At the request of an eligible State, the Commission may award financial assistance from the Fund in the form of a grant, if a major disaster or crisis situation occurs on the territory of that State.

At the request of an eligible State which shares a border with the State referred to in the first subparagraph and which has been affected by the same major disaster or crisis situation, the Commission may also grant assistance from the Fund to that State.

2. For any given disaster, an eligible State may receive a single grant only.

Article 4

Eligible operations

Financial assistance under this Regulation shall be granted only for operations, hereinafter ‘eligible operations’, which are carried out by the public authorities of the State concerned, or by bodies acting in the public interest, and which belong to the following categories:

a) essential emergency operations necessary for the immediate restoration to working order of infrastructure and plant, and the creation of emergency infrastructure to guarantee immediate supplies, in the fields of energy, drinking water and waste water, telecommunications, transport, health and education, in order to satisfy the population’s needs;

b) immediate medical assistance and measures to protect the population in the event of a major health crisis;

c) provision of temporary accommodation and funding of rescue services to meet the immediate needs of the population concerned;

d) essential emergency operations for the immediate tackling of natural disasters or their immediate impact, as well as the immediate securing of preventive infrastructures;

e) measures for the immediate protection of the cultural and natural heritage;

f) essential emergency operations for the immediate cleaning up of disaster-stricken areas;

g) immediate medical assistance to the direct victims of major disasters and terrorist attacks as well as psychological and social assistance to them and their families.

Article 5

Applications

1. As soon as possible and no later than ten weeks after the date on which authorities were first alerted to the original damage caused by the major disaster or crisis situation, an eligible State may submit to the Commission an application for assistance from the Fund, providing all available information on at least the following:

a) the damage caused by the disaster and its impact on the population, the environment and the economy concerned, and on the cultural and natural heritage;

b) a breakdown of the estimated costs of operations in the categories listed in Article 4 as appropriate to the disaster;
c) any other sources of Community funding which might contribute to making good the effects of the disaster;

d) any other sources of national or international funding, including public and private insurance coverage, which might contribute to the costs of repairing the damage and in particular to the costs of eligible operations.

The information provided under point (a) of the first subparagraph shall include an estimate of the amount of total direct damage caused by the disaster or crisis situation. In view of the difficulty of determining the damage occasioned by disasters whose effects are lasting and ongoing, the Commission may, at the request of the Member State affected, extend the 10-week time-limit set for applying for assistance under the Fund.

2. The Commission shall assess, on the basis of the information referred to in paragraph 1, and of any additional information, which the Commission may have sought or otherwise obtained, whether the conditions for granting financial assistance under this Regulation are met.

Where, for the purposes of the first subparagraph, additional information is provided by the State concerned on its own initiative, that information must be received by the Commission within two months of the date of the application.

However, where, for the purposes of the first subparagraph, the Commission requests additional information from the State concerned, that information must be received by the Commission within one month of the date of the request.

**Article 6**

**Advance funding**

1. Immediately upon receipt of an application as referred to in Article 5(1), the Commission may, subject to budgetary availability, adopt a decision granting advance funding for the most urgent eligible operations and pay the advance funding to the State concerned in a single instalment without delay.

The first subparagraph shall apply only where the application contains an explicit request for advance funding.

2. The amount of advance funding paid pursuant to the first subparagraph of paragraph 1 shall represent up to 5% of the of the total of the estimated costs referred to in Article 5(1)(b), but shall not exceed 5 million Euro.

3. Where advance funding is granted a repayment proviso, as referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 7(2), shall be expressly mentioned.

**Article 7**

**Determination of financial assistance**

1. The Commission shall, on the basis of the assessment carried out pursuant to Article 5(2), determine as quickly as possible and within two weeks an appropriate amount of financial assistance, if any, to be granted within the limits of the resources available.

The amount may not exceed 50% of the total of the estimated costs referred to in Article 5(1)(b).

The accompanying budget proposals, as referred to in Article 8, shall be prepared in parallel with the determination of the appropriate amount and be presented by the Commission at the same time.

The whole procedure for presenting all necessary proposals to mobilise the Fund, in accordance with the deadlines laid down in subparagraphs 1 and 3, shall not exceed a period of 3 months after receipt of the application from the State concerned.

2. Where, on the basis of the assessment carried out pursuant to Article 5(2), the Commission has concluded that the conditions for granting assistance under this Regulation are not met, it shall notify the State concerned accordingly as quickly as possible.

Any advance funding paid pursuant to Article 6(1) shall be repaid to the Commission within three months of the date of that notification.
Article 8

Budget procedure

1. If the Commission has concluded that financial assistance should be granted from the Fund, it shall submit to the budgetary authority without delay the proposals needed to authorise appropriations corresponding to the amount determined in accordance with Article 7(1).

Those proposals shall include the following:

a) the assessment carried out pursuant to Article 5(2), together with a summary of the information on which that assessment is based;

b) evidence that the conditions laid down in Article 3(1) are met;

c) the reasons justifying the amounts proposed.

2. Subject to the appropriations being made available by the budgetary authority, the Commission shall adopt a grant decision, taking into account any advance funding paid pursuant to Article 6(1).

Article 9

Payment and use of the grant

1. Following adoption of the grant decision, the Commission shall, within 15 days of signature of the agreement referred to in Article 10(1), pay the grant to the beneficiary State in a single instalment.

2. The beneficiary State shall use the grant, as well as any interest earned thereon, within 12 months of the date of signature of the agreement referred to in Article 10(1) and in any case within 18 months of the date of first damage, to finance eligible operations carried out after the date on which the disaster or crisis situation occurred.

Article 10

Implementation of the grant

1. The Commission and the beneficiary State shall conclude, in accordance with the specific constitutional, institutional, legal or financial provisions of that State and of the Community, an implementation agreement for the grant decision.

That agreement shall specify in particular the type and location of the operations to be financed.

2. The Commission shall ensure that the obligations under implementation agreements are the same for all beneficiary States.

3. The beneficiary State shall select individual operations and implement the grant in accordance with this Regulation, the grant decision and the agreement.

That responsibility shall be without prejudice to the responsibility of the Commission for the implementation of the general budget of the European Communities in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Regulation applicable to shared or decentralised management.

Article 11

Financing of operations

1. Operations funded, in whole or in part, under an implementation agreement shall not receive funding under any other Community or international instrument.

The beneficiary State shall ensure compliance with the first subparagraph.

2. In particular, in the event of industrial and technological disasters, the ‘polluter pays’ principle shall apply. Beneficiary States must therefore prove that they are seeking all possible compensation from third parties.
Article 12
Compatibility with other Instruments
Operations in receipt of financial assistance from the Fund shall be compatible with the provisions of the Treaty and instruments adopted under it, with Community policies and measures and with pre-accession assistance instruments.

Article 13
Final report and closure
1. No later than six months after the end of the period specified in Article 9(2), the beneficiary State shall present a report to the Commission on the financial execution of the grant, together with a statement justifying the expenditure and indicating any other source of funding received for the operations concerned.

The report shall detail preventive measures introduced or proposed by the beneficiary State in order to limit damage and to avoid, as far as possible, a recurrence of similar disasters.

2. No later than six months after the Commission has received all the information required under paragraph 1, it shall wind up the financial assistance from the Fund.

Article 14
Use of the Euro
Applications, grant decisions, implementation agreements and reports under this Regulation, as well as any other related documents, shall express all amounts in Euro.

Article 15
Financial shortfall
1. Where, at the time when a proposal is submitted under Article 8, the remaining financial resources available for that year for the Fund are not sufficient to cover the amount of financial assistance considered necessary, the Commission may propose to the European Parliament, which exercises budgetary control, that the difference be financed from the financial appropriations available for the Fund for the following two years.

2. The total annual budgetary ceiling for the Fund in the year in which a disaster occurs and the following two years shall under all circumstances be respected.

Article 16
Financial control by Community bodies
A beneficiary State shall ensure that all financing decisions adopted pursuant to the implementation agreement provided for in Article 10, and all agreements and contracts resulting from those financing decisions provide for checks by the Commission, through the Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), and for on-the-spot checks to be carried out by the Commission or the Court of Auditors, in accordance with the appropriate procedures.

Article 17
Publicity
A beneficiary State shall clearly inform the population directly concerned and the general public about assistance received from the Fund.

Article 18
Recovery
1. In cases where the amount of total direct damage incurred is at least 10 % less than the estimated amount quoted pursuant to Article 5(1)(b), the Commission may require the beneficiary State to reimburse a corresponding amount of the financial assistance received.
2. Where a beneficiary State has failed to comply with Article 10(3) or Article 11(2), the Commission may require the beneficiary State to reimburse all or part of the financial assistance received.

3. Where a beneficiary State has failed to take preventive measures after the previous major disaster and damage following from a major disaster would have been reduced or prevented had preventive measures been taken, the Commission shall require the beneficiary State to reimburse all or part of the financial assistance received.

4. Prior to the adoption of a Decision under paragraphs 1, 2 or 3 the Commission shall conduct a suitable examination of the case and shall, in particular, allow the beneficiary State a specified period of time in which to submit its comments.

5. Any sum received unduly and to be recovered shall be repaid to the Commission. Default interest may be charged on sums not repaid in compliance with the Financial Regulation.

Article 19

Technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission

1. At the initiative of the Commission, subject to a ceiling of 0.20% of the financial resources available for that year, the Fund may be used to finance preparatory, monitoring, administrative and technical support, audit and inspection measures necessary to implement this Regulation.

Those actions shall be executed in accordance with Article 53(2) of the Financial Regulation and any other provisions of that Regulation and of its implementing rules applicable to this form of execution of the budget.

Those actions shall in particular include expert reports to assist the Commission in carrying out the assessment of applications pursuant to Article 5(2).

2. Where a contribution from the Fund is foreseen to procure external services, the Commission shall adopt a decision for the measures listed in the first subparagraph of paragraph 1.

Article 20

Annual report

Before 1 July of each year, with effect from … (*), the Commission shall present to the European Parliament and to the Council a report on the activities carried out under this Regulation in the previous year. That report shall in particular contain information relating to applications submitted, grant decisions adopted, the winding-up of financial assistance granted and the operations carried out.

Article 21

Review

The European Parliament and the Council shall review this Regulation on the basis of a proposal by the Commission by 31 December 2013 at the latest.

Article 22

Repeal

Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 is hereby repealed.

References to the repealed Regulation shall be construed as references to this Regulation.

(*) One year after the entry into force of this Regulation.
Article 23

Transitional provision

Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 shall continue to apply to applications received by the Commission before the date of entry into force of the present Regulation.

Article 24

Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at ..., ...

For the European Parliament

The President

For the Council

The President

P6_TA(2006)0219

Conclusion of the Energy Community Treaty ***


(Assent procedure)

The European Parliament,

— having regard to the draft Council decision (13886/1/2005),
— having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Articles 47(2), 55, 83, 89, 95, 133 and 175 thereof,
— having regard to the request for assent submitted by the Council pursuant to Article 300(3), second subparagraph, in conjunction with the first sentence of the first subparagraph of Article 300(2) of the EC Treaty (C6-0435/2005),
— having regard to Rules 75 and 83(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
— having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (A6-0134/2006);

1. Gives its assent to conclusion of the agreement;

2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission, and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the Contracting Parties to the Energy Community Treaty.
The European Parliament,

— having regard to the seventh EU Annual Report on Human Rights (2005) (1),
— having regard to Articles 3, 6, 11, 13 and 19 of the Treaty on European Union and Articles 177 and 300 of the EC Treaty,
— having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to all relevant international human rights instruments (2),
— having regard to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol,
— having regard to the United Nations Charter,
— having regard to the entry into force on 1 July 2002 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and to its resolutions related to the ICC (3),
— having regard to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and the 2005 Action Plan on trafficking in human beings, developed and adopted by the Council and the Commission in accordance with the Hague Programme,
— having regard to Protocol No 13 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, concerning the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances,
— having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (4),
— having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement (5) and its recent 2005 revision (6),
— having regard to its previous resolutions on human rights in the world,
— having regard to its resolution of 24 February 2005 on the EU’s priorities and recommendations for the 61st session of the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva (14 March to 22 April 2005) (7),
— having regard to its resolution of 14 February 2006 on the human rights and democracy clause in European Union agreements (8),
— having regard to all urgency human rights resolutions adopted by it,
— having regard to the Commission Communication entitled ‘Tenth Anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership: A work programme to meet the challenges of the next five years’ (COM(2005)0139),
— having regard to the resolutions of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, and particularly that voted on 21 November 2005 in Rabat,
— having regard to its resolution of 17 November 2005 on the Council’s Sixth Annual Report on the European Union’s Code of Conduct on Arms Exports (9),
— having regard to the conclusions of the EU Human Rights Discussion Forum, which took place in December 2005,

(1) Council document 12416/05.
(2) For all relevant basic texts, please consult the table annexed to report A6-0158/2006 of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.
— having regard to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,

— having regard to Rule 45 of its Rules of Procedure,

— having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the opinion of the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality (A6-0158/2006),

A. whereas the EU Annual Report on Human Rights 2005 is a general overview of activities of the European Union institutions regarding human rights inside and outside the European Union,

B. whereas this resolution sets out to examine, evaluate and, where appropriate, offer constructive criticism of the human rights activities of the Commission, the Council and the overall activities of the Parliament,

1. Welcomes the fact that the EU is playing an increasingly active role on the world stage to improve human rights globally; considers that the last enlargement of the EU to 25 Member States with 457 million inhabitants (soon to be supplemented by the accession of Bulgaria and Romania) has increased the global importance of the EU and has thus given it greater weight in international human rights politics;

2. Considers that, despite vigorous activities to advocate the promotion of human rights, such efforts are largely confined to specialists and to one-off representations, and that there is a general failure by the European Union systematically and continuously to address human rights concerns with respect to third countries and to mainstream human rights policy with respect to the Union's trade, development and other external policies vis-à-vis such countries;

3. Emphasises the need for a common, consistent and transparent policy implemented by all Member States in their bilateral relations with third countries having poor human rights records, and calls upon the Member States to conduct their bilateral contacts with those countries in compliance with the common EU position;

4. Considers it essential that the European Union should establish an integrated framework of rules and institutions to confer binding force on the Charter of Fundamental Rights, ensure compliance with the system provided for in the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and form the basis of a single European front in the battle for a worldwide culture of rights; calls on European political institutions to mobilise their energies in support of those objectives;

The Council’s Annual Report

5. Underlines the importance of the EU Annual Report on Human Rights in raising the visibility of human rights issues in general;

6. Strongly welcomes the Council's public presentation of the 2005 Report at the December 2005 plenary, in parallel with Parliament's award of its annual Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to three joint winners, namely Ladies in White, Reporters without Borders and Hauwa Ibrahim; urges the continuation of this practice in the future so that the December European Parliament plenary session becomes a focal point for the EU's activities in the area of human rights;

7. Welcomes the increased clarity and conciseness of the Report; asks the Council, however, to further focus on the assessment of the EU instruments and initiatives in third countries, to deal with the results achieved in this matter and to include impact studies on the activities reported while defining a clear methodology for such work, as well as strategic analyses of key goals for the forthcoming year;

8. Considers it a positive development that the Council's report for the first time endeavours to do justice to the activities of the European Parliament, but invites the future Finnish Presidency in its drafting of the Eighth EU Annual Report on Human Rights to consult actively with the European Parliament, to report on the way that Parliament's resolutions have been taken into account by the Council and the Commission, and to include, as a fundamental element, a role for the Parliament in the drafting of the report in some suitable form so that the final version will be a real attempt to reflect the views of the Council, the Commission and the Parliament; takes the view that the European Parliament must continue to issue its own report in order to assess the EU's human rights policy and to exercise parliamentary control;
9. Suggests that a key priority for the Council in future human rights reports should be the analysis and implementation of the EU's guidelines, as well as the production of impact assessments for each of the guidelines, weighing up their effectiveness in forging change in third countries;

10. Asks that future annual reports on human rights should analyse how human rights are dealt with within the external dimension of other EU policies, such as development and trade, including by reporting on the extent to which human rights and democracy clauses have been utilised in the EU's relationships with third countries; calls in addition, in this connection, for future annual reports on human rights to assess actual compliance with the human rights and democracy clause in EU agreements, as endorsed by Parliament in its abovementioned resolution of 14 February 2006;

**European Union activities during the two Presidencies**

11. Welcomes the cooperation-focused approach of the Luxembourg and UK Presidencies and looks forward to seeing this continue during the Austrian and Finnish Presidencies through the adoption of a joint annual programme; considers that such cooperation should increase the coordination and consistency of EU action and hopes that this trend will continue and be further enhanced in the future;

12. Welcomes the efforts and commitment of the Luxembourg and UK Presidencies to develop a methodology and criteria for more effective implementation of the EU guidelines, including demarches to third countries regarding individual cases, public statements and declarations; and emphasises the importance of setting up a special mechanism for a systematic compilation of practices at local level by the heads of EU missions and Commission delegations, in order to identify examples of 'best and bad practices' of implementation on the ground, which could permit an assessment of local implementation;

13. Welcomes the initiatives taken by the Luxembourg Presidency to overcome the problem of limited resources through burden-sharing, early negotiations, the pooling of resources and informal troikas with other Member States on particular issues; calls on the Council to develop this approach during other Presidencies;

14. Appreciates the approach of the UK Presidency regarding the death penalty, in line with the EU Guidelines on the Death Penalty, undertaking demarches in countries where either a moratorium on the death penalty was in danger of being de jure or de facto lifted or where internal steps aimed at introducing a moratorium were under consideration; asks the Austrian Presidency and all future Presidencies to follow this example to demarche such countries regularly; requests all Presidencies to follow up on demarches previously carried out, as appropriate; calls on the Commission to instruct its delegations in third countries which have the death penalty to support the Council's moves to secure a moratorium and to redouble their efforts in cases of European citizens under sentence of death; welcomes the resolution adopted by the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly in Rabat on 21 November 2005, which calls on the Barcelona Process partner countries to support the moratorium on the death penalty;

15. Welcomes the priority given to compliance with human rights obligations as part of the steps taken during the UK Presidency to open accession negotiations with Turkey and Croatia, to grant the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia candidate-country status and to open negotiations for Stabilisation and Association Agreements with Serbia-Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina; asks the Commission to ensure that real progress is made by the candidate countries in the field of the human rights, and in particular regarding protection of minorities, religious freedom and freedom of expression, displaced and refugee populations, people with mental health problems and/or intellectual disabilities and cooperation with international justice, in accordance with European principles and the Community acquis; urges the Council and the Commission to include compliance with UN Conventions in contractual relationships with candidate countries and countries in the Stabilisation and Association process as a key issue; underlines the importance of the association and accession process in providing the impetus to carry out necessary human rights reforms;
16. Notes with approval that combating human trafficking is regarded as a priority of the Council’s Presidencies; urges the EU to adopt an integrated, human rights-centred approach to tackling this growing phenomenon;

17. Welcomes the choice of freedom of expression as a major human rights theme during the UK Presidency; is concerned at the high number of journalists worldwide, and in particular in China, Belarus, Cuba and North Korea, being convicted for alleged defamation of public officials or politicians; asks the Council to advocate a worldwide moratorium on such imprisonment of journalists as a first step; stresses, however, that freedom of expression does not exclude mutual respect and understanding between different civilisations;

18. Expresses dismay at the failure of the UK Presidency to organise a third meeting of the EU Network of contact points for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes (1), which represents an invaluable means of strengthening cooperation among EU Member States in investigations and prosecutions of international crimes at national level;

Performance of Council and Commission activities in the area of human rights in international fora

19. Welcomes the active involvement of the EU and its Member States on human rights issues in a variety of international fora in 2005, including the UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR), the UN General Assembly, the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe and the WTO Ministerial Conference;

20. Appreciates the result-oriented approach of the EU Presidency and the Council in the 61st session of the UNCHR; in this context, welcomes the key role played by the EU in securing critical and constructive resolutions on human rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nepal, North Korea, Sudan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, and on human rights and counter-terrorism and the appointment of Special Rapporteurs to develop principles and guidelines on discrimination based on work and descent; equally welcomes the support given to the appointment of a Special Representative to contribute to the strengthening of standards on human rights at work;

21. Reminds the Council, however, of its abovementioned resolution of 24 February 2005, which called on the EU to present resolutions on a certain number of priority issues; regrets, in particular, the EU’s refusal to sponsor resolutions on human rights abuses in China, Zimbabwe and Chechnya; recalls, in this regard, the commitments entered into by the Council in the context of the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Dialogues, which clearly state that a human rights dialogue with a third country cannot prevent the Council from sponsoring a resolution on that specific country in the UN Human Rights Council; in this context, also takes account of the statement in the 2005 Report that the African group in particular has not been cooperative when discussing the human rights situation in specific African countries during the proceedings of the UN General Assembly’s Third Committee; therefore calls on the Commission and the Council to use all means at their disposal to persuade the African group to cooperate with the UN General Assembly in the future by conducting dialogue and providing information on the African countries concerned, especially those with whom ACP-EU cooperation is suspended under Article 96 of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement or with whom political dialogue is conducted under Article 8 thereof; suggests that the European Parliament should in future, when submitting its proposals for resolutions to the Council, limit them to those relating to key countries of concern, and that it should support more strongly the Council’s work in this regard;

22. Calls on the Council and the Commission to make significant efforts to continuously link their discussions conducted in international fora with the European Union’s bilateral political dialogues, development and trade policy, and to avoid the current situation in which countries opposing EU human rights initiatives in international fora can do so with little expectation that they will suffer any adverse consequences in respect of bilateral relations;

23. Specifically reminds the Council and the Commission that most human rights abuses would be impossible in countries with stronger traditions of freedom of speech and press freedom; therefore calls on the Council and the Commission to emphasise this key point as strongly as possible in all political dialogues, as in the case of development and trade policy;

24. Welcomes the Council's continued support for the establishment of a strong, forceful and effective UN Human Rights Council, with the following essential characteristics: it must be a standing body with a sufficient number of sessions of adequate length to enable it to properly perform its mandate, it must be capable of responding to urgent situations, the system of Special Procedures must be retained and the Committee of NGOs should be reformed so as to permit a strong level of independent NGO participation; asks the Council to continue to take action to set standards for membership of the new UN Human Rights Council, including election procedures, involving direct and individual votes by an absolute majority of members, which seek to guarantee the credibility and efficacy of the future body; in this regard, is concerned that countries with a poor human rights record have been elected as members of the UN Human Rights Council, and therefore stresses the importance of establishing a universal 'peer review' with the task of examining the human rights situation in all countries and monitoring the implementation of international conventions and standards; regrets that during the latter months of 2005 EU Member States appear to have been outmanoeuvred in the negotiations by a small group of UN members composed of countries which themselves have suspect human rights records; nevertheless welcomes the final agreement secured in New York and looks forward to a strong and effective EU representation in the agreed UN Human Rights Council;

25. Calls on the Council and the Commission to systematically oppose the conferment of the presidency of the UN Human Rights Council on countries which fail to respect human rights;

26. Calls for continued support from the Council and the Commission for the speedy agreement of the proposed UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; welcomes the outcome of the 7th Ad Hoc Committee session including agreement on strengthening the draft text in relation to violence against disabled people, the human rights of people with complex dependence needs and the right of deaf people to use sign language; calls on the Member States, the Council and the Commission to support a further strengthening of the existing draft text in relation to the involuntary treatment of people with disabilities and in respect of its implementation; calls for support for current efforts regarding international cooperation aimed at supporting disabled people in developing countries, and for a strong and independent monitoring and enforcement mechanism capable of receiving and handling individual complaints;

27. In general, considers that EU activities in the UN with respect to human rights are too introverted; asks the Council to endeavour to speed up the consultation process so as to allow more time for consultation with non-EU partners; asks the Council to consider having its Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM) provide only a negotiation framework to EU representatives present at international fora and to delegate to those representatives authority to make ad hoc decisions as necessary;

28. Welcomes the fact that, in general, at International Labour Organization (ILO) meetings, the EU takes a forceful stance in discussions about trade union rights and other fundamental human rights of workers, including under the Luxembourg Presidency, when, for instance, the EU took a strong position concerning alleged violations of human rights in relation to Colombia's trade unionists, which then in a show of consistency translated into a strong EU statement at the June 2005 Session of the International Labour Conference; in this context, is surprised that it was possible for a country such as Belarus to be elected in June 2005 to the Governing Body of the ILO despite the fact that Belarus is not a democracy with free trade unions and four major EU countries are permanent members of the Governing Body; asks the Council to explain its diplomatic demarches prior to that election and whether it considered opposing Belarus' membership; maintains that it is essential to strengthen the EU-backed special programmes to protect vulnerable sectors in third countries;

29. Congratulates the Council and the Commission for the substantial diplomatic success in achieving the referral by the UN Security Council of the case of Darfur in Sudan to the ICC, as called for in Parliament's resolution of 16 September 2004 (1); however, concerned at the deteriorating security situation in Darfur, urges the international community, the UN, the Council and the Commission to act immediately to stop the violence, while providing substantial support to the African Union as well as a sufficient level of humanitarian aid to the population affected; encourages speedy progress in the prosecution of high-ranking officials

30. Calls on the Council and the Commission to continue their vigorous efforts to promote universal ratification of the Rome Statute and the adoption of the implementing legislation relating to the ICC, in conformity with the Council Common Position on the ICC and the Action Plan; calls on the Council and the Commission to redouble their efforts in this regard in their demarches to the United States, a key partner of the EU, notably in the war against terror; requests that each EU Presidency present to Parliament a report concerning actions taken under the Common Position;

31. Welcomes the inclusion, following the recent revision of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, of the promotion and strengthening of peace and international justice, giving due regard to the Rome Statute, as an objective of cooperation between the EU and ACP countries; regrets, therefore, the lack of reference to the ICC in the final UN World Summit outcome document in September 2005; welcomes the fact that references to the ICC have been included in several European Neighbourhood Action Plans, notably those relating to Ukraine and Moldova, and in the draft action plans concerning Azerbaijan, Lebanon, Armenia and Georgia; calls on the EU and its Member States to reaffirm their commitment to the ICC whenever possible;

32. Calls on the US Administration and the Congress to end the delay and ratify the Rome Statute establishing the ICC; considers that no legal exception can be made for the United States on this point; condemns the fact that certain countries, including a number of EU Member States, have entered into ‘bilateral agreements’ with the United States granting de facto impunity to US soldiers;

33. Considers it essential to establish a close relationship between the European Union and the Council of Europe and points to the difficulties still posed for such a relationship: the fact that cooperation is of a technical nature instead of being organised at the political level, the lack of communication between the Commission and Council of Europe bodies, overlapping, and the failure to clarify areas of activity; calls on the Austrian and Finnish presidencies to ensure that the memorandum of understanding now being drafted serves to resolve these difficulties; points out that the relationship between the European Union and the Council of Europe is a vitally important ‘meeting-place’, open also to third countries sympathetic to a culture of human rights, and helps to ensure the success of neighbourhood policies and other special relations founded on partnership;

34. Welcomes the fact that the Annual Report makes a balanced assessment of the effectiveness of the EU’s human rights dialogues; takes note of the evaluation of those dialogues in 2004, and notes that initial moves are being made by the Council to develop an overview document on human rights dialogues and consultations; is looking forward to receiving this document once it has been adopted; asks the Council, in particular, to closely associate the European Parliament in this work as well as in the process of evaluating the dialogues; in this regard, informs the Council that an own-initiative report will be drafted on the evaluation of human rights dialogues and consultations with third countries;

35. Points to the need for the Union and each and every Member State to act coherently and in accordance with Treaty and acquis obligations where human rights are concerned, in order to avoid inconsistencies that would diminish the moral authority of the Union in the international system;

36. Takes note of the evaluation in the Council’s Annual Report of the Human Rights Dialogue with China, with continuing reports of a long list of human rights abuses including political imprisonment, particularly of members of minorities, allegations of torture, widespread use of forced labour, frequent use of the death penalty and systematic repression of freedom of religion, freedom of speech and expression (including in the context of the treatment of people in Tibet) and the freedom of the media including the internet;
regrets that no substantial progress was made on the ratification and implementation of the International
Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) or the release of prisoners connected with the 1989 events
in Tiananmen Square; regards the Dialogue as a valuable instrument and an important element of the
overall strategic dialogue between the EU and China, in which human rights must be treated as a priority
concern; calls on the Council and the Commission to undertake strenuous efforts even if these can bear
fruit only in the medium term; asks China and the Council to consider improving the Dialogue by the
simple practical decision to introduce simultaneous interpretation; is hopeful that innovations such as
holding the high-level political dialogue and the legislative seminar directly after one another could lead to
stronger synergies; stresses that an increasingly positive trade relationship must be contingent on human
rights reforms; asks the Council to invite Members of the European Parliament to attend, just as Chinese
parliamentarians have been invited;

37. Condemns the Iranian President's call for Israel to be wiped off the map; expresses its concerns about
the human rights situation in Iran and the fact that — due to Iran's lack of engagement — the human rights
dialogue with Iran has been interrupted since its last round in June 2004; calls on Iran to re-engage in the
dialogue and, drawing on input from the EU, to define benchmarks aimed at real improvements in the field;
welcomes the clear statement in the Council conclusions of 12 December 2005 to this effect; calls on the
Council to continue, in particular, its demarches towards Iran on individual cases and welcomes in this
regard the Austrian Presidency's commitment; expresses its regret at Iran's poor human rights record during
the first six months of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's term of office and calls upon the Commission to
take all necessary measures within the framework of the European human rights initiative to intensify
contacts and cooperation with Iranian civil society and further support democracy and human rights;

38. Expresses concern about serious human rights abuses in Iraq, including in Iraqi prisons; nevertheless
welcomes EU support for the new government in Iraq; calls for increased EU engagement in bringing about
stability in Iraq and for making the Commission Delegation office fully operational, provided that security
concerns can be addressed; calls on the Council and the Commission to support the continuing efforts of
the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights to uphold high standards;

39. Welcomes the start of the EU human rights consultations with Russia; supports the Council in its aim
of developing those consultations into a frank and genuine EU-Russia Human Rights Dialogue and calls for
the involvement of the European Parliament in such a process; calls on the Council to continue urging
Russia to agree that European and Russian NGOs be associated with the consultations, given the example of
other dialogues on human rights issues; welcomes the Council's debriefing of NGOs on the consultations;
however, regrets that there are no systematic consultations with the European Parliament; asks the Council
to press Russia to agree to have this dialogue also take place in Russia on an alternating basis and not only
when the summits take place in the EU; is concerned that the new Russian NGO legislation will inhibit
human rights organisations from carrying out their activities properly whenever respect for human rights is
at stake or even from functioning at all; asks the Commission and the Council to raise this issue persistently
with Russia, not least in international fora and, in particular, in the Council of Europe, of which Russia takes
over the chair of the Committee of Ministers on 19 May 2006; asks the Commission and the Council to
raise the issue of extrajudicial killings, disappearances and torture in custody in Chechnya, as well as attacks
on human rights defenders engaged in investigating and speaking out about human rights violations in
Chechnya;

40. Welcomes the Joint Action Plan adopted at the sixth India-EU Summit, which includes discussions on
human rights issues based on the commitment to work together to uphold human rights in a spirit of
equality and mutual respect; expects that these discussions will include the rights of minorities; expects that,
within this framework, both sides can also discuss the problematic social situation of the Dalits; calls on the
Council and the Commission to emulate such dialogue with the governments of other caste-affected coun-
tries; welcomes the fact that the Commission and the Council regularly consult Indian NGOs in the frame-
work of an EU-India civil society roundtable; recommends that discussions in the region also tackle the issue
of human rights in Kashmir;
41. Notes the Council conclusions on Colombia adopted on 3 October 2005; recommends that, for future Council conclusions, consultation with civil society and with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights should be a priority and should also involve debate in COHOM; asks the Council to monitor the ongoing impact of the Justice and Peace Law on human rights defenders; notes that the Justice and Peace Law applies to all illegal armed groups in Colombia (not only the United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (AUC) but also the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN));

42. Calls on the Council and the Commission to consistently raise in all political dialogues with third countries the point that those countries should issue standing invitations to all specialist institutions, Special Rapporteurs and Special Representatives of the United Nations and should submit all outstanding reports to UN treaty bodies;

43. Takes note of the policy instrument of an official EU list of ‘prisoners/detainees of concern’ in the policy vis-à-vis one particular country, as mentioned in the Council’s Annual Report; encourages the Commission and the Council to establish such an official EU list vis-à-vis each third country where there are human rights concerns and to raise that list at each political dialogue meeting; asks the Commission to inform Parliament on all such existing lists;

44. Furthermore, calls on the Council to consider, in the context of its Annual Report each year, adopting the approach taken by governments of some Member States and by certain international NGOs to identify a list of ‘Countries of Particular Concern’ with respect to human rights violations; suggests that those countries should be highlighted in accordance with concrete and transparent criteria, based on the themes of the EU’s Human Rights Guidelines, the treaties and commitments they have entered into and the countries selected by Parliament to be the subject of urgency resolutions, in order to draw greater attention to human rights in the implementation of all EU policies with respect to the countries identified, including the imposition of aid or trade sanctions if those breaches persist; considers that criteria such as the independence of the judiciary and the media, and the status of civil society organisations, are essential from the point of view of assessing the state of human rights;

45. Welcomes the fact that the Council maintained its Common Position on Burma/Myanmar in 2005; takes particular note of the Haval/Tutu report issued in September 2005, which called for the actions of the State Peace and Development Council to be regarded as a risk to international security and for the regime therefore to be referred to the United Nations Security Council; acknowledges the support of EU Member States for the UN Security Council briefing on ongoing violations; notes with concern that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi continues to be kept under house arrest and that the UN Special Rapporteur, whose mandate will end this year, has been denied access to the country since 2003; encourages the EU to take a more proactive role in that country (with particular regard to the resolution on Burma/Myanmar adopted by the European Parliament on 17 November 2005 (1));

46. Welcomes the fact that the Council and the Commission have introduced human rights, democracy, the rule of law and good governance concerns with specific benchmarks in all National Action Plans drawn up in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP); accepts that, whilst the strength of the Action Plans is that they constitute a binding commitment, this also represent their weakness, because they must be negotiated with the partner country; urges the Council therefore to hold such countries to their commitments and to consider measures to be taken in the event that they do not fulfil them within an agreed timeline; draws specific attention to the weakness of human rights engagements in this respect with Morocco and the Western Sahara, Tunisia, Syria, Israel and the Palestinian Authority, Algeria and Egypt, the Action Plans concerning the latter two countries still being under negotiation; looks forward to examining the reports on the first year of implementation of the first seven action plans and the priorities for the ENP set for 2006; calls, in this spirit, for the setting-up of sub-committees on human rights dealing with, inter alia, individual cases so as to further improve the human rights dialogue with all partner countries;

47. Calls upon the Council and Commission to incorporate the rights of the child in all their actions, in order effectively to combat child labour, with the main focus on teaching and educating children, this being one of the Millennium Development Goals;
General scrutiny of Council and Commission activities

48. Takes note of the information that during the UK Presidency the EU made demarches on 26 individual human rights cases and issued 49 statements on human rights issues;

49. Understands that, especially in the area of human rights, EU activities, such as demarches to third countries, must sometimes be confidential; however, believes that a list of those activities should be included in the Annual Report;

50. Therefore asks the Council and the Commission to develop, together with Parliament, a confidential system whereby selected Members of the European Parliament can be kept informed of the demarches of Member States, the Presidency, the High Representative for CFSP, the Personal Representative on Human Rights, the Special Representatives or the Commission regarding individual human rights cases or situations raised in resolutions of the European Parliament; suggests that such a system could be modelled on the system for informing selected MEPs about classified material regarding security and defence;

51. Welcomes the fact that the General Affairs Council of 12 December 2005 adopted the provision that the Council’s updated EU human rights fact sheets are to be made available to all EU institutions, and looks forward to receiving the current version of these as soon as possible (1);

52. Asks the Council to consider making COHOM a working group with Brussels-based representatives; considers that this would allow more time for meetings, better coordination and thus, possibly, a tighter grip on EU human rights policies in the wider sense;

53. Welcomes the establishment of working groups on institution building, administrative reform, governance and human rights between the EU and, respectively, Bangladesh, Laos, and Vietnam; subject to an evaluation of their effectiveness, calls on the Council and the Commission to extend this approach to other third countries such as Cambodia and Nepal;

54. Insists that all human rights instruments, documents and reports including the Annual Reports need to address explicitly discrimination issues including the issues of ethnic minorities, religious freedoms including discriminatory practices towards minority religions, the human rights of women, the rights of children, the rights of indigenous peoples, disabled people including people with intellectual disabilities, and people with all sexual orientations, fully involving their organisations, both within the EU and in third countries where appropriate;

55. Given the gender discrimination which still exists, insists that the protection and promotion of women’s rights should be a cross-cutting policy in the European Union human rights agenda;

The Commission’s external assistance programmes

The European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

56. Calls on the Commission to take seriously into consideration the position of the European Parliament seeking a specific human rights instrument for 2007-2013; looks forward to receiving the Commission’s communication in this matter;

57. Underlines the importance of the EIDHR as one of the chief instruments which the EU has at its disposal; emphasises in particular the advantage that EIDHR programmes do not require governmental approval in the country of implementation and that the majority of EIDHR funding is available for civil society organisations;

58. Underlines its position that human rights must be streamlined throughout the four external action financial instruments and that a fifth specific instrument for human rights needs to be created in order to complement the thematic programming;

59. Asks the Commission to ensure that the current reform of the Financial Regulation (1) and its accompanying implementing rules are sufficiently far-reaching, so as to reduce the excessive administrative burden and the slowness in delivering funds that currently plague the EIDHR, so as to make it easier for smaller, grassroots NGOs to access and manage funds and in turn to enhance the impact of the EIDHR;

60. Welcomes the conclusions of the evaluation report on the campaign against racism, xenophobia and discrimination, stating that the projects funded under EIDHR target the most marginalised communities not reached by governments and that they show substantial results;

61. Is content that in 2005, the Commission was able to make commitments of over 125,000,000 Euro but is concerned about the possibility that not all the projects contracted in 2005 will be implemented fully and thoroughly;

62. Takes note of the fact that EIDHR funds used for European Union election observation missions in 2005 amounted to more than one fifth of the total and such missions were conducted to 12 countries including Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Liberia, Venezuela and the Palestinian Authority; commends the increasing effectiveness of EU electoral observation activities but believes that this cannot be achieved at the expense of decreasing budget commitments to human rights projects at grassroots level in countries worldwide;

63. Requests the Commission and the Council to systematically follow up the EU election observation missions, closely monitor the post-election situation and take political action if necessary;

64. Takes note that a large proportion (50.9 %) of the total EIDHR funding for projects contracted in 2005 went to large projects organised by theme and only a small proportion (27.68 %) went to micro-projects implemented by Commission Delegations; reiterates that a significant proportion should be devoted to smaller, grassroots projects; calls on the Commission to pay particular attention to those NGOs which play a key role in the promotion of human rights in their countries but which are not legally recognised by the authorities in those countries; regards it as crucial that the Commission should propose, in this regard, a review of the Financial Regulation including the financing of such NGOs;

65. Fully supports the EU contribution to intergovernmental organisations, as these organisations can make fundamental contributions to the promotion of democracy and human rights; considers, however, that this contribution should not be to the detriment of NGOs, but should rather take place through strategic long-term partnerships;

66. Welcomes the fact that the Commission has changed its procedures regarding new calls for proposals for 2006, in that the new calls, which are based on 'concept notes', appear to favour a greater quality assessment of project proposals as a first major criterion;

67. Asks the Commission to make available to Parliament all impact assessment reports regarding projects which are produced by external or internal evaluators, in order to ensure proper scrutiny; asks the Commission to make human rights impact assessments an integral and fully implemented part of all European Union project cycle management, both ex-ante and ex-post, thereby influencing both future policy-making and programmes, as well as the evaluation of ongoing programmes;

**Assistance programmes in general**

68. Considers it necessary to develop substantive mainstreaming of issues related to the respecting of human rights, democratic principles, the rule of law and good governance (as expressed in the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement) within actions financed from the European Development Fund (EDF); asks the Commission to produce an annual overview of all the related spending of the EDF across all geographic, regional and thematic programming, in order to increase the visibility of EU activities in this area;

69. Asks the Commission in its policy programming to base development objectives, indicators and plans on agreed, universal international human rights instruments, fully involving human rights organisations from the conception of policies and programmes to the stages of implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

70. Calls for follow-up to the June 2005 seminar on human rights in relation to EU humanitarian assistance, including by devoting EU resources to justice issues in the wake of massacres and crimes against humanity;

**Consideration of the implementation of the human rights and democracy clauses**

71. Recalls its abovementioned resolution of 14 February 2006 regarding future EU policy on the application of human rights clauses in all EU agreements, including the setting-up of an effective mechanism for monitoring respect for human rights and the reinforced involvement of the European Parliament in the evaluation and consultation processes in respect of those clauses; is looking forward to the Austrian Presidency responding together with the Commission to Parliament’s proposals;

72. Takes note of the fact that, as a matter of course, the EU’s 4th-generation agreements with third countries include political dialogue as an essential element of the agreement incorporating human rights and democracy issues; emphasises its determination to strengthen ex-ante control of the newest position in such political dialogues;

73. Agrees with the position expressed in the 2005 Report that the human rights clause is a basis for positive engagement on human rights and democracy issues with third countries; emphasises, however, that this cannot exclude the possibility of the temporary suspension of cooperation on the grounds of a breach of the clause; reiterates its call for a sliding scale of measures and a clear system of sanctions to be used with respect to violations of the human rights clause by third countries, and calls on the Council to consider extending qualified majority voting to the decision to adopt restrictive measures at a future appropriate time; reiterates its demand for a better monitoring and consultation mechanism with respect to the clause, and calls on the Commission and the Council to report annually on breaches of human rights clauses, including those contained in the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, to the Human Rights Subcommittee of the European Parliament;

74. Reiterates its support for the Council’s decision of 3 October 2005 to impose sanctions on Uzbekistan following the events in Andizhan on 13 May 2005, when a very substantial number of civilians were shot dead by government security forces and many people were arrested and afterwards put on trial in a process which did not meet international fair trial standards and sought to cover up the truth; takes this as an example of a coherent EU measure against a government which is bound by commitments on human rights and democracy under a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with the EU; regrets that, in the case of Uzbekistan, the sanctions took six months to enact: hopes, however, that this precedent will have the effect of strengthening the human rights clause in all agreements; calls on the Council to roundly condemn the violation of human rights in Turkmenistan;

75. Reiterates its resolution of 15 December 2005 on human rights and freedom of the press in Tunisia and evaluation of the World Summit on the Information Society held in Tunisia (1);

76. Recalls its resolution of 27 October 2005 on human rights in Western Sahara (2); welcomes the release of Sahrawi political prisoners by the Moroccan authorities but condemns the continuation of human rights violations against the Sahrawi population; calls for the Sahrawi population to be protected and fundamental rights particularly freedom of expression, movement and demonstration to be respected; reiterates its call for a just and lasting solution to the conflict in Western Sahara, based on the right to self-determination of the Sahrawi people, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 1495(2003);

77. Welcomes the monitoring and review of the Guidelines on Implementation and Evaluation of Restrictive Measures in the framework of the EU’s Common Foreign and Security Policy (3);

78. Welcomes the role which the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly plays as a platform for open and transparent discussion on human rights issues, and encourages it to continue its work, thus contributing to the political dialogue envisaged by Article 8 of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement;

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(2) Texts Adopted, P6_TA(2005)0414.
(3) The Council first approved these guidelines in December 2003. They contain standard wording and common definitions that may be used in legal instruments implementing sanctions. The review took place in December 2005.
Thursday, 18 May 2006

79. Regrets that the human rights clause contained in Article 96 of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement is too rarely applied in the event of flagrant violations of human rights in the ACP countries, and urges that political dialogue in the spirit of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement be stepped up;

80. Welcomes, as a very positive example, the EU activities in terms of demarches and declarations following violent repression in Ethiopia in June 2005; is concerned that when similar human rights violations occurred in November 2005, the EU appears not to have followed this up sufficiently; considering the high number of opposition leaders and human rights defenders currently in prison and facing the death penalty, believes that the government of Ethiopia is failing to meet its obligations under Article 8 of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, and calls on the Commission and the Council to respond to the European Parliament’s call for a coordinated stance in line with Article 96 of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement as requested in its abovementioned resolution of 15 December 2005;

81. Expresses its concern at the fact that Eritrea, in spite of serious human rights violations, including arbitrary detentions and the torture of thousands of detainees, is not mentioned in the Council’s Annual Report on human rights in 2005; regrets that, in spite of its resolution of 18 November 2004 on the human rights situation in Eritrea (1) in which it condemned the human rights situation in Eritrea and called on the Council and the Commission to open the consultation procedure in accordance with Article 96 of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, little action has been taken by the Council and the Commission on this matter; calls on the Council and the Commission without delay to open the consultation procedure under Article 96 of the ACP-EU Agreement with regard to the human rights situation in Eritrea;

**Implementation of EU Human Rights Guidelines**

82. Takes note of the first biennial review of the EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict under the UK Presidency; is pleased to note, in particular, that the EU’s human rights fact sheets, adopted in July 2005, contain a section on children’s rights and a specific requirement to report under these Guidelines where appropriate; notes that the consultation with stakeholders and NGOs has been exemplary in the process of drafting the review and recommendations; regrets, however, that the European Parliament was not involved in the process of evaluation of these Guidelines, that the opportunity for a wide-ranging review was not seized and that the outcome document was disappointing in its scope and ambition; therefore requests the Council systematically to associate the European Parliament in the biennial review of these Guidelines, so that it may be aware of Parliament’s position and recommendations in this field;

83. Welcomes the commitment of the Austrian Presidency to continue the practice of demarches in respect of all of the EU’s international partners regarding the ratification of international conventions banning the use of torture; asks the Council and the Commission to consider new and innovative ways to implement the Guidelines on Torture; emphasises that, although those Guidelines were adopted as long ago as 2001, they are among the least implemented; in view of the current threats facing the absolute prohibition of torture and ill-treatment in the international context of counter-terrorism; calls on the Council to associate Parliament in the future evaluation process of the Guidelines; in that connection, informs the Council that its sub-committee on Human Rights has asked for a study aimed at optimising the implementation of the EU Guidelines on Torture and improving the means provided for by those Guidelines; recommends to the Austrian and Finnish Presidencies that they conduct demarches on torture in all countries that are signatories to the relevant conventions but appear not to be cooperating; emphasises that the regular presence of the Presidency or the Council Secretariat in the relevant UN Committee on Torture could bring substantial material input into a strategic analysis of which countries to demarche at which point in time; asks the Council to consider whether the European Union could not act more forcefully and more convincingly vis-à-vis third countries if all Member States were to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (2); is also concerned at the allegations of relocation and outsourcing of torture in third countries and calls on the EU to consider the fight against torture as a top priority of its human rights policy, in particular through enhanced implementation of the EU Guidelines and all other EU instruments such as the EIDHR;


(2) On 23 January 2006, the status of signatures and ratifications among the EU-25 was as follows: signed and ratified (only 5 Member States): Denmark, Malta, Poland, Sweden, and the UK (as well as candidate country Croatia); signed (11 Member States): Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, and Spain (as well as candidate countries Romania and Turkey); neither signed nor ratified (9 Member States): Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovakia, and Slovenia (as well as candidate country Bulgaria).
84. Stresses that high priority must be given to full implementation of the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders; calls on the Council to take initiatives to protect human rights defenders; calls on the Commission and on the Member States to organise training of their staff in delegations, embassies and consulates on the application of those guidelines; asks the Commission to consider making funds available to cover the expenses of such training; welcomes the fact that a handbook has been drawn up by the EU Dutch Presidency for the implementation of the guidelines; regrets, however, that Parliament has been denied accurate information concerning its content; calls on the Council and the Commission to raise the situation of human rights defenders systematically in all political dialogues; calls on the Commission to organise, on the level of its Delegations, information seminars on the guidelines with all relevant local NGOs; once again calls on the Council to inform Parliament about the implementation of those guidelines on the ground and to involve it fully in the process of evaluating them;

85. Supports the Council in its efforts to mainstream human rights throughout the EU’s work, in particular by focusing on the regular review and implementation of a particular set of EU human rights guidelines;

**Mainstreaming of human rights**

86. Welcomes the fact that the Council and the Commission are making efforts to strengthen the coherence between the EU’s human rights policy and other international policies; considers it vital for the pursuit of a credible EU human rights policy that these connections be strengthened;

87. Emphasises the importance of the appointment of Michael Matthiessen as the Personal Representative for Human Rights of the EU High Representative for the CFSP, this being an important step forward in the mainstreaming of human rights; welcomes the activities and the personal commitment of the incumbent;

88. Welcomes the fact that working groups dealing with civil and police operations under the CFSP/ESDP pillar, as well as military operations of the EU, have begun to discuss human rights aspects of their operations and to integrate such concerns, including condemnation of the use of violence against women, into instructions given to EU mission personnel on the ground; welcomes the ‘Generic Standards of Behaviour for ESDP operations’ adopted by the Council on 23 May 2005, which gives comprehensive instructions to all categories of personnel operating in ESDP missions; draws attention, however, to the clear need to see those standards implemented in a scrupulous and consistent fashion in the increasing number of military and civil operations of the EU abroad; considers that, by acting in this way, the EU can prevent abuses of the kind which have occurred in UN peacekeeping missions; asks the Commission to consider making more funds available for training all personnel in the application of those standards;

89. Welcomes the adoption in December 2005 of European Union Guidelines on Promoting Compliance with International Humanitarian Law; urges the Council to apply them to all relevant statements, declarations and demarches;

90. Calls on the European Investment Bank (EIB), as one of the agencies implementing EU development policies through lending and the biggest public financial institution in the world, fully to incorporate human rights concerns in all its project evaluations and to ensure adequate internal capacity to mainstream human rights in its operations; calls in particular for the introduction of clear safeguard procedures, based on international standards, to assess and mitigate the human rights-related impact of its projects; calls for safeguard policies on issues not covered by EU legislation to equal those described in the Equator Principles, as a minimum; calls on the EIB to consult with the Parliament on the matter;

91. Welcomes the fact that the Commission regularly considers whether countries should be added to the ‘GSP+-’list of countries which are granted the best customs rates for goods to be imported into the EU; asks the Commission, however, to ensure that, for the purposes of its evaluations, it checks both on the entry into force of international obligations and on the effective implementation and enforcement thereof on the ground;

92. Calls on the Commission to apply objective criteria when granting GSP+ benefits to countries which have shown serious flaws in the implementation of the eight ILO conventions relating to Core Labour Standards, and in particular to monitor implementation of the commitments made by Venezuela, Moldova, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Colombia in advance of the Commission decision of December 2005; in general, calls on the Commission regularly to review the implementation of those conventions and, if necessary, to apply the safeguards provisions contemplated in the Regulation.
93. Asks the Council and the Commission to ensure compatibility of trade agreements with existing UN treaties on human rights in accordance with the Parliament’s abovementioned resolution of 14 February 2006, to carry out independent sustainability assessments prior to trade negotiations, specifically assessing the impact on human rights, and to monitor, review and reverse any negative impact of existing and proposed trade rules in respect of human rights and social and environmental matters;

94. Points out that all country-specific human rights evaluations should include an analysis of the fundamental rights of workers, as enshrined in Article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 22 of the ICCPR and Article 8 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

95. Asks the Commission to include systematic human rights monitoring in all country strategy papers, regional strategy papers, national indicative programmes, regional indicative programmes and action plans; asks the Commission to update such documents regularly so that they invariably reflect the latest situation regarding human rights on the ground, and to organise appropriate consultations with NGOs when so doing;

96. Asks the Commission to provide a report on the manner in which it has implemented its own proposals as contained in its Communication on the European Union’s role in promoting human rights and democratisation in third countries from May 2001, followed by a thorough review;

97. Asks the Commission to develop a strategy for promoting the application of all EU human rights guidelines in conjunction with trans-national corporations, when implementing its recent Communication of 23 March 2006 on corporate social responsibility (COM(2006)0136);

98. Reiterates that the EU’s internal policies must not simply be consistent with, but must be exemplary in their compliance with, international human rights law; expresses concern in this respect that current migration management measures do not always, in practice, safeguard access to protection for refugees; calls on the Council and the Commission to ensure that migration management does not become a condition for development cooperation with third countries, and that the pilot Regional Protection Programmes remain protection-oriented, are well-resourced and long-term, are fully coordinated with EU humanitarian and development policies, and are based on the principle of international solidarity;

99. Emphasises that, in the fight against trafficking in human beings, a human rights approach with respect to the victims of trafficking should be adopted, and in this regard welcomes the focus on victim protection in the Council’s EU plan for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings (1); urges all Member States to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings;

100. Urges the Council and the Commission to set benchmarks for all consultations on human rights, with a view to improving the coherence of policy and political dialogue;

Effectiveness of the European Parliament’s interventions in cases of human rights

101. Welcomes its increasing role in the human rights sphere, and in safeguarding commitments to improving human rights throughout the world by scrutinising the activities of other institutions and, in particular, through the Sakharov Prize;

102. Welcomes the first year of activities of the Subcommittee on Human Rights within the Foreign Affairs Committee, which, guided by Parliament’s activities, has created a focal point for activities on human rights which was absent during the last parliamentary term, including regular reports by the Presidency, the Commission, the Personal Representative for Human Rights, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Special Rapporteurs and the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, numerous hearings, exchanges of views, expertise and studies as well as human rights input into the work of the Foreign Affairs Committee;

103. Stresses the need for human rights concerns to be mainstreamed into the work of all parliamentary committees and delegations dealing with external relations of the European Parliament; in this respect, draws particular attention to the work done by the Committee on Development in organising regular human rights debates, and calls on the Commission and the Council to follow up the conclusions of these and other human rights debates conducted in the Parliament;

104. Points out, in this regard, that the Subcommittee on Human Rights focused its 2005 activities on the implementation of the EU human rights instruments such as the EU Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and set up, in this respect, a system of coordination with representatives of United Nations human rights bodies; regards it as a priority to continue to work closely together with the United Nations and with Council of Europe representatives and bodies, so as to ensure greater consistency and coordination in the human rights field;

105. Considers that Parliament’s work on human rights could be rendered more effective in a number of ways, for example through more intense scrutiny of Council and Commission activities vis-à-vis countries with human rights concerns and consistent follow-up and timely impact assessment of all human rights statements made in resolutions and their implementation; suggests that the Subcommittee should consider setting up small informal working groups to follow each set of Guidelines, so as to be better able to follow the Council’s work in this regard and to submit proposals;

106. Asks the Subcommittee to follow up human rights resolutions adopted pursuant to Rule 115 in a systematic manner, and to strengthen efforts to address actively the external human rights considerations of all Parliament’s activities, including the work of other committees as well as parliamentary delegations;

107. Is of the opinion that the Subcommittee could enhance its impact on policy and programming by following more closely the work programmes of the Council and the Commission, particularly the work of COHOM, and by being invited by the members of COHOM on a regular basis; calls for Members of the European Parliament to be systematically invited to attend de-briefing sessions, such as those organised with NGOs, and de-briefings concerning human rights dialogues with third countries; looks forward to assurances that such invitations will now be issued in a consistent manner;

108. Asks the Bureau of the Parliament and the Conference of Presidents to consider whether measures could be taken to increase the political support given by members in plenary when voting on urgency resolutions of the Parliament pursuant to Rule 115, possibly by moving the voting time to a more appropriate time-slot;

109. Calls for a more constructive role for the Subcommittee on Human Rights in the development of consistent and transparent criteria for the selection of urgency topics, so as to ensure that parliamentary interventions are timely and have maximum impact; calls for members of the Subcommittee to share their expertise in this field and to play a more active and decisive role in the drafting of urgency resolutions; proposes the creation of a permanent working group of members of the Subcommittee for these purposes;

110. Welcomes the drafting of guidelines for Parliament delegations on visits to third countries; asks Parliament’s Bureau and the Conference of Presidents to consider measures that could be taken to increase both the visibility and the systematic use of those guidelines; underlines that any mission to a third country should systematically include human rights concerns as a theme and that all participants should be fully briefed on the human rights situation before and during the visit;

111. Welcomes the active role played by the Subcommittee, the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the President of the European Parliament in standing up to cases of injustice around the world, especially through the award of the Sakharov Prize; observes on this last point that the prize should be presented in public, at a proper ceremony, to the winners in person;

112. Welcomes Parliament’s undertaking to address the complex issue of upholding human rights alongside the fight against international terrorism; points out that consistency in the approach of the EU to different human rights issues is of the utmost importance if the EU wishes to be a credible actor internationally; recalls its decision of 18 January 2006 (1) setting up a Temporary Committee on the alleged involvement of the CIA and, possibly, EU Member States or accession States in the process of extraordinary rendition, which involves the transfer of detainees to so-called black sites where they may be subjected to torture; looks forward to the report and the conclusions of that committee;

113. Calls upon the Council and the Commission, looking ahead to the EU-US Conference to be held in June 2006, and in accordance with the experts’ report of the UNCHR, to call upon the US Government immediately to close the Guantánamo detention centre, and to insist that all detainees be accorded treatment compatible with humanitarian law and stand trial without delay in fair proceedings in open court before a competent, independent and impartial tribunal;

114. Looks forward to receiving the results of an impact study designed to analyse and evaluate the impact of its activities in the area of human rights;

115. Notes proposals, still under discussion, to strengthen its role in the promotion of democracy, which could support the work of key committees and delegations, provide an observatory for political developments in the Neighbourhood countries and beyond, and enhance the information network between national parliaments across the EU;

116. Notes proposals, still under discussion, to establish a European Endowment for Democracy, which would work with other organisations committed to the democratic process, such as the Council of Europe and the OSCE, and consider how to develop a democracy and human rights promotion entity available to the EU;

**Resources devoted to human rights work, including in the Council Secretariat**

117. Asks the Commission to designate at least one permanent post in each third-country delegation as having responsibility for monitoring the human rights situation in the country concerned, promoting international human rights standards and being in charge of relations with civil society, such as relations with human rights defenders: asks that this post have sufficient seniority to identify and address problems where necessary; calls, in this regard, for official invitations to be issued on a regular basis to civil society representatives by the delegations of the Commission, so as to further support the work of human rights defenders of third countries;

118. Asks the Commission to strengthen the Human Rights Unit in its Directorate-General for External Relations, providing for additional personnel to cover all human rights issues, in order to enable it to fulfil its additional function as a resource unit; asks also that one staff member in each geographical unit be given added responsibility for human rights;

119. Requests increased funding for the Subcommittee on Human Rights in order to facilitate the financing of field trips and visits by Committee members to human rights black spots in the world, so that breaches of international human rights law can be highlighted;

120. Asks the Council to strengthen the Human Rights Unit in its General Secretariat and in particular to add new posts for experts with human rights backgrounds and specialist knowledge of international humanitarian and human rights law to assist the Personal Representative on Human Rights and to enable a sensible division of labour in his office, particularly given the increase in his responsibilities;

121. Advocates that all Special Representatives appointed by the Council should be assigned one human rights expert to work exclusively in their office; calls on those Representatives to systematically raise human rights issues in their work;

* *

122. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the candidate and accession countries, the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, the governments of the countries mentioned in this resolution, and the offices of the main human rights NGOs based in the EU.
Commission’s Annual Policy Strategy for 2007


The European Parliament,

— having regard to the communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions — Annual Policy Strategy for 2007: Boosting trust through action (COM(2006)0122),

— having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure (1),

— having regard to the revised proposal for renewal of the Interinstitutional Agreement on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure (COM(2006)0036),

— having regard to its resolution of 8 June 2005 on Policy Challenges and Budgetary Means of the Enlarged Union 2007-2013 (2),

— having regard to Article 272 of the EC Treaty and Article 177 of the Euratom Treaty,

— having regard to Rule 112(1) of its Rules of Procedure,

— having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets and the opinions of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Development and the Committee on International Trade (A6-0154/2006),

A. whereas the institutions have achieved a compromise on a new Interinstitutional Agreement (IIA) and a new Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) just before the start of the 2007 budgetary procedure,

B. whereas, in the absence of a new IIA, the provisions of the Treaty, and in particular Article 272 thereof, provide for an annual budgetary procedure,

C. whereas most EU legislation will be renewed in 2007, allowing the 2007 budget to launch the new priorities for the coming financial period,

D. whereas enlargement to Bulgaria and Romania should be effective in 2007,

E. whereas the choice of priorities for the 2007 budget, the first of the coming MFF, will not only determine European policies next year but undoubtedly have a strategic effect as regards future years,

F. whereas today’s challenges have to be met by forward-looking policies which require adequate financial resources; whereas the review of all aspects of EU spending and resources planned for 2008-2009 will provide an excellent opportunity to adapt EU policies to cope with the process of globalisation and to reassess the priorities, while maintaining solidarity and cohesion within the European Union,

G. whereas, in the meantime, the annual budget for 2007 should enable the European Union to take a further step towards becoming an effective global player; whereas it should provide enough resources to contribute to the Union’s internal and external challenges, be geared towards achieving sustainable development, promoting democracy and human rights and helping to make entrepreneurs and businesses better able to succeed in global competition, notably through increased efforts in the field of research and development, education and innovation in order to guarantee prosperity and a better quality of life for our citizens,

Context

1. Expresses concern about the visible discrepancy between the challenges which the European Union is facing and the appropriations that might be available under the relevant headings of an unambitious MFF 2007-2013 to respond effectively to these challenges, in particular for competitiveness, research and innovation, which the Council and Commission have themselves labelled as priorities;

2. Recalls the decisions of the European Council in October 2005 which set out the challenges which the European Union should take account of in a globalising world; believes that the Annual Policy Strategy does not reflect the urgency with which such challenges should be addressed or provide the necessary vision for encouraging economic reform to meet them;

3. Given that the year 2007 will be the first budget of a new MFF, considers that this budget should be strategic in nature, looking at those areas of external and internal policies where funding can make a significant difference and which provide real value for money;

4. Notes the Commission’s strategic objectives as set out in its APS document ‘Boosting trust through action’: although sharing its analysis, strongly criticises the Commission for its complacency and laid back attitude in setting out the nature of the challenges facing the European Union; believes, for example, that insufficient attention has been given by the Commission to the vast and very rapid changes underway in the global economy, notably in emerging economies such as China and India;

5. Intends to make the best possible use of resources a fundamental issue for the 2007 budget, taking into account the coherence between various actions, their effectiveness and their added value for citizens; believes that the three main strands of the 2007 budget should be setting policy priorities; ensuring qualitative value for money; and beginning preparations for the review in 2008/2009, this because the 2007 budget and its implementation will enable the effectiveness of the new MFF to be assessed;

6. Considers with regard to setting policy priorities that under reduced ceilings compared to initial expectation, the 2007 budget should concentrate on a limited number of priorities, in particular:

   — External Relations — the EU’s role in a globalised world
     — Partnership/Cooperation agreements;
     — European Neighbourhood Policy and Pre-accession instruments;
     — Development Policy, Democratisation and Human Rights, Millennium Development Goals;
     — Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP);
   — The Security, Freedom and Solidarity dimension (both external and internal)
     — External, e.g. energy security, prevention, preparation for and management of the consequences of terrorist threats;
     — Internal, e.g. immigration policies aimed at integration of third-country nationals, solidarity in border management, security and protection of freedoms;
     — Cohesion
   — Internal Policies
     — Lisbon Objectives (Growth, Employment, Expertise, Transport, Research and Innovation);
     — Environment and Rural Development;
     — Citizens (including Culture and Youth) and communication;
     — Adequacy of objectives and resources in terms of European public administration, including the agencies;
7. Considers that it is its responsibility as budgetary and discharge authority to ensure that the funding allocated to the EU budget is spent with a view to ensuring qualitative value for money, in particular to optimise the resources made available under limited ceilings; therefore intends to address the 2007 budget with a cost-benefit approach by developing a qualitative scrutiny of the budget through annual assessment, in close co-operation with the sectoral committees;

8. Recalls the importance of a mid-term review of the next MFF with the aim of adjusting the financial framework to enable the EU to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world more effectively; believes that the 2007 budget as the first under the MFF 2007-2013 offers an important opportunity to set a direction for implementation of the new programmes and thereby lay the grounds for the comprehensive review of the MFF planned for 2008;

9. Recalls that the MFF should not be considered as a multi-annual budget; therefore asks the Commission to present a Preliminary draft budget (PDB) which leaves a sufficient margin for manoeuvre for the 2007 annual procedure in respect of the co-decided programmes;

Setting Policy Priorities

A. External Relations — Europe as a world partner

10. Underlines that the foundation of the EU is based on a number of core values such as peace, freedom and democracy and the need to promote international relations in order to foster these goals; takes the view that the essence of these values is sometimes obscured by the multitude and diverse character of the different types of international agreements and instruments and believes that the EU, in political terms as well as in terms of budgetary guidance, should now develop a coherent and over-arching strategy to better define its strategic priorities; this should include devoting special attention to how new programmes function and how they are relevant to the strategic objectives; looks forward to a report from the Commission on effective external action, within the existing rules of the Treaty;

11. Firmly believes that partnerships that share fundamental core values must be recognised and promoted as such; underlines the crucial importance it attaches to the re-launching of a deepened and more strategic partnership with the United States on many global issues, on the basis of shared objectives between the two continents;

12. Welcomes the inclusion of enhanced policy coherence and reinforced aid effectiveness among the Commission’s priorities in the field of external action;

13. Highlights its concern about the further development of avian influenza in and outside the European Union; stresses the need to cooperate closely with the FAO, the WHO, the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) and with the countries in the affected regions;

14. Reiterates its support for the European Neighbourhood Policy which it considers crucial, especially in terms of promoting democracy and positive change through a set of policies which establish clear benefits, also in economic and trading terms, for reforms undertaken and progress made; is convinced that actions in this area, leading over time also to economic development, will have important benefits for the partner countries and the EU alike;

15. Believes that it is important to ensure sufficient funding for development policy and poverty alleviation measures, including the Millennium Development Goals; strongly emphasises that sustainable solutions are also dependent on sufficient internal progress in the countries concerned, including respect for the rule of law, democracy and human rights; underlines the crucial importance of paying special attention to the coherence and complementarity of national and Community programmes in order to maximise overall impact and effectiveness; requests a detailed examination of programmes on democratisation and human rights as well as the functioning of some NGOs;

16. Reminds the Commission and the Council of their commitment to provide the Sugar Protocol countries with adequate and appropriate funding for accompanying measures to help address the transitional challenges they face as a result of the EU internal reform of the sugar regime and the relevant WTO ruling;
17. Stresses that developments in the Middle East and particularly Palestine should be carefully assessed during the budget procedure and draws particular attention to the likelihood of chaos that would follow a collapse of the Palestinian Authority and the need for sound financial and fiscal management concerning EU aid, whether disbursed directly or through the trust funds established; wishes to make absolutely clear that the budgetary authority must be consulted in advance before any substantial financial commitments can be entered into;

18. Is determined to develop the established political dialogue on the CFSP in a constructive manner and urges the Council to use this context to practise a more open, transparent and accountable CFSP; in particular insists on being fully involved and consulted annually ‘ex-ante’ on forthcoming actions and choices; reiterates its preparedness to review the CFSP nomenclature in order to adjust it to the political needs and the Union’s role; asks the Court of Auditors to provide a special report on the cost-effectiveness of CFSP joint actions;

B. The Security Dimension — Security, freedom and citizenship

19. Underlines that European citizens need freedom, justice and security in their everyday lives; stresses that the EU budget for 2007 should contribute to safeguarding these privileges for the European Union both externally and internally, including at economic and social level;

20. Welcomes the fact that, in the context of external security, the Commission has included energy policy as one of the main priorities for 2007; recognises the fundamental importance of sustainability, competitiveness, and securing energy supply as well as energy efficiency of the European economy and stresses the importance of diversifying gas and oil supply and of exploring all possible means of enhancing the European Union’s self-sufficiency in energy; stresses the high levels of energy import dependence in the EU; calls for a coherent European energy strategy that includes dialogue with major supply partner countries; calls on Member States to implement fully existing Community legislation on the liberalisation of energy markets, the improvement of energy efficiency, the promotion of renewable energy sources and research on the production and use of bio-fuels and alternative sources of energy;

21. Emphasises the importance of environmental issues relating to energy; stresses the importance of meeting the Kyoto target of an 8% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2008-2012 in this context;

22. Welcomes the start of the new freedom, security and justice programmes for 2007-2013 in the area of justice and home affairs; emphasises that, in the face of modern, globalised crime, concerted EU action is a necessary component of policies to ensure a safe society founded on the rule of law;

23. Stresses that the objective of the integration of migrants and border management is of importance in the years to come; intends to provide sufficient means in 2007 to ensure that the extension of the Schengen area is flanked by the principle of Community solidarity in the management of the Union’s external borders;

24. Recalls that bringing the EU closer to citizens is the main aim of the communication policy; considers that forms of information and dialogue for those who at the moment feel excluded from the European debate should be introduced, and that the dialogue and understanding between European citizens should be promoted through successful EU programmes, such as Erasmus and Leonardo (Life-Long Learning), and through language training;

25. Recalls that strengthening economic and social cohesion is one of the fundamental objectives of the EU as laid down by the Treaty establishing the European Community; points out that 2007 will be the first year the new Member States will receive full support from the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund; considers, therefore, that enhancing cohesion should remain a priority for 2007 and that sufficient financial resources should be allocated to Cohesion Policy during the 2007 budgetary procedure;
C. Internal Policies — Prosperity and solidarity

26. Considers that the objectives of the Lisbon Agenda will contribute to promoting sustainable growth and the creation of jobs in the EU; calls therefore on the Member States to implement properly the existing and proposed Community legislation aimed at completing the Single Market and fulfilling the Community Lisbon Programme; highlights the need for adequate public financing to create the leverage effect expected of actions co-financed by the European Investment Bank; looks forward to the Commission and Council bringing forward proposals on this matter;

27. Underlines the importance of SMEs which contribute considerably to innovation, growth and prosperity in the EU; underlines the importance of continued simplification of the regulatory regime in particular for SMEs;

28. Urges the Member States and the Commission to pay special attention to those areas that form the basis of a healthy modern economy, such as knowledge, skills, research and development, innovation, information society technologies, transport and energy; recalls the importance of strengthening the capacities of the knowledge-triangle (education, research and innovation) and reinforcing the links among them; calls for all policies in Member States and at EU level to be geared towards supporting research and innovation wherever possible; strongly supports the measures for the development and completion of the European information society as it promotes inclusion, better public services and quality of life;

29. Considers that, in the context of the new generation of programmes, financial instruments need to be rethought in a more fine-tuned way and endowed with adequate financial resources, which is vital for supporting an industrial policy geared towards EU-wide prosperity and competitiveness, including SMEs, which would successfully capitalise on research output through industrial applications (i.e. technology transfer from universities and research centres into industrial application);

30. Stresses that, in the face of increasing global competition, the capability of employers and employees alike as well as of companies as a whole to adjust sufficiently to current changes will be decisive; believes that in this context the development of policies of and for the future is of vital importance and that the European Globalisation adjustment Fund, as currently under discussion, might be a first step in the right direction; believes that the employment potential of innovative enterprises could help the EU to overcome certain difficulties posed by global competition; calls for elimination of the barriers to the mobility of researchers and for the creation of an open and competitive labour market for researchers;

31. Recalls that communication is a key factor in helping European citizens understand the EU better; points out that scarce resources should be used to develop an efficient and coherent communication policy across the EU institutions; is convinced that the potential for synergies between the communication activities of the Commission and Parliament has still not been fully developed;

D. Cohesion

32. Emphasises the importance of budgeting for real requirements in the field of payments under the Structural Funds; stresses the need for provision to be made for a level of payments sufficient to avoid jeopardising the realisation of programmes; considers that payments should correspond to the most reliable estimates, in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and good budgetary practice;

Qualitative value for money

33. Underlines that the December 2005 agreement of the European Council has clearly shown that the battle for resources has begun; highlights that Council figures would mean a decrease of resources available between 2007 — 2013 by over 15% as compared to what the Commission thought necessary in its original proposal; therefore believes it to be absolutely necessary in this situation to start looking at the quality of European Union expenditure;
34. Shares the Council’s assessment of the importance of good collaboration between the two arms of the budgetary authority and the Commission; agrees with the Council in particular that all appropriations need to be reviewed in detail for each policy sector and in this context reaffirms the importance of reallocation in order to allow the budgetary authority to make the necessary financial adaptations to meet present and future needs; supports the necessity of having high-quality activity statements and financial information on spending proposals in good time;

35. Believes that the beginning of the new MFF offers a significant opportunity for reassessment; considers that if a programme is known not to be successful or is no longer a priority, it should be deleted; believes it important to keep an open mind with regard to introducing new programmes if they are needed for the EU to keep up with the pace of globalisation; stresses that the EU institutions must root out fraud and unnecessary bureaucracy wherever it is found;

36. Proposes to ask for cost-benefit studies to be carried out on specific areas of the budget by using part of the resources allocated to the parliamentary committees in order to assess the regularity (compliance with the Financial Regulation, financial reporting system) and the performance (efficiency of resources, effectiveness of the projects, administrative cost) of the policies as implemented, and to draw the political conclusions of such evaluations;

37. Stresses that the Commission should take immediate action to simplify and improve the effectiveness of administrative management, including in particular the revised proposal for the Financial Regulation, with regard to the implementation of Community programmes for its own services, Member States and final beneficiaries, especially as regards small-scale projects; considers that a thorough analysis of the effectiveness of the administrative management of Community legislation should be made on each of these four levels;

Prepar ing for the 2008/2009 Review

38. Shares the Council’s view that the MFF setting mid-term political priorities needs to be adjusted to a fast-developing world in order to allow the EU to maintain its political and economic position both at internal level, so as to meet the Lisbon objectives, and at external level, so as to meet the Millennium Goals and promote democracy and human rights, to achieve a successful Neighbourhood Policy and to take leadership in the globalisation process; furthermore stresses that at internal and external level, the Common Agricultural Policy should be adjusted to the future needs, and draws attention in this context to compulsory co-financing, increased market orientation, a level playing field and the abolition of export subsidies as favourable options;

39. Considers that the 2007 budget, as the first budget of the next period, represents an opportunity to launch the new programmes within the scope of adjustments to new needs which might appear in the first part of the period;

40. Believes that the review of all aspects of EU spending and resources planned for 2008 will offer a real opportunity to have a close look at the ways in which public money is spent; issues a reminder that Parliament should be involved in all potential changes in this field, in view of its rights and institutional prerogatives; underlines that only a comprehensive reassessment of revenue, notably the introduction of a system of real Own Resources, and expenditure, notably the introduction of co-financing of direct payments in agriculture and a shift in policy towards rural development, will enable the European Union to shake up the system in order to meet the challenges of our fast-changing world; looks forward to the report on reform of the system of Own Resources to make it more transparent, progressive and fair;

European governance: Human and financial resources for 2007

41. Underlines that the 2007 budget procedure can offer a real opportunity for fine tuning as well as leverage for setting priorities; considers that the annual budget procedure could be used as a means for Parliament to secure its priorities in ongoing legislative procedures and in particular in the conclusion of the multi-annual programmes in the context of a new MFF;

42. Stresses that following the outcome of the negotiations on the next MFF, the Committee on Budgets should ensure that the new provisions and qualitative reforms contained in the IIA are implemented in the 2007 budget;
43. Reiterates that the proliferation of agencies, as seen over the past ten years, will undoubtedly have negative consequences for the funding of the operational programmes; considers a value-for-money approach towards the decentralised agencies as opposed to centralised activities an absolute necessity;

44. Notes that the Commission plans to request 890 additional staff, of which 250 new posts are related to the next enlargement to Bulgaria and Romania, to deal with the extension of its tasks following enlargement; insists on the fact that this request should be well justified in the PDB, in particular for the posts allocated to new programmes;

45. Notes the Council request for administrative savings; is ready to cooperate with the Council on means to ensure the value for money of Community programmes, as highlighted in its Guidelines for the budget 2007;

46. Welcomes the efforts made by the Commission in terms of redeployment between and within departments in order to optimise resources; invites the Commission to assess carefully if further possibilities for redeployment can be found before presenting the PDB in order to reduce the number of new recruitments; calls on the Commission to ensure that EPSO will be in a position to enable the recruitment of staff foreseen for enlargement for the year 2007;

47. Notes that full consultation will take place between the institutions on shaping the legislative programme for 2007; insists that agreement on this programme should be reached in December 2006 by the EU institutions to coincide with the completion of the 2007 budget procedure;

48. Notes the opinions produced by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Development and the Committee on International Trade; welcomes the contributions that these opinions make as regards the external aspects of the 2007 budget procedure; notes that the main themes of these opinions will be incorporated during the course of the budget procedure;

49. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Court of Auditors.

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Natural disasters — agricultural aspects

European Parliament resolution on natural disasters (forest fires, droughts and floods) — agricultural aspects (2005/2195(INI))

The European Parliament,

— having regard to its resolutions of 5 September 2002 on floods in Europe (1), of 13 January 2005 on the outcome of the Buenos Aires Conference on climate change (2), of 14 April 2005 on the drought in Portugal (3), of 12 May 2005 on the drought in Spain (4), and of 8 September 2005 on natural disasters (fires and floods) in Europe that summer (5),

— having regard to its resolutions of 16 February 2006 on the implementation of a European Union forestry strategy (1) and on risk and crisis management in the agricultural sector (2),

— having regard to the Kyoto protocol to the United Nations framework convention on climate change of 11 December 1997, and the ratification thereof by the European Community on 25 April 2002,

— having regard to the scientific report by the Institute for Environment and Sustainability of the Commission’s Joint Research Centre on climate change and the European water dimension (3),

— having regard to the research project into flood risk management under the Commission’s sixth framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development, and demonstration activities (2002-2006),

— having regard to the Institute for European Environmental Policy’s report on climate change and natural disasters (4),


— having regard to Regulation (EC) No 2152/2003 of 17 November 2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning monitoring of forests and environmental interactions in the Community (Forest Focus) (9),

— having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 of 20 September 2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) (10),

— having regard to the proposal for a Council Decision establishing a European civil protection mechanism (COM(2006)0029), recasting Council Decision 2001/792/EC of 23 October 2001 establishing a Community mechanism to facilitate reinforced cooperation in civil protection assistance interventions decision establishing a Community mechanism to facilitate cooperation in civil protection (11),


— having regard to Rule 45 of its Rules of Procedure,

— having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (A6-0152/2006),

A. whereas agricultural and forestry production is an economic activity closely bound up with nature and, for that reason, is vulnerable to climatic phenomena such as drought, frost, hail, forest fires and floods; to health risks such as plagues and epidemics; and to pollution such as acid rain and unintentional genetic contamination,

B. whereas drought, one of the factors most influencing forest fires, is a recurrent environmental emergency which is one of the most serious problems faced by Europe's Mediterranean countries and the Iberian Peninsula,

C. whereas the constantly increasing frequency of unexpected natural phenomena can endanger the viability of farms and lead to their being abandoned, particularly in the case of very small holdings and in areas suffering from structural handicaps, with consequential economic, social and environmental risks,

D. whereas the structural causes of forest fires are directly linked to rural depopulation that affects countries in southern Europe, and this is likely to become more acute as a consequence of the implementation of the Single Payment Scheme (SPS); whereas these structural causes are thus of a socio-economic nature,

E. whereas natural disasters negatively impact on sustainable development insofar as they accentuate rural depopulation, intensify erosion and desertification, damage ecosystems, endanger biodiversity, and seriously jeopardise the quality of life of rural communities,

F. whereas the management of woodlands of the Iberian Peninsula and southern Europe tends to be characterised by protection while that of central and northern Europe tends to be more focused on production,

G. whereas repeated statements made by the Community institutions have supported multifunctional farming throughout the Union,

H. whereas risks of natural disasters due to climate change are compounded by other threats to the survival of the European countryside, such as the increased competitiveness of third-country imports now faced by European producers, as well as ever higher production costs due to the Union's increasingly stringent quality and food safety requirements,

I. whereas the most recent reforms of the common agricultural policy (CAP), the ongoing opening of the market, the gradual weakening of the regulation of agricultural product markets, and the globalisation of agriculture, increase the instability of European markets, which urgently require new crisis management instruments,

J. whereas agriculture, given its multifunctional characteristics, and forestry help to maintain population in rural areas, thereby contributing towards the prevention of and protection against natural disasters,

K. whereas there is an absence of Community measures responding to the ever-increasing frequency of national disasters and health and market crises and whereas the most striking example of this absence is the fact that drought and frost are not covered by the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF),

L. whereas forest fires have also been on the increase because of the progressive depopulation of the countryside, the decrease in farming and traditional activities associated with farming, the failure to maintain the forests properly, the existence of large areas of woodland where monoculture prevails or the planting of unsuitable trees, and the absence of an effective protection policy with suitable instruments and funding at Community level,

M. whereas the EU needs to recognise the specific features of natural disasters in the Mediterranean region, such as drought and fires, adapting its existing instruments to prevention, research, risk management, civil protection, and solidarity, as well as the need for a specific Community programme for forest protection, with suitable financial resources and targeted on risk prevention and management for forest fires,
N. whereas the shortcomings of Community actions already experienced are exacerbated by the diversity of national mechanisms to combat natural disasters and by the disparities between these mechanisms, which infringe the principles of cohesion and solidarity that contribute to the European social model and the supranational integration process,

O. whereas the abandoning of agricultural land, the low direct profitability of forested land and the high cost of its maintenance do not encourage good forest management, leading to an accumulation of undergrowth, wood and other combustible material; whereas in areas where the woodland is socio-economically profitable there are considerably fewer fires,

P. whereas there are serious obstacles to maintaining the efficiency of fire-fighting systems because of the seasonal nature of the work, which means that staff tend to be temporary, it is difficult to provide adequate training, and the equipment is underused, and the greatest obstacle is finding sufficient airborne resources,

Q. whereas both the prevention and consequences of some disasters are not limited to national territories but call for cooperation among Member States and between Member States and third countries bordering on the EU,

1. Welcomes the communications and proposals recently put forward by the Commission concerning an enhanced response capacity to disasters and crises, flood assessment and management, the reform of the EUSF, an improved civil protection mechanism, new rural development guidelines for 2007-2013, agricultural exemptions to the State aid regime, and risk and crisis management in agriculture;

2. Believes that an adequate response to natural, health-related or technological disasters should be available through the EUSF, the Veterinary Fund, rural development policy, regional policy, the agricultural aid regime, and measures against forest fires within the Forest Focus programme and the new Life + programme; believes, however, that, in order to create a genuine Community strategy for dealing with disasters, these mechanisms must all be rendered more flexible, particularly by including under the remit of the EUSF, eligibility criteria that are better adapted to the circumstances of individual disasters, including drought and frost, that these mechanisms should be given increased financial resources and that particular attention should be paid to the most vulnerable producers and geographical areas;

3. Believes that the Solidarity Fund should continue to cover intervention in the case of disasters which are, though significant, under the damage threshold laid down but embody severe and lasting repercussions on the living conditions of the inhabitants of a given region, with the possibility of extraordinary assistance existing in such cases;

4. Urges the Commission to submit a legislative proposal introducing a flexibility clause which would enable the policy existing instruments, notably the EUSF, to deal with natural disasters in the agricultural sector to be properly financed, by using CAP headings which are currently unused every year;

5. Points out that international cooperation is a pre-condition for preventing and addressing certain some types of natural disaster; underlines, particularly in the case of rivers which flow through various countries, that there is a need to draw up, finance and monitor cross-border programmes;

6. Believes that the CAP derogation measures applied by the Commission in natural disasters (inter alia, the advancement of payments, the release of intervention cereal stocks, and the authorisation of use of set-aside land for grazing livestock), positive though they are, fall far short of what is required to cover the losses caused, and indeed are not always even decided on with the speed required;

7. Stresses that the existence of a wide network of agricultural SMEs and an agricultural policy promoting more sustainable production methods, notably as regards the use of water and soil, is a vital precondition for fighting the effects of drought and forest fires;
8. Believes that rural development policy could play a useful role in the prevention of natural disasters; underlines that the drastic reduction in resources for rural development hinders the drafting of action plans to prevent and repair damage caused by natural disasters; recommends, however, that national and regional rural development plans give priority to measures aimed at the causes of the disasters (inter alia, the fight against erosion, the repopulation of woodland with appropriate species, the preservation of firebreaks, hydraulic projects, the maintenance of woodland, and water-saving agro-environmental action);

9. Urges the Commission to provide financial and legislative support for measures aimed at reducing the combustibility of forests, such as encouraging the profitability of forests and their sustainable management, using residual forest biomass as renewable energy, encouraging owners' associations with a view to forming viable administrative units, and developing the potential of forests for the preservation and generation of jobs in the countryside;

10. Calls on the Member States and the Commission to implement a programme for the exchange of experiences on the application of new technologies for the management and monitoring of the risks and effects of forest fires, and to draw up procedures for European-level validation of the qualifications of technical staff;

11. Calls for the continuation in the next financial programming period of the aid granted in the past to farmers for creating and maintaining firebreaks, which provide the best guarantees as regards protecting the countryside;

12. Believes that it is essential, furthermore, that within the framework of the rural development plans, priority should be given to actions tending to combat the structural rural problems (inter alia, depopulation, the abandoning of farmland, the protection of the countryside from intensive building, deforestation, and the excessive fragmentation of woodland ownership) which, if they are not held in check, will increase future levels of potential risk;

13. Believes that it is essential, in the context of the Financial Framework for 2007-2013, to establish a Community programme for protection against forest fires, with a view to promoting awareness campaigns, risk-prevention, and risk-management measures regarding forest fires, suitably funded and complementing agricultural and structural policy; calls for this programme to lead specifically to the clear identification of financing allocated to appropriate measures aimed at preventing forest fires, either by the establishment of a specific regulation with the corresponding financing or by the creation of a dedicated budget heading for these measures both within the EAFRD Regulation and the draft regulation LIFE +; stresses that such a programme must take account of the specific characteristics of the Mediterranean forests;

14. Requests that within the context of the strategic guidelines on rural development 2007-2013, there be an increase of the co-funding percentage for specific measures relating to forests, the fight against erosion, hydraulic infrastructures, and Natura 2000;

15. Is convinced that serious market crises constitute unforeseen and exceptional events which expose farms to risks that may be as great as those caused by natural disasters, and that specific support from the Union is required;

16. Reiterates its commitment, set out in the above-mentioned report on risk and crisis management in agriculture, to urge the Commission to:

— set up a public insurance scheme, jointly financed by farmers, the Member States and the EU, with a view to creating a better policy framework for risk management and crisis prevention; and

— set up a consistent and affordable reinsurance scheme for all Member States under the CAP;

17. Believes that this potential new risk-management instrument will need to include a specific insurance for forests, to cover at least the costs of reforestation and ecological rehabilitation after fires, and that, the Commission's proposal would make it difficult to obtain the strong public support required in order for this instrument to be effective;
18. Calls on the Commission to submit cohesive proposals for crisis management in agriculture, which include rational methods and realistic sources of funding to act as an effective incentive for their use by farmers and as a flexible tool for regulating the market without giving rise to the risk of distorting competition and without disrupting the smooth operation of the internal market;

19. Believes that it is necessary to follow up urgently the concerns expressed in the Commission’s above-mentioned communication on risk and crisis management in agriculture and for the Commission to carry out the in-depth studies required to set up a system to stabilise prices or incomes, whether the features of the current Single Payment Scheme (SPS) are maintained or not, so as to guarantee European farmers a system of protection similar to that enjoyed by their main trading partners;

20. Reiterates that a genuine strategy to deal with the effects of disasters in agriculture cannot be restricted to emergency measures, and that training, information, prevention and awareness-raising activities need to be put in place, funded within the framework of the civil protection mechanism, the Forest Focus programme, rural development policy and the European Regional Fund; insists on the need to step up active prevention measures for forest fires, the optimisation and coordination of fire-fighting methods and systems, the encouragement of the participation of society, as well as better research into the causes of fires and stronger action against crime;

21. Stresses the need to draw up a forestry policy which includes measures for the sustainable management and combating of natural disasters; calls for the setting up of a fire-fighting network to facilitate the financing of action plans and the acquisition of resources, with appropriate coordination, at a European level and at an international level; considers that the adoption of rules on sound forest management and mandatory reforestation in the event of natural disasters is essential;

22. Calls on the Commission to include, in its above-mentioned future action plan for sustainable forest management, concrete measures for the implementation of programmes for the active prevention and the environmental education of the rural population, with a view to explaining new ways of forestry management and improving awareness of the future role of forests in particular localities and the benefits arising from their conservation;

23. Calls for awareness campaigns, at a European level, to be targeted at rural populations, the forest owners and the urban population, and particularly at schoolchildren and young people, voluntary organisations and the media, with a view to promoting a change of attitude towards the use of fire;

24. Believes that drawing up risk maps and management plans should not be restricted to areas at risk of flooding, as set out in the above-mentioned proposition for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council, but must also cover drought and fires, which involves drawing up maps of areas at high risk of drought and fires within the EU, together with corresponding management plans;

25. Reiterates its call for the creation of a European drought observatory which would be responsible for studying, monitoring and reducing the effects of drought, and which might include permanent arrangements for the information exchange supporting the prevention of fires throughout the Union;

26. Calls for the inclusion in the future action plan for sustainable forest management of specific risk-prevention measures targeted at monitoring and managing combustible forest material as well as managing woodland; also calls for this plan to further the evaluation of the effect of external factors on woodland, the consideration of their social and economic value, and the search for new support instruments applicable to the sector;

27. Calls on the Commission to submit a proposal for a directive on fighting and preventing fires, which would optimise the use of the various existing Community instruments, including the EAFRD, in order to tackle the problem, and to improve coordination among regions and Member States;

28. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.
P6_TA(2006)0223

Natural disasters — regional development aspects

European Parliament resolution on natural disasters (fires, droughts and floods) — regional development aspects (2005/2193(INI))

The European Parliament,

— having regard to the Commission communication on reinforcing EU disaster and crisis response in third countries (COM(2005)0153),

— having regard to its resolution of 16 November 2005 entitled ‘Winning the Battle Against Global Climate Change’ (1),

— having regard to the Commission communication on improving the Community civil protection mechanism (COM(2005)0137),

— having regard to the Commission proposal for a Council decision establishing a Community civil protection mechanism (recast), (COM(2006)0029),

— having regard to the Commission communication on flood risk management — flood prevention, protection and mitigation (COM(2004)0472),


— having regard to the Commission communication on flood risk management — flood prevention, protection and mitigation (COM(2004)0472),


— having regard to Articles 2 and 6 of the EC Treaty, according to which environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the other Community policies, with a view to promoting economic development that is environmentally sustainable,

— having regard to the scientific report of the Institute for Environment and Sustainability of the Commission’s Joint Research Centre on climate change and the European water dimension (2),

— having regard to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change of 11 December 1997 and its ratification by the European Community on 25 April 2002,


— having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1164/94 of 16 May 1994 establishing a Cohesion Fund (6), as amended by Council Regulations (EC) No 1264/1999 (7) and (EC) No 1265/1999 (8),


— having regard to the Commission communication on a European Union strategy for the forestry sector (COM(1998)0649),

— having regard to the Commission proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the financial instrument for the environment (LIFE +), (COM(2004)0621),

— having regard to its resolution of 8 September 2005 on the natural disasters (fires and floods) of the summer of 2005 in Europe (1),

— having regard to Rule 45 of its Rules of Procedure,

— having regard to the report of the Committee on Regional Development (A6-0147/2006),

A. whereas natural disasters in the European Union have caused the deaths of 65,000 people since 1980 and have cost 124.2 billion Euro, according to UN figures,

B. whereas the torrential rain in August 2005 caused the most serious floods in Europe since 2002 and caused the death of 70 people,

C. whereas fires once again destroyed thousands of hectares of forest in 2005 and, what is more serious, cost the lives of more than 30 civilians and firemen, and the extraordinary drought has contributed and continues to contribute to the worsening of this phenomenon, which has become an annual scourge for the regions and countries affected,

D. whereas the fires have resulted in major personal tragedies involving in particular the destruction of houses and agricultural property and the loss of hundreds of animals,

E. whereas the drought in 2005 was of exceptional intensity and duration, especially in the south and west of Europe, and severely affected practically the whole of Portugal and wide areas of Spain, France and Italy,

F. whereas natural disasters have catastrophic short and long-term effects on the economy of the regions, especially in less prosperous areas concerned by the convergence objective or ones affected by natural constraints, with damaging repercussions for infrastructure, economic potential, employment, the natural and cultural heritage, the environment and tourism, all of which has an adverse effect on social and economic cohesion,

G. whereas droughts and persistent fires are speeding up the process of desertification of large areas of southern Europe, especially in Mediterranean forested areas and in extensive woodlands comprising a single, non-native species which is highly vulnerable to fire, seriously threatening the quality of life of the populations affected, depriving them of the water required for basic survival needs and resulting in the loss of all crops and hence in speculation in the price of animal feed,

H. whereas natural disasters occur when an extreme weather situation hits a vulnerable area and, therefore, it is necessary to diminish the sensitivity of these regions, bearing in mind that extreme climatic phenomena are becoming increasingly frequent,

I. whereas there must be perfect dovetailing between all the synergies created under the European Neighbourhood Policy — in particular with the Euro-Med Partnership countries, which are in a similar situation,

J. whereas, because of their geographical position, the outermost regions are exposed to specific and severe risks of natural disasters, in particular cyclones, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or even tsunamis,

K. whereas certain factors linked to human activity may aggravate the impact of natural disasters, such as intensive farming, involving the traditional use of fire as a farming tool, deforestation, the massive reduction in the natural flood retention capacity of river basins and intensive urbanisation in areas at risk and also the invasion of mountain areas by city dwellers in pursuit of leisure activities,

L. whereas droughts decisively contribute to the spread of fires, which is the main cause of the deterioration of Europe's forests,

M. whereas the common agricultural policy as successively reformed has promoted the concentration of production which has contributed to the steady desertification of rural areas and the abandonment of farming, thereby increasing the risk of forest fires and aggravating the consequences of drought,

N. whereas the phenomenon of forest fires is also aggravated by the progressive abandonment of the countryside and of farming and its traditional activities, inadequate forest maintenance, the existence of large expanses of forest consisting of one single tree species, the planting of unsuitable tree varieties and the absence of a proper prevention policy with adequate instruments and funding at Community level and inadequately severe penalties in the case of fires started deliberately,

O. whereas the European Union needs to acknowledge the specific nature of natural disasters occurring in the Mediterranean such as droughts and fires and to adapt its prevention, research, risk-management, civil-defence and solidarity tools,

P. whereas Europe should step up measures to adjust to climate change, something which requires effort on the part of local, regional, national and European authorities, but also on the part of the population and of the industrial and transport sectors,

Q. whereas the European Union's prevention measures to tackle all types of natural disaster need to be enhanced by establishing, where necessary, joint strategic guidelines to ensure better coordination between the Member States, as well as greater operability of and coordination between the various Community instruments (Structural Funds, the future European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), the future financial instrument for the environment (LIFE +) and the future rapid response and preparedness instrument for major emergencies),

R. whereas there are still shortcomings in the Community's involvement, which are aggravated by the diversity and the differing levels of development found in the arrangements made by the individual Member States for combating natural disasters,

S. whereas the Structural Funds should play a more substantial role in funding measures designed to prevent disasters and to tackle their consequences, and whereas the Community instrument specifically envisaged for this, the EUSF, has proved ineffective in practice, hence the proposed revision currently under way,

T. whereas preventive measures reduce the material damage that floods cause to housing, infrastructure and production activities, as was demonstrated in the Alpine regions, where the floods of 2005 caused much less damage than those of 2002, despite being on a larger scale,

U. whereas, nevertheless, Community fire-prevention measures are limited almost exclusively to rural development policy and have so far clearly proved to be inadequate, which demonstrates the need for a specific, adequately funded Community forest protection programme designed to prevent and manage the risk of forest fires and tailored to the specific nature of forests in the Member States,

V. whereas intensive information campaigns on the sustainable use of water may reduce water consumption considerably and thus alleviate serious drought situations,

W. noting the lack of coordination between the competent public administrations and that prevention, disaster management and assistance to the territories and direct victims are the three areas of action by the European Union, in which it should play a more active and in particular a more preventive role,

X. whereas there is evident dissatisfaction among ordinary people, broad sections of society, NGOs and representatives of civil society,

1. Considers that the Commission should submit a proposal to draw up a European strategy to combat natural disasters, including comprehensive risk prevention, and devise a technical protocol setting out joint action at Union level addressing suited to each type of disaster and each forest eco-system;
2. Acknowledges the specific nature of the natural disasters which occur in various Member States, such as droughts and forest fires in the Mediterranean, and urges the Commission to adapt Community prevention, research, risk-management, civil-defence and solidarity tools with a view to improving the response to such disasters;

3. Considers that in all the Member States an exhaustive list should be drawn up of the locations which are most vulnerable to fires and to prolonged droughts and also of the resources available, with a view to devising a preventive strategy and enabling genuinely effective action and coordination to be carried out at local level;

4. Considers, furthermore, that this proposal should also include measures designed to ensure that water is used rationally and efficiently by major water consumers, such as farmers, urban users and industry; defends application of the 'user pays' and 'polluter pays' principles in order to ensure that water is managed more rationally and that effluent is more extensively monitored and checked;

5. Considers that this strategy should devote particular attention to isolated regions, regions with low population density or suffering from depopulation, mountainous areas and border regions, outlying and extremely remote regions and the least favoured regions concerned by the convergence objective;

6. Points out that local and regional authorities throughout the EU are becoming increasingly aware of the issue of natural catastrophes and points to the unsubstitutable role of regional and local actors in prevention, disaster management and alleviation of the impact of natural catastrophes upon individuals;

7. Stresses the need to adjust the action of the Structural Funds in the prevention and management of natural disasters as well as to coordinate them with the other existing Community instruments, in order to tackle these disasters; urges that, in the forthcoming financial programming for 2007-2013, the necessary flexibility should be ensured in the redistribution of resources available among the different funds, in order to improve their operability in the event of disasters;

8. Urges the Commission to make available the resources needed for the purpose of relieving the suffering and satisfying the material needs of all victims of natural disasters and their immediate families, by means of the EUSF and other Community instruments;

9. Points out that measures to prevent and combat fires and floods are eligible under the Structural Funds for the new programming period, and thus calls on the Council to bear this in mind and to be consistent in its common positions;

10. Stresses that restorative measures receiving financial assistance from the European Union should include measures aimed at preventing reoccurrences of disasters;

11. Believes that the Council should consider the most effective measures to prevent and respond effectively to the direct and inevitable needs which may result from a disastrous fire;

12. Considers that within the 2007-2013 financial framework a Community forest-fire protection programme must be designed to promote adequately funded forest-fire awareness-raising, prevention and risk-management initiatives dovetailing with agricultural- and structural-policy measures;

13. Points out that the existence of an extensive network of small and medium-sized farms and of an agricultural policy which promotes more sustainable production methods (particularly in the use of water and soil) could help reduce the effects of drought and forest fire;

14. Notes that, following the decision of the Brussels European Council of 15 and 16 December 2005 on the financial perspective 2007-2013, the objective 'Territorial Cooperation' has been substantially reduced, particularly as regards its transnational and interregional dimension; calls on the Commission to ensure that the financial allocation is adequate in the current negotiations, in order not to hamper the implementation of measures to prevent and combat the impact of natural disasters covered by the Interreg programme; also stresses the importance of cooperation with neighbouring third countries on matters concerning floods and fires;
15. Considers that the Commission should submit a proposal for a directive for fire prevention and management in the European Union, in order to make the best possible use of the existing Community and national resources for tackling the phenomenon on the lines of the proposal for a directive on the assessment and management of floods; also considers that a similar proposal should be drafted on drought-risk prevention and management and asks it to look into the establishment of a European monitoring centre for drought and desertification integrated into the activities of the seventh framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013) (COM (2005)0119);

16. Suggests that Parliament should begin to monitor deficiencies in means and equipment and all relevant problems in the fight against natural disasters in the Member States;

17. Calls on the Commission to draft a communication forthwith on earthquake-risk prevention, management and assessment in the same way as for other natural disasters (floods, fires, drought);

18. Calls on the Commission, in cooperation with Member States, regional and local authorities and other interested institutions, to gather and disseminate good practice case studies of measures adopted to prevent and effectively manage natural disasters;

19. Calls on the Council and the Member States to step up research into disaster prevention under the seventh framework programme, which is in the process of being adopted, paying particular attention to the improvement of early-warning systems and systems for the gathering and the real-time transmission of data;

20. Notes the launching of the pilot phase for the creation of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) initiative, which should enable the European Union to improve the forecasting, monitoring and assessment of natural disasters, and urges that the financial allocation for the initiative should be increased and that the action programme should be extended to cover all natural disasters that might occur within the Member States;

21. Calls for the launching of the GALILEO system, which should help to improve the European Union’s ability to anticipate, monitor and understand extreme meteorological weather situations and natural phenomena; also calls for the use of other kinds of equipment and means so as to detect fire outbreaks and effectively prevent fire bursts;

22. Deplores the fact that the Commission communication reporting on the implementation of the EU Forestry Strategy (COM(2005)0084) does not devote special attention to the issue of fires, ignoring the fact that they are the main cause of the deterioration of forests; therefore calls on the Member States to remedy this deficiency and asks the Commission to include the necessary measures in the Forestry Action Plan which it is to submit in the near future and which must contain provision for a possible European Fire Fund or European Forest Fund which could be used to support action intended to conserve and restore the mountain and forest areas included in the Natura 2000 network;

23. Suggests that the Member States should include and be obliged to carry out measures to combat drought and desertification and to prevent fires and flooding in the context of their rural development plans by encouraging participation by farmers in the replanting of forests with suitable species, in clearing out forests, in combating erosion and in making better use of water since farmers are the main guardians of the countryside; consequently, calls for the aid established for the creation of fire-breaks in Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) (1) to be maintained and for better support for measures designed to increase the profitability of forests and to prevent the depopulation of less economically productive mountain areas which may lie within the Mediterranean region (with particular attention to be paid to keeping combined farming/forestry/grazing operations in business and to protecting meadows);

24. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to devise information and education campaigns on prevention and combating measures agreed on with the Member States in order to reduce the risks and consequences of natural disasters, especially in the areas of highest risk, by making the public aware of the need to care for the environment and conserve natural resources by avoiding, inter alia, agricultural practices or leisure activities that entail risks; also calls on the Commission to promote training drills to minimise the negative effects during the outbreak of a disaster;

25. Urges the Commission to promote (in connection with EU training programmes and programmes for the exchange of sound working practices) a special programme for firefighters and firefighting specialists with a view to enabling such individuals to undertake additional tasks relating to the protection, conservation, improvement and restoration of mountain areas, and thus to secure safe jobs and stable employment; also urges the Commission to consider the possibility of proposing an EU evaluation and approval scheme both for firefighting teams and for the training and skills of firefighters themselves;

26. Calls on the Commission to study and to propose to the Parliament and to the Council ways of implementing coercive measures which will discourage negligence and deliberate action in the starting of fires (legal remedies, police intervention, labelling of such action as an environmental offence and so on);

27. Deplores the fact that the fire prevention measures under the ‘Forest Focus’ programme do not form part of the priority issues in the future ‘LIFE +’ instrument; calls on the Commission and the Council to include those measures in the future instrument and to provide adequate funding;

28. Since many areas have witnessed a very high rate of forest degradation over the last few years, calls on the Commission to devise schemes which will enable the forests in such areas to be replanted with native species, thereby ensuring that the objectives of ecosystem recovery and the prevention of further disasters are adopted in the public interest and not just as a private initiative, and that the effect of disasters on climate change is reduced;

29. Notes the Commission proposal for a decision establishing a Community civil protection mechanism (COM(2006)0029), in particular the enhancement of the MIC (Monitoring and Information Centre), with the possibility of Community funding for transport expenditure; calls on the Council to adopt this decision as soon as possible and to consider strengthening the instrument, in particular measures on the ground, as well as making the best use of the scant resources available;

30. Calls on the Member States and the Commission to work jointly on substantially improving the coordination and communication of information on existing resources in the event of disasters, by devising harmonised implementation methods for the purpose with a particular view to ensuring that the essential emergency operations which are necessary if land-based and airborne forest-fire combat equipment is to be made immediately available for a limited period of time can be carried out;

31. Recalls that, in its resolution of 4 September 2003 on the effects of the summer heatwave (1), it advocated the establishment of a European Civil Protection Force; calls on the Commission to fully take into account in this objective respect for the principle of subsidiarity; believes that such a European mechanism should be alert during the summer season, when Europe and especially the Mediterranean countries are always under the threat of fires, and that each Member State could contribute to this European mechanism by providing equipment, means and personnel;

32. Calls on the Member States and regional and local authorities to remove administrative and spatial barriers to civil protection and support greater flexibility and operability of rescue teams (fire brigades, medical emergency, police, mountain, marine and mining rescue teams) in neighbouring regions;

33. Emphasises the importance of the EUSF as the main instrument that should enable the European Union to react rapidly to major disasters, such as floods, fires and drought, as well as to cyclones, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or even tsunamis; urges the Commission and the Council to adopt Parliament’s proposals for a review of that fund, with particular reference to extending the assistance provided to all victims of natural disasters and their immediate family members;

34. Urges the Council to adapt the EUSF with particular reference to time limits and eligible actions in order to enable it to deal with the kind of specific natural disasters which occur in the Member States, such as fires, droughts and floods;

35. Considers that the EUSF should continue to enable action to be taken in the case of disasters which, although significant, do not achieve the minimum level required and that assistance may also be provided in special circumstances in cases where most of the population in a specific region has been affected by a disaster which will have a serious, long-term effects on their living conditions;

36. Nevertheless, points to the need for the involvement of other existing instruments, such as State aid for regional purposes or European Investment Bank loans, with the aim of preventing if possible natural disasters from happening and remedying the damage caused by natural disasters;

37. Asks that the setting up of an agriculture disaster fund be looked into for the purpose of providing compensation for any loss of income stemming from crop losses on the part of farmers affected by natural disasters;

38. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, to the governments and parliaments of the Member States having regions affected by natural disasters in 2005, to the regional and local authorities of those areas, as well as to the Committee of the Regions.

P6_TA(2006)0224

Natural Disasters — environmental aspects

European Parliament resolution on Natural Disasters (fires, droughts and floods) — environmental aspects (2005/2192(INI))

The European Parliament,

— having regard to its resolutions of 5 September 2002 on floods in Europe (1), 14 April 2005 on the drought in Portugal (2), 12 May 2005 on the drought in Spain (3) and 8 September 2005 on the natural disasters (fires and floods) in Europe that summer (4),

— having regard to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change of 11 December 1997, and the ratification thereof by the European Community on 25 April 2002,

— having regard to its resolution of 16 November 2005 on ‘Winning the Battle against Global Climate Change’ (5),

— having regard to its resolution of 18 January 2006 on Climate Change (6),

(3) Texts Adopted on that date, P6_TA(2005)0334.
(4) Texts Adopted on that date, P6_TA(2005)0433.

— having regard to its resolution of 16 February 2006 on implementation of a European Union forest strategy (2) and the Commission's communication on a European forest strategy (COM(1998)0649),


— having regard to the research project into management of flood risks under the European Union Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (2002-2006),

— having regard to the resolution and annex adopted on 26 March 2006 by the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly's working party on civil protection and the prevention of natural and ecological disasters (5),

— having regard to the scientific report by the Institute for Environment and Sustainability of the Commission's Joint Research Centre on climate change and the European water dimension (6),

— having regard to Rule 45 of its Rules of Procedure,

— having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (A6-0149/2006),

A. whereas climate change is causing and intensifying extreme weather events and natural disasters (flooding, extreme droughts and fires) which have been occurring in ever more rapid succession throughout the world, and have caused grave damage in terms of human losses, environmental deterioration and reduction of economic activity,

B. whereas at the last UN Conference on Climate Change held in December 2005 in Montreal, Canada, significant progress was made at world level with regard to ways of fighting climate change and strengthening respect for and implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, and foresight was displayed with regard to the second period of commitment following 2012,

C. whereas forests and agriculture play a fundamental role in environmental conservation, in terms of the balances generated in both the carbon and the hydrological cycles, whose contribution to slowing down global warming, avoiding erosion, preventing the effects of torrential rain and moderating the greenhouse effect is simply incalculable,

D. whereas situations of extreme drought and forest fires have increased in frequency and scale in southern Europe and whereas, despite their being exacerbated by climate change, these situations are to a certain extent unforeseeable and inevitable, which means that the relevant scientific research needs to be further developed and greater funding assigned to it, with a view to improving risk assessment mechanisms, systems of prevention and means of combating these phenomena,

(2) Texts Adopted on that date, P6_TA(2006)0068.
E. whereas the Forest Focus programme is intended to promote information exchange on forests in the Community so as to promote their conservation and protection; whereas the programme covers integrated programmes designed to protect forests against fire and to combat desertification,

F. whereas the Solidarity Fund Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 contains prior conditions which make it difficult to use the Fund in certain disaster situations; whereas this concerns not only the amount and type of the eligible expenditure, but also the inflexibility of the deadlines and procedures,

G. whereas natural disasters exacerbate problems of erosion, salination and desertification, undermine ecosystems and biodiversity, affect sustainable development and jeopardise social cohesion,

H. whereas natural disasters can also lead to significant displacement and loss of wildlife populations and domestic animals, causing distress to both the local communities and their dependent animals; whereas few response mechanisms exist,

I. whereas the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction claims that better urban planning in areas at risk and the preservation of ecosystems could reduce the impact of natural disasters,

J. whereas the Commission is a signatory to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, a phenomenon whose growth is mentioned in the UN Millennium Declaration, and whereas 2006 was declared International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

K. whereas the measures currently in force in the European Union have been shown to be insufficient or inadequate in terms of providing an effective response to natural disasters, and whereas the diversity of, and lack of coordination between, mechanisms and solutions which exist at national and regional level do not favour effective action,

L. whereas preventive measures, and measures to prepare and train crews, are important for putting out fires, as is the coordination of material and human resources for fire-fighting purposes,

M. whereas the number and scale of floods in Europe, including Central and Eastern Europe, has grown considerably; whereas efforts must be made to improve forecasting and prevention — including the regeneration of polders and coastal wetlands — and arrangements for warning the population of impending floods and ensuring that they are evacuated,

1. Welcomes the growth in public awareness of and support for environmental measures to avert major disaster situations; proposes that measures to ensure more sustainable, rational and efficient use of water be taken within the European Union and especially in the most seriously affected areas and regions, and that major water consumers in agriculture, tourism, towns and industry be targeted by these measures; advocates the application of the ‘user pays’ and ‘polluter pays’ principles so as to guarantee a more rational use of water and better monitoring and inspection of effluents;

2. Highlights the need to promote awareness-raising campaigns in respect of prevention, adoption of good practice and the publicising of procedures to be adopted in disaster situations such as fires and floods, to be funded by the European Social Fund or within the context of specific programmes such as Forest Focus; points out that action to train the public should pay special attention to training young people, starting with schoolchildren;

3. Urges the Member States to increase their cooperation on civil protection at European Union level, so as to ensure availability of additional resources for rapid action to combat emergency situations;

4. Calls on the Commission to include the construction of infrastructure and the acquisition of technical fire-fighting equipment, including airborne equipment, as expenditure qualifying for Community funding;
5. Welcomes the Commission's action plan on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) for combating illegal logging, and the new financial instrument for the environment (Life+ programme), which is essential to the protection of Europe's forests and to preventing deterioration of all kinds, including fires;

6. Urges the Member States to reflect on the role of forests in the European Union, as part of a systematic set of land management measures including flood safety measures concentration on more effective water retention and geological safety measures designed to stabilise slopes and carry out reafforestation wherever possible; proposes that a public debate be launched on their environmental, social and economic role, and that this debate be used to increase awareness of the existing disparities between Europe's forests and particularly the specific nature of Mediterranean forests: believes that there is a need to make better use of the Structural and Cohesion Funds for structural measures to prevent drought, the main aggravating factor in natural disasters; also believes that incentives should be provided for forest conservation and management of the countryside so as to establish a variety of uses (forestry, grazing, arable crops, irrigation, etc.); maintains that monoculture should be practised only in clearly circumscribed areas particularly well suited to the species concerned and the related economic activities, and that it is necessary for such systems to be based on good sense and for owners and producers to exercise their responsibilities scrupulously;

7. Invites the Commission to set serious, solidarity-based objectives within the joint legislative framework on tackling and preventing natural disasters, and particularly the adoption of the new Regulation on the Solidarity Fund and the Directive on assessing and managing floods and, furthermore, within the forthcoming revision of the Forest Focus programme, increasing funding and making the rules governing application more flexible;

8. Calls for support to enable affected areas to be reafforested, without damaging their bioclimate or ecological characteristics, and hopes that rehabilitation of the rural and urban landscape will be treated as a matter of particular importance, having due regard to specific local features;

9. Stresses the need to provide sufficient funding for conservation of the Natura 2000 network;

10. Believes that the reconstruction/restoration of the Natura 2000 network areas damaged by flooding, drought or fires should be financed by the Community Funds, given that these are important parts of Europe's green spaces which ensure biological diversity and the conservation of species; urges the Member States to establish national forest funds for forest disaster prevention and forest renewal;

11. Invites the Commission to ensure that future discussions on disaster relief and civil protection instruments also consider domestic animals and wildlife;

12. Calls on the Commission to submit a strategy on drought on which to base a European drought risk prevention and management policy;

13. Calls for severe drought to be included amongst the Solidarity Fund support mechanisms, since drought is an anomalous natural phenomenon, which develops slowly and is of variable duration, with serious, lasting repercussions on the living conditions and socioeconomic stability of the affected regions; recommends that the Fund maintain the possibility of supporting localised crisis situations (regional character) and make both public and private damage eligible;

14. Recommends the establishment of a European observatory on drought, desertification, floods and other effects of climate change in order to gather information and ensure a more effective response;

15. Recommends that preventive measures be implemented in the area of drought risk management, including strategies to minimise the resulting impacts, and incorporated into river basin management strategies;
16. Recognises the need to investigate and develop new forms of fire prevention and detection and firefighting assistance using satellites and other cutting-edge technologies; believes that it is essential to adopt new information technologies (e.g. the Geographical Information System) for managing fires and floods; stresses the essential role of new detection technology in preventing natural disasters;

17. Recommends measures to protect forests against fire, specifically the collection and recycling of forest biomass residue, the prohibition of changing the use of burnt land, and sharper penalties for criminal acts against the environment, especially causing forest fires; believes that the collection of biomass residue should be regulated so as to prevent it from accelerating desertification by depleting organic matter and degrading the soil, thus making the latter more vulnerable to the risks of drought and torrential flooding;

18. Calls on the Commission to put forward a directive on preventing and managing fires, to include the regular collection of data, preparation of maps and identification of areas at risk, preparation of fire risk management plans, identification by the Member States of the resources allocated and facilities available, coordination of the various administrations, minimum requirements for training crews, establishment of environmental responsibility and penalties;

19. Asks the Commission to recommend to the Member States that they draw up fire and flood risk maps, and that these are taken into account in territorial planning management;

20. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission, and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.

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**Treaty establishing the Energy Community**

*European Parliament resolution on the conclusion by the European Community of the Energy Community Treaty*

*The European Parliament,*

— having regard to the Commission proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion by the European Community of the Energy Community Treaty (COM(2005)0435),

— having regard to the Council’s draft decision on the conclusion by the European Community of the Energy Community Treaty (13886/1/2005),

— having regard to the legal basis chosen for the conclusion of the Energy Community Treaty, which effectively limits the role of the European Parliament to giving or withholding its assent to the conclusion of the Treaty, without any effective participation in the decision-making procedure,

— having regard to its position of 18 May 2006 on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion by the European Community of the Energy Community Treaty (1) giving its assent to the conclusion of the Treaty,

— having regard to Rule 108(5) of its Rules of Procedure;

1. Notes that the EC, by means of the conclusion of this Energy Community Treaty (ECT), in a sense creates a precedent by extending the *aquis communautaire* of the internal market in the field of electricity and gas to the nine contracting parties to the ECT;

2. Demands an unequivocal commitment by the contracting parties to the ECT to respect and implement the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;

3. Notes also that, of the nine contracting parties to the Treaty, three are candidate countries (Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia), one has applied for membership (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), four are potential candidates (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia) and one is under UN Interim Administration (Kosovo);

4. Points to the fact that in the case of the internal market, additional measures conceived as instruments to support the internal market or considered necessary in order to mitigate any negative effects have been adopted, whereas in the case of the ECT, the Council Decision foresees no such measures and this could lead to serious distortions of competition with EU players by undermining the standards applied in the internal market; notes that, therefore, matters relating to employment, social impact and restructuring, working conditions, equality, health and safety, information and consultation and social dialogue will be treated in a separate Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), whose legal status is not specified; demands that the MoU should be signed by the Commission, Council and governments concerned and should be developed to become a legally binding instrument;

5. Supports the participation of representatives of the social partners from the contracting parties to the ECT in the European sectoral social dialogue committees, where they exist, which the Commission is to enable;

6. Seeks clarification by the Council and the Commission of the inclusion of provisions and programmes to increase energy efficiency, prioritise the demand side, replace energy infrastructure and support renewable energy, notably to reduce widespread energy poverty, energy/hydrocarbon import dependence and the harmful environmental impact of energy production, transport and use; in particular, seeks clarification of the effective implementation by the ECT countries of the acquis regarding energy efficiency, gaseous, liquid and solid pollutant emissions and climate change as matters of the utmost importance to avoid distortion of competition with EU players;

7. Calls for caution to be exercised in the privatisation of utilities and the replacement of public monopolies with private ones when not all rules and regulations are in place to ensure public service obligations, reasonable prices and democratic control;

8. Calls upon the Commission to submit to Parliament for information all the complementary documents considered by the Commission or the Council to be integral to the internal market in connection with the ECT, prior to their adoption by the Council or Commission;

9. Is concerned about changes made by the Council in the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the ECT, which transform the obligatory consultation with the European Parliament — as proposed in the Commission proposal — into an information exercise, as stipulated in Article 4(5) of the draft Council decision;

10. Demands that representatives of its Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, together with parliamentary representatives of the countries concerned, be informed of and consulted on decisions of the Commission and Ministerial Council with regard to the ECT and that these representatives should have the power to amend proposals; notes that a procedure to this end needs to be discussed between Parliament, the Commission and the Council;

11. Considers it desirable that the legal provision of mutual assistance to the contracting parties in the event of serious disruptions of energy supply may be extended to other neighbouring countries 'in the event of special circumstances'; calls upon the Council and the Commission, nonetheless, to clarify the 'special circumstances' in a separate implementing measure that should be forwarded to Parliament for its opinion;
12. Seeks clarification by the Council and the Commission of the effective contribution of the ECT to support for energy reforms in contracting parties, as Western Balkan countries appear to be at an earlier reform stage; notes, in particular, that they need to establish their energy policies and institutions to develop sound and comprehensive energy reforms on both the demand and the supply side of the energy market, in addition to adhering to the rule of law;

13. Seeks clarification by the Council and the Commission of the role and functions of the various institutions created by the ECT, including the Energy Community Secretariat and the Regulatory Board;

14. Seeks clarification by the Council and the Commission of measures taken by donors, Member States and the ECT countries to ensure market transparency, in particular regarding the development of offshore energy traders in the ECT area with dominant market positions, and their extension to EU energy markets;

15. Seeks clarification by the Council and the Commission of the criteria to be fulfilled by a neighbouring third country in order to be accepted by the Ministerial Council as an Observer or as a Participant;

16. Calls for Parliament to be informed and consulted prior to any future extension of the ECT to other energy sources or sectors;

17. Calls upon the Commission to report in writing to Parliament at least once per year on the achievements of and problems faced by the contracting parties in the implementation of the ECT; considers that this report should include at least the following elements:

— the state of affairs with regard to implementing the relevant energy, social (the MoU) and environmental acquis;

— an overview of the work of the regulatory authorities, their resources and procedures for consulting relevant stakeholders;

— the level of market concentration, affordability and investment in new capacity and networks;

— an overview of the opinions of relevant stakeholders, particularly social partners, consumer and environmental organisations and municipalities;

18. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission and to the governments and parliaments of the contracting parties to the Energy Community Treaty.

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P6_TA(2006)0226

Nepal

European Parliament resolution on Nepal

The European Parliament,

— having regard to its previous resolutions on Nepal,

— having regard to the public hearing on the situation in Nepal held by the Subcommittee on Human Rights of its Committee on Foreign Affairs held on 20 February 2006,

— having regard to the support of the Commission, as expressed on 3 January 2006, for the restoration of peace and democracy in Nepal,
having regard to the Declaration of 4 May 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union concerning developments in Nepal,

— having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas on 1 February 2005 King Gyanendra, in an unconstitutional act, dismissed the government, assumed direct power and declared a state of emergency,

B. whereas violently repressed pro-democracy and peace rallies finally forced the King to abandon de facto military rule on 24 April 2006, to reinstate parliament, and to hand over the administration to a multi-party government formed by the seven-party alliance,

C. whereas it is hoped that the return to democracy will mean the end of a civil war which has lasted for 10 years and has cost over 13,000 lives,

D. whereas the excessive action of the security forces drew heavy criticism from the international community, including the EU and the UN, since many people were killed during the protests and hundreds were injured and arrested,

E. whereas the new multi-party government of Nepal, chaired by Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, has announced that it will hold peace talks, thus responding positively to the ceasefire offer by the CPN-M (Communist Party of Nepal-Maoists), which the King had earlier rejected,

F. whereas the reinstated House of Representatives has placed itself in line with the 12-point agreement reached between the seven-party alliance and the Maoists in November 2005, including holding constituent assembly elections for drafting a new constitution,

G. whereas the new government annulled the municipal elections conducted by the previous government on 8 February 2006, arrested five former royal government ministers, including the home and foreign ministers and the government's most visible spokesman; whereas the new government has also appointed a judicial commission to investigate charges of excessive use of force by State security forces against the demonstrators and suspended the heads of three security forces on charges of excessive use of force and human rights violations in suppressing the pro-democracy movement in Nepal,

H. whereas the government has repealed 6 of 19 of the King's laws on media freedom, land reform and aid groups,

I. whereas the most fundamental rights of children are being violated routinely in Nepal and the EU has condemned Nepal's Maoist rebels for using children as soldiers,

J. whereas the government's decision from November 2005 to suspend issuing exit permits to Tibetan refugees for their onward travel to India has left hundreds of Tibetans stranded in Nepal, and has exacerbated severe overcrowding at a shelter for Tibetans in Kathmandu,

1. Strongly welcomes Nepal's return to democratic rule, which was achieved thanks to the engagement of millions of citizens in a people's movement;

2. Conveys its deepest sympathy to the families of all who have lost their lives or have been seriously injured during the protests;

3. Welcomes recent developments in Nepal encouraging a return to political stability, including:

— the restoration of parliament;

— the establishment of an interim government on 2 May 2006 and the initiative to set up a Constituent Assembly to draft a new Constitution;

— the announcement of a unilateral three-month ceasefire;

— the reaffirmed commitment from the seven-party alliance and the Maoists to the 12-point peace agreement of November 2005;
4. Believes that the restoration of the sovereignty of the parliament's democratic authorities is only a first step towards real peace and a lasting democracy, and that substantial progress needs to be made in a number of areas in order to consolidate the situation:

— democratic control of the Royal Nepalese Army and local militia to end the human rights abuses;

— addressing the root causes of the conflict and ensuring that there is greater economic prosperity and a better redistribution of wealth for all throughout the country;

— respect for minority rights;

— the necessary devolution of power to the regional and local levels;

— a more representative electoral system;

5. Welcomes the three months' ceasefire announced by the Maoists and encourages them to go further, to permanently renounce violence and to return to the political arena;

6. Calls for parliamentary elections to be held at an early stage, and suggests an EU election observation mission; in the meantime, calls for the sending of an ad hoc European Parliament delegation to assess the situation and to conduct talks with all relevant forces;

7. Is deeply concerned about alleged extrajudicial killings, widespread torture, impunity and other human rights violations committed by both sides; calls on the Nepalese government and other parties to the conflict to do all in their power to ensure full and transparent investigations of human rights violations, including unresolved cases of forced disappearances, and insists that adequate sentencing of those convicted will be essential for the re-establishment of social peace;

8. Stresses that all restrictions on media freedom should be lifted immediately, and that all political prisoners, including journalists and human rights activists, should be released;

9. Welcomes the fact that the government has already repealed a number of controversial royal ordinances curbing press freedom and controlling non-governmental organisations;

10. Reiterates its support for the UN Office of Human Rights in Nepal, established since April 2005, which must continue to carefully monitor the human rights situation;

11. Supports Nepal's new government's decision to freeze the previous administration's purchase of military planes and weapons and the recruitment of soldiers, and calls on the Council and the Member States to continue the freeze on all military aid;

12. Calls on the international community to establish a Contact Group, to be made up of Nepal's key partners and international organisations (the EU, the US, India and the UN), to provide coordinated international action with regard to Nepal; proposes that the European Parliament appoint a special rapporteur to monitor the situation;

13. Calls on the Council, the Commission and the Member States to support the peace process by:

— assisting all armed groups to demobilise and disarm;

— using development and humanitarian assistance to consolidate peace and economic development;

— sending human rights observers;

— encouraging international financial institutions to give priority to macro-economic stability and transparency, rather than forcing ambitious economic reform proposals on a fragile democracy;

14. Urges the Council and the Commission to work closely with the UN and other members of the international community to support the Nepalese Government on the road to democracy;
15. Calls on the Council and Commission to offer further technical, logistical and financial assistance to Nepal, including practical planning for a ceasefire monitoring mission in cooperation with other donors, should this be requested by Nepal;

16. Calls on the Council to consider appointing a Special Representative for Nepal; his or her role would be to encourage greater political engagement in Nepal on the part of the EU and to sharpen its political analysis and level of understanding during the delicate transition;

17. Calls again for a follow-up to the 2002 London International Conference, to be organised by the Contact Group of key partners, which should set out the principles and values needed to underpin a peace process in Nepal; welcomes the plan of Nepali civil society activists to start the process by organising their own conference in Kathmandu this coming year;

18. Calls on the Nepalese government to protect Tibetan refugees in transit to India, and end the suspension of exit permits without delay;

19. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the Member States, the Commission, the interim government of Nepal, King Gyanendra, the governments of India and the other Member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the UN Secretary-General, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Thursday, 18 May 2006

15. Calls on the Council and Commission to offer further technical, logistical and financial assistance to Nepal, including practical planning for a ceasefire monitoring mission in cooperation with other donors, should this be requested by Nepal;

16. Calls on the Council to consider appointing a Special Representative for Nepal; his or her role would be to encourage greater political engagement in Nepal on the part of the EU and to sharpen its political analysis and level of understanding during the delicate transition;

17. Calls again for a follow-up to the 2002 London International Conference, to be organised by the Contact Group of key partners, which should set out the principles and values needed to underpin a peace process in Nepal; welcomes the plan of Nepali civil society activists to start the process by organising their own conference in Kathmandu this coming year;

18. Calls on the Nepalese government to protect Tibetan refugees in transit to India, and end the suspension of exit permits without delay;

19. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the Member States, the Commission, the interim government of Nepal, King Gyanendra, the governments of India and the other Member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the UN Secretary-General, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

P6_TA(2006)0227

Sri Lanka

European Parliament resolution on the situation in Sri Lanka

The European Parliament,

— having regard to the armed conflict which has torn Sri Lanka since 1983, taking over 60 000 lives and causing the displacement of more than 800 000 people,

— having regard to its previous resolutions of 18 May 2000 (1), 14 March 2002 (2) and 20 November 2003 (3) on Sri Lanka, and of 13 January 2005 (4) on EU aid after the tsunami disaster,

— having regard to the Oslo Declaration of December 2002, in which the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) agreed to try to find a federal solution within a united Sri Lanka,

— having regard to the Tokyo Declaration on Reconstruction and Development of Sri Lanka of 10 June 2003, which linked donor support to progress in the peace process, insisting on compliance with the ceasefire agreement between the Government of Sri Lanka and LTTE, which entered into force on 23 February 2002, participation of the Muslim minority in the talks, promotion and protection of human rights, gender equality and progress towards a final political settlement,

(1) OJ C 59, 23.2.2001, p. 278.
(2) OJ C 47 E, 27.2.2003, p. 613.
— having regard to the support given by the EU and the wider international community in response to the devastating tsunami of 26 December 2004,

— having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the conflict in Sri Lanka has killed over 60,000 people, displaced over 800,000 and held back the island's growth and economic development, resulting in a miserable situation for so many people across Sri Lanka, whose lives have been devastated by the tsunami and who now have to suffer from renewed violence,

B. whereas there have been countless attacks in the Jaffna peninsula, Trincomalee and Batticaloa and the officially registered ceasefire breaches run into thousands, most of them committed by the LTTE,

C. whereas tensions have been deliberately exacerbated by the attempted assassination of Lieutenant General Sarath Fonseka, the Sri Lankan Army Commander, on 25 April 2006, the assassinations of Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar in August 2005 and Joseph Pararajasingha, MP, in December 2005, and the attack on the Batticaloa district office of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) on 13 January 2006 in a deliberate attempt to undermine the ceasefire agreement,

D. whereas on 11 May 2006 the LTTE attacked a vessel carrying 710 unarmed members of the security forces on their way back after home leave, with members of the SLMM on board and flying the SLMM flag, which was escorted by navy gun boats, sinking one of them and killing 18 of the crew members,

E. whereas over 300 people have died in attacks and violence this year in Sri Lanka,

F. whereas international monitors say that the recent violence is the most serious threat to the 2002 ceasefire brokered by Norwegian mediators, previously weakened by a large number of reported ceasefire breaches, including armed ambushes, abductions, intimidation, killings, torture and recruitment of children as soldiers,

G. whereas after the first round held in Geneva in February 2006, the peace talks have been suspended indefinitely after the LTTE again pulled out of a second round in April 2006, jeopardising the opportunity for political progress,

H. whereas any restoration of the peace process should seek the involvement of a wide range of communities and political organisations in Sri Lanka, including Northern Muslim representatives,

I. whereas human rights organisations have not been able to effectively investigate human rights abuses, and the SLMM does not have the mandate independently to investigate such abuses,

1. Strongly welcomed the move by the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE to return to the negotiating table in February 2006, and condemns, therefore, the LTTE's unilateral refusal to participate in the second round of negotiations in Geneva that were scheduled for April 2006;

2. Urgently calls on the LTTE to resume peace negotiations with the Government of Sri Lanka without delay, to be prepared to decommission its weapons and to set the stage for a final political settlement of the conflict;

3. Severely condemns the renewed campaign of attacks by the LTTE, the high level of human rights violations committed by both sides and the constant breaches of the ceasefire agreement;

4. Deplores the gross violations of the ceasefire agreement by the LTTE through actions at sea, in particular the attack of 11 May 2006 on the Sri Lankan naval force, which resulted in many casualties and put SLMM monitors in grave danger;

5. Calls on the parties to the ceasefire agreement to ensure the security of the SLMM which is an unarmed body invited by both the Government and the LTTE to monitor the ceasefire agreement, in order to allow the mission to fulfil its mandate, and commends the contributing countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, for their invaluable work;
6. Calls on both the LTTE and the Sri Lankan Government to refrain from further actions liable to jeopardise the peace process, and, in particular, attacks on civilians;

7. Expresses its condemnation of the appalling abuse of children through the recruitment of child soldiers, which is a war crime, and calls on all rebel groups and notably the LTTE to stop this practice, to release those it holds and to make a declaration of principle not to recruit any children in the future; urges the Government of Sri Lanka to put into place legal measures to prevent and criminalise the practice;

8. Recognises that the LTTE does not represent all the Tamil peoples of Sri Lanka and calls on the LTTE to allow for political pluralism and alternate democratic voices in the northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka which would secure the interests of all peoples and communities;

9. Strongly condemns the particular repression against Tamil language press and Tamil organisations, and calls for a thorough investigation into the murders of Mayilvaganam Nimalarajan and Dharmeratnam Sivaram, as well as the two employees of the newspaper ‘Uthayan’;

10. Recognises that Sri Lanka’s recent election as a member of the UN Human Rights Council places an obligation on the government to manifest its commitment to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights;

11. Welcomes therefore the announcement of new members of Sri Lanka’s Human Rights Commission and stresses the need for an effective independent investigation into all alleged human rights violations by security forces or armed groups, bringing the perpetrators to justice in accordance with international fair trial standards; insists that all parties should subscribe to comprehensive human rights agreements as a key element of future peace negotiations;

12. Urges both sides, as an immediate gesture of goodwill, to cease the use of anti-personnel landmines and to assist in their removal, and considers that, to this end, the Government of Sri Lanka should set an example by signing the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer or Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and the LTTE should sign the Geneva Call ‘Deed of Commitment’;

13. Is worried at the fact that a deal to share international aid has still not been implemented, and believes that aid sent to Sri Lanka by the EU, and other international donors, in response to the tsunami must benefit the victims of that disaster without regard for their ethnic or religious denomination; but is concerned about the distribution and use of tsunami funds, which have not had the expected impact on the everyday lives of the victims or on Sri Lanka’s recovery; notes that the political gridlock on the ‘Post-Tsunami Operations Management Structure’ has already delayed the release of a further 50 million euro in aid, hindering reconstruction work in the North and East of Sri Lanka;

14. Deplores the fact that the demands of heavy defence costs have for many years diverted resources away from urgently needed investments in economic and social infrastructure in Sri Lanka;

15. Calls on the Member States to do everything in their capacity in order to stop all illegal attempts by the LTTE to uphold a system of forced taxation of sections of the Tamil community living in the European Union;

16. Calls on the Commission and the Member States, as part of this process, to follow the example of other countries and to freeze the assets of the LTTE-associated bank accounts, holdings, companies or undertakings in Member States;

17. Recognises that the EU has declared that delegations from the LTTE will no longer be received in any of the Member States until further notice, and that the EU is actively considering the formal listing of the LTTE as a terrorist organisation;

18. Calls on the Council, the Commission and the Member States to remain committed to a fair and sustainable solution to the Sri Lankan conflict and reiterates its support for all the people of Sri Lanka and their President, Mahinda Rajapakse, as they address together the challenges that lie ahead;

19. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the other members of the Sri Lanka Donor Co-Chairs Group (Norway, the USA and Japan), the UN Secretary-General, the governments of Switzerland, Sri Lanka and the other countries in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, and the LTTE.
European Parliament resolution on Taiwan

The European Parliament,

— having regard to its resolution of 14 March 2002 on observer status for Taiwan at the May 2002 annual meeting of the World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva (1),

— having regard to its resolution of 15 May 2003 on Taiwan (56th World Health Assembly) (2), calling for observer status for Taiwan at that Assembly,

— having regard to its resolution of 5 September 2002 on the Commission Communication on Europe and Asia: A Strategic Framework for Enhanced Partnerships (3), in which it recognised the need to cooperate closely with Asia in multilateral organisations, for example in combating HIV/AIDS in the region through the World Health Organisation (WHO), and, therefore, took the view that all democracies in Asia, including Taiwan, should be able to participate in the WHO,

— having regard to its resolution of 7 July 2005 on relations between the EU, China and Taiwan and security in the Far East (4),

— having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. having regard to the necessity of direct and unobstructed participation in international health cooperation networks, forums and programmes for all parts of the world, especially with today's greater potential for the cross-border spread of various infectious diseases (such as avian influenza and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)),

B. whereas the WHO has allowed observers to participate in its activities,

C. whereas the Commission has also already declared itself in favour of enhancing contacts between Taiwan and the WHO, insofar as WHO rules permit; whereas, furthermore, the Commission is interested in finding a 'practical solution' together with the Member States,

D. whereas the greatest risk of an influenza pandemic emanates from Asian countries, where a highly pathogenic avian influenza virus strain has been spreading for two years despite continued efforts by competent authorities to contain the disease,

E. whereas infectious diseases like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and SARS are becoming increasingly prevalent worldwide,

F. whereas the outbreak of a pandemic outside the EU would also entail a serious health threat to the citizens of the EU,

G. whereas Taiwan would be excluded from UN protection if an epidemic were to break out on the island, which means that there would be no coordinated cooperation with Taiwan, despite this being essential since Taiwan is one of the most important international hubs in the Western Pacific as well as an important staging area for millions of migratory birds,

H. whereas Taiwan's health-care system is one of the best and most advanced in the region and the Taiwanese authorities wish to let their specialists participate in the WHO's preparatory meetings of experts on the avian flu situation,

Thursday, 18 May 2006

1. Insists on the better representation of Taiwan in international organisations and takes the view that it is unfair to continue to exclude more than twenty million people from the world community;

2. Calls on the Director-General of the WHO to immediately include the Taiwan Centre for Disease Control (Taiwan CDC) as a participant in the WHO Global Outbreak and Alert Response Network (GOARN), to ensure the rapid exchange of relevant information on a regional and global basis;

3. Calls on the Director-General of the WHO and all its member States to ensure that Taiwan has direct access to and can attend all technical meetings of the WHO which are relevant to the maintenance and improvement of public health in Taiwan and the rest of the world and, in addition, to allow Taiwan to meaningfully participate in the technical activities and events of the relevant Regional Office of the WHO;

4. Calls on the People's Republic of China to consider the possibility of observer status for Taiwan within the WHO, or at least in the WHA as its most important decision-making body, in order to protect the health of the people of Taiwan, of international representatives and foreign employees on the island, and of the entire world population;

5. Reiterates its call on the Commission and the Member States to support Taiwan's application for observer status in the WHO;

6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the candidate and accession countries, the Government and Parliament of the People's Republic of China, the authorities of Taiwan, the UN Secretary-General and the Director-General of the WHO.