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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled for the debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by Bartho Pronk

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on respect for core labour rights in the production of Olympics sports goods

PE 344.748

B5-0202/2004

European parliament resolution on respect for core labour rights in the production of Olympics sports goods

The European parliament,

- having regard to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 86th session on 18 June 1998
- having regard to the ILO Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy,
 - having regard to the EU Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises,
 - having regard to the Commission communication to the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee entitled 'Promoting core labour standards and improving social governance in the context of globalisation' (COM(2001) 416),
 - having regard to the Commission communication (COM(2001) 366) and to its own resolution of 30 May 2002 on the Green Paper on promoting corporate social responsibility,
- A. whereas evidence shows that the production of sportswear and athletic footwear is organised through an elaborate international system of sub-contractors and suppliers,
- B. whereas the non-respect of ILO labour rights perpetuates poverty and hampers development by driving wages down and denying education, and is a violation of human dignity,
- C. whereas many sportswear companies have pledged voluntary ethical codes of conduct, but such ethical commitment has not yet been integrated generally with all their core business practices and sourcing strategies for their global supply chains,
- D. whereas some leading sportswear companies and socially responsible investment firms have stated that the current ruthless business and labour practices in the global supply chain are unsustainable and do not allow fair competition,
1. Calls upon sportswear companies to adopt sourcing policies that call for suppliers and their sub-contractors to respect internationally recognised labour standards including all of the human rights standards identified by the ILO as being the fundamental rights at work plus the right to a living wage based on a regular working week and a safe and healthy workplace free from harassment;
 2. Calls upon the Commission, in the run up to the Olympics, to ask the key players of the world sportswear and athletic footwear industry – sportswear brands, the World Federation of Sporting Goods Industry, and the IOC – to start negotiations aiming at a sectoral solution in full respect of ILO working conditions;

3. Urges the ILO to develop a credible and independent inspection system in order to monitor the ILO labour standards in the sporting goods industry world-wide and based on the above inspection system;
4. Calls upon sportswear companies to take immediate steps to ensuring specifically that the right of workers is respected throughout their respective supply-chains;
5. Calls upon suppliers and manufacturers of sportswear and athletic footwear to adopt labour practices that provide working conditions that comply with international labour standards and national labour legislation;
6. Urges the World Federation of Sporting Goods Industry to commit to promoting publicly the necessity in the sportswear and athletic footwear industries to come forward with concrete and identifiable measures for a sectoral solution aiming at full respect of ILO labour conditions;
7. Considers that more funds should be made available to the ILO's International Programme;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the old and new Member States, the Commission, IOC, the WFSGI and the ILO.