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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on statements by the Council and Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Sergio Berlato, Eoin Ryan and Ryszard Czarnecki

on behalf of the UEN Group

on rising food prices in the EU and the developing countries

B6-0225

European Parliament resolution on rising food prices in the EU and the developing countries

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 33 of the EC Treaty,
 - having regard to its legislative resolution of 25 October 2007 on rising feed and food prices,¹
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas world food prices have increased to record levels in recent years, particularly since June last year, when there was a rise of 55% in the cost of food purchases,
 - B. whereas a rise in food prices is a sensitive issue in developing countries, where a disproportionate percentage of budgets goes on food, particularly in urban areas where there is no access to food production,
 - C. whereas food insecurity has sparked riots on the streets, causing political instability in a number of countries, including Indonesia, Cameroon and Haiti, and whereas World Bank President Robert Zoellick has recently said in this connection that 33 countries are vulnerable to outbreaks of social unrest,
 - D. whereas world demand for food is rising faster than supply, owing to expanding populations and rising incomes in emerging Asian economies such as India and China, which has led to increased demand for luxury dietary items such as meat and dairy products,
 - E. whereas the area of EU land under energy crops has increased tenfold since 2004,
 - F. whereas the diversion of maize and other crops to biofuel production is having a direct effect on food prices,
 - G. whereas the price of oil, which has continued to rise, is driving food prices, since modern agriculture is energy-intensive, as is the food distribution industry,
 - H. whereas the world grain supply has been affected by drastic global weather conditions, most notably droughts and floods, which are associated with climate change,
 - I. whereas rising prices have fuelled speculation on future commodity prices, exacerbating current price increases,
1. Welcomes the decision by the European Commission to suspend cereal import duties for

¹ Texts adopted: P6_TA-PROV(2007)0480.

the current marketing year for most cereals;

2. Rejects any moves to impose export quotas and tariffs on EU agricultural production;
3. Welcomes the European Commission's short-term policy adjustment suspending set-aside obligations for 2008;
4. Calls on the European Commission, in the imminent Health Check, to suspend set-aside for 2009 and the subsequent years;
5. Calls on the Commission and Member States to promote the use and production of second-generation bioenergy, which involves processing of manure and agricultural waste materials rather than primary agricultural products;
6. Calls on the international donor community to provide more resources for targeted relief of the poor in developing countries;
7. Calls on Member States to increase investment in the agricultural sector, focusing on project-specific measures such as clean drinking water and irrigation;
8. Calls on banks to put an end to speculation in food commodities, which is having the effect of aggravating food prices;
9. Calls on the United Nations to organise a conference on the increasing cost of food and to invite all countries to attend in an effort to find a combined solution to a global problem;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.