

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1979 - 1980

12 October 1979

Document 1-393/79

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION¹

tabled by the Committee on Development
and Cooperation

on

/
hunger in the world

¹ adopted unanimously on 10 October 1979

Present: Miss Flesch, chairman; Mr Bersani, vice-chairman;
Mrs Cassanmagnago Ceretti (deputizing for Mr Michel), Mr Enright,
Mr Ferrero, Mrs Focke, Mr Jaquet, Mr Lemmer (deputizing for Mr Lucker),
Mr Lezzi, Mr Narducci, Mr Pajetta, Mr Pannella (deputizing for
Mrs Castellina), Mrs Poirier (deputizing for Mr Denis), Mrs Rabbethge,
Mr Rinsche (deputizing for Mr Lecanuet), Mr Vergeer, Sir Fred Warner,
Mr Wawrzik.

PE 59.998/fin.

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The European Parliament,

- profoundly concerned at the persistence of hunger in the world, as illustrated by numerous statistics and international surveys:
 - according to the FAO, 70% of the world population are suffering from chronic undernourishment, and 24% from starvation,
 - according to a recent World Bank report, at least 700 million, if not 1,000 million, people will be living in utter poverty in the year 2000,
 - in 1979 alone, 17 million children under the age of five and, in all, 50 million people will starve to death,
 - alarmed at the exceptional periods of severe famine which strike the poorest and most deprived countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America,
 - convinced that urgent action is necessary to meet the immediate needs of these countries and to save the lives of the hundreds of thousands of people, children in particular, who are facing sure death by starvation,
 - aware that more structural measures and more financial and technical resources are necessary to cope effectively with hunger in the world,
1. Draws the Community's attention to the seriousness of the situation and urges it to accept its responsibilities and the role it should play in this field;
 2. Urges that the Community mobilize without delay sufficient supplementary resources to save these people condemned to death by starvation; demands that the increases in appropriations earmarked for food aid proposed by the Commission be approved immediately - particularly those for cereals, which the Council reduced in its draft budget for 1980 - and awaits other proposals to improve the situation;
 3. Emphasizes that the problem of world hunger is bound up with the whole question of underdevelopment and therefore urges the Commission and the Council to work out and implement, in close cooperation with the European Parliament, an effective agricultural and food policy that takes account of the conclusions reached by the FAO Conference in July on agricultural reform;
 4. Asks that special efforts be made as a matter of urgency, as part of the coordination of Member States' development cooperation policies,

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to ensure that 0.7% of the GNP is set aside, in the form of public aid, for development aid purposes;

5. Asks the Council and the Commission to review the coordination between national and Community programmes and the policies implemented in the U.N., so that a more effective world food strategy can be devised;
6. Instructs the Committee on Development and Cooperation, acting in concert with the other parliamentary committees, to take the initiative, as a matter of absolute priority, in proposing practical measures on food aid and financial and technical aid to agriculture and development and guaranteed food supplies not only for the developing countries but also for the world as a whole, and to submit a report to the European Parliament by February 1980 at the latest;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission.