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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1979 - 1980

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12 DECEMBER 1979

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr VERGEER and 21 other signatories,  
on behalf of the Group of the European People's Party

with request for urgent debate  
pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure

on the ~~tragic~~ plight of refugees, particularly  
children, in the Horn of Africa

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The European Parliament,

- aware of the scale and persistent nature of the tragic plight of the refugees in the Horn of Africa,
  - having regard in particular to the food shortage which is seriously affecting young children in the refugee camps,
  - drawing attention to the ties of cooperation which link the four countries concerned with Europe through the Lomé Convention,
1. Requests the Community and the Member States to implement speedily a special aid programme for the countries in the Horn of Africa with a view to strengthening the existing programmes and ensuring more effective coordination with the other forms of aid, both bilateral and international;
  2. Calls for an international conference bringing together, under the aegis of the United Nations and the OAU, the countries in the Horn of Africa and the donor countries in order to achieve better regional cooperation capable of facilitating peaceful solutions, of assisting the integration or voluntary repatriation of refugees and of improving communications and regional storage facilities for food buffer stocks;
  3. Appeals to the Foreign Ministers of the Nine to take, within the framework of European political cooperation, all the necessary diplomatic initiatives to this end;
  4. Condemns the foreign powers who are sending excessive supplies of arms to this area at the expense of humanitarian aid and the social and economic development of the peoples concerned;
  5. Asks the Community to organize its emergency aid and its food aid more efficiently on the basis of a systematic and ongoing development plan and to strengthen the impact of its aid measures through joint financing with other states or groups of states;
  6. Points to the urgent need for the Community's direct food aid programmes to make provision for the foodstuffs to be delivered to their final destinations and distributed to those in need and to assume full responsibility for the arrangements for transporting such aid;
  7. Calls for stricter control over the quality of the foodstuffs concerned, which must be better adapted to the nutritional requirements of the peoples in question;



8. Emphasizes the Community's interest in carrying out a larger proportion of its food aid programmes in the Horn of Africa in close collaboration with the non-governmental organizations already involved in basic development projects, the latter being in a better position to adapt aid to local needs;
9. Instructs its Committee on Development and Cooperation to follow the situation in the Horn of Africa and to submit a detailed report to it within the next six months;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Foreign Ministers of the Nine and the Secretaries-General of the United Nations, the OAU and the ACP Group.

#### Justification

Half the refugees on the African continent are currently concentrated in the Horn of Africa: more than 2 million people, half of them children, have been deported there, and are threatened by hunger or serious nutritional deficiencies which result either in death or irreparable harm to their physical and intellectual development.

The European Community, which is linked to the countries in this area by a cooperation convention, must assume its full responsibilities in order to save the threatened populations and help the hardest hit countries to cope with the overwhelming influx of refugees by substantially increasing its aid to the area.

