

Ten years after Rio EP resolution adopted on 16th May 2002 (rapporteur Mihail Papayannakis)

European Parliament resolution on the communication from the Commission to the Council and European Parliament entitled 'Ten years after Rio: preparing for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002' (COM(2001) 53 – C5-0342/2001 – 2001/2142(COS)) The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission Communication (COM(2001) 53 – C5-0342/2001),
 - having regard to Article 2 of the EC Treaty,
 - having regard to the Commission Communication entitled 'A Sustainable Europe for a Better World: A European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development' (COM(2001) 264),
 - having regard to the Environment Council Conclusions of 8 March 2001 (6752/01) on the World Summit on Sustainable Development,
 - having regard to the Commission's Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions entitled 'Towards a global partnership for sustainable development' (COM(2002) 82)
 - having regard to the decisions of the Göteborg European Council on promoting a sustainable development strategy in the Union, and in particular, to revise it annually at its spring meetings,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on sustainable development and especially its resolution of 28 February 2002 on a sustainable development strategy for the Barcelona European Council,
 - having regard to the Presidency Conclusions of the Barcelona European Council of 15 and 16 March 2002, which constitute a first step towards the adoption of a general EU position vis-à-vis the Johannesburg Summit, to be agreed at the June meeting in Seville,
 - having regard to the motion for a resolution on Sustainable Development and Rio +10 of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Cape Town (South Africa) on 18- 21 March 2002, (ACP-EU 3394/02/fin.) and on communicable diseases (ACP-EU 3393/02/fin.),
 - having regard to Rule 47(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy and the opinion of the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy (A5-0151/2002),
- A. whereas the Rio+10 Summit in Johannesburg represents a vital opportunity to reinforce the notion of a global community and extend sustainable development principles that aim at reconciling continued economic stability and development with high environmental protection requirements and improved social standards and living conditions for all at world-wide level,
- B. whereas the expectations raised at the Rio Summit in 1992 have not been realised, the commitments have not been honoured, substantial obstacles will have to be overcome and

concrete policies will have to be outlined if the Johannesburg Summit is to lead to concrete action to make sustainable development a reality,

- C. whereas the world's population will increase to 7.5 billion people by 2015, i.e. a 50% increase since 1990, and whereas the number of extra people is equal to the entire world population as it was in 1950,
- D. whereas 20% of the world's population accounts for 86% of global consumption, and whereas in 1960, the world's richest 20% had an income 30 times higher than the poorest 20%, a figure which had risen to 82 times higher by 1995 (UNDP Human Development Report 2000),
- E. whereas the social and economic progress and the democratic development of a country are intimately linked, for which reason there can be no sustainable social and economic development without democratic progress,
- F. whereas the precautionary principle and preventive action are important tools for achieving sustainable development,
- G. whereas it is recognised that peoples have the right to achieve self-sufficiency in food production and to bring about social and economic development by their own means,
- H. whereas water, air, land and genetic heritage are the common property of mankind, for which reason they must be treated, protected and preserved as such and may not be regarded as merchandise,
- I. whereas several million people die each year through lack of access to drinking water and clean water supplies are likely to become one of the most pressing issues of the 21st century; whereas in 1997, one third of the world's population lived in countries experiencing a shortage of water compared with consumption needs, and whereas this could rise to two-thirds by 2025 (World Resources, 1998-1999),
- J. whereas one third of the world's population (around two billion people) does not have access to adequate energy services, and at the same time the greatest stimulus of climate change is the world's unsustainable use of energy,
- K. whereas the constraints acting on the environment and on the stock of natural resources have continued to increase since the Rio Summit; whereas the exploitation of many resources exceeds the ability of those resources to replenish themselves; whereas in 1996, 25% of the world's 4630 mammal species, 11% of the 9675 bird species and 15% of all flowering plant species were at significant risk of total extinction (IUCN, 1996); whereas 70% of the fish stocks on the planet offer no possibility of increased catches, and whereas commercial overhunting (especially in Africa) threatens many wild species such as the Great Apes with extinction,
- L. whereas since the Rio Conference, new developments are showing that there is an urgent need to agree on the design of a 'global deal' recognising the complementary roles and responsibilities of governments, the business sector and civil society, which would be a new breakthrough for people, planet and prosperity,
- M. whereas in the 'global deal' proposal, endorsed by the Göteborg European Council, it was suggested that OECD countries should show leadership by setting objectives to:

- meet the commitment to provide 0.7% of GDP as official development assistance,
- decouple environmental degradation from economic growth,
- incorporate sustainable development and environmental concerns into international trade negotiations,
- live up to commitments in the various international environmental agreements,

N. whereas, however, this proposal relies on an intergovernmental process only and does not adequately address the issue of how such a 'global deal' would solve the crisis of implementation which remains a major obstacle to the realisation of the Agenda 21 goals,

O. whereas, as regards the European Union, the results of the Barcelona European Council should have been more ambitious with regard to sustainable development, so as to establish the EU as a leader in sustainable world development cooperation,

P. whereas over the last ten years, sustainable development in Africa has remained elusive and most countries in the Africa region continue to be marginalised, and whereas eradicating poverty and hunger and promoting sustainable livelihoods are central to the achievement of sustainable development,

Q. whereas human activities are having an increasing impact on the integrity of complex natural ecosystems that provide essential support for human beings and economic activities; whereas managing this natural resource base is essential for protecting the land, water and living resources on which human life and development depend; whereas, furthermore, the harmful effects which human activities have on the historical and cultural heritage of developing countries must be minimised in order to prevent any damage to that heritage, and whereas there should be cooperation with those countries in order to enable that heritage to be enjoyed on a sustainable basis through the promotion of activities such as cultural tourism which generate wealth and employment,

R. whereas there is a wide 'global governance gap' and whereas good governance at national and international level, as well as transparency in financial, monetary and trading systems are essential for sustainable development,

S. having regard to the need for a change in production and consumption patterns which will help to bring about more equitable worldwide social and economic development, in line with the principles of sustainable development,

T. whereas, under any development strategy, particular attention must be paid to the inequalities experienced by women and children, and whereas the removal of such inequalities is also a way of contributing to a more sustainable world,

1. Welcomes the decision of the UN General Assembly in Resolution A/55/199 convening the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Summit) in 2002 in Johannesburg, which represents a unique opportunity for world leaders to set the sustainability agenda for the next 10 years with a programme of work which would build on the agreements reached at the Earth Summit in Rio; regrets, therefore, that certain countries appear reluctant to commit themselves to an ambitious agenda, thus permitting only slow progress so far; also regrets that only a small number of EU Heads of State have as yet committed themselves to attending the

Johannesburg Summit; considers that without such high-level attendance the success of the Summit will be in jeopardy;

2. Expresses its dismay that the third preparatory committee meeting in New York failed to reach a consensus on producing viable proposals on the scope of the future work of the Commission on Sustainable Development or on strengthening the institutional framework, failed to produce any working text to go forward to the fourth ministerial preparatory committee and that proposals for extraneous partnership agreements are being promoted as replacements for, rather than as complements to, governmental commitments. Calls on the Commission and the Council to press the Johannesburg Summit Secretariat to ensure that the fourth ministerial preparatory committee is better managed and structured so that the governments meeting in Johannesburg can deliver clear and positive global commitments;

3. In this context calls on the Commission and Council to work to ensure that such partnership agreements or initiatives (“Type II outcomes”) are subject to formal criteria, meet specific global or regional objectives, contain clearly verifiable and targeted outcomes and beneficiaries, and are environmentally and socially sustainable as well as being economically sound;

Sustainable management and conservation of natural resources 4. Considers that the Johannesburg Summit should develop specific initiatives, building on work undertaken since Rio, in areas such as: fresh water, oceans and seas (including coral reefs), coastal zones, mountains, land use, forests, desertification, biodiversity, waste, chemicals, air pollution, biosafety, energy, minerals and metals; calls on the Commission and Council to ensure that where Community initiatives have already been established or funds allocated for specific areas, these are prioritised in EU preparations for Johannesburg;

5. Specifically supports the development of a global action plan on access to safe freshwater, based on principles of integrated river basin management; considers, in more general terms, that sustainable management should be a feature of policies on water from all sources and for all uses and therefore has to play an important role in WSSD; considers, moreover, that a policy which embraces all these factors should be embodied in an international water management charter to ensure access to sufficient and clean water as a fundamental human right; in this context, welcomes the EU global water initiative, focussing on capacity-building and development of regional co-operation in African water policies, and asks the Commission and the Member States to provide sufficient funding to guarantee its success;

6. Recognises the critical role played by various economic sectors, the need to ensure that those sectors take full account of the limits of natural resources, and the need to share resources equitably; recognises the need for mechanisms to evaluate the external impact of the EU's policies and urges that these should be included within the list of structural indicators being developed for the evaluation of sustainable development as part of the Spring Summit and Lisbon process review;

7. To this end, calls on the EU to set out its commitments for reform of agriculture and fisheries policies ahead of Johannesburg, including a new partnership on third-country fisheries access agreements that takes full account of the social and environmental interests in the region and respects the right of developing countries to exploit and benefit fully from their own natural resources; considers that a sustainable policy for tourism should be drawn up in the same spirit; calls on the Johannesburg Summit to promote agriculture which is both sustainable and humane;

8. Supports effective solutions for the sustainable development, management, use and conservation of natural resources, inter alia through programmes of action, voluntary processes and mechanisms, legal instruments and cooperation with industry, which are designed to take into account the views and interests of relevant stakeholders; seeks to find effective solutions to serious global and regional environmental problems through international and regional legal instruments, including multilateral environmental agreements, taking care to ensure that local and indigenous populations are involved in such measures; as part of these solutions, supports immediate work on a global charging system for the aviation and maritime sectors, as a means of internalising the "external" costs of international transport;

9. Calls on the EU to encourage the strengthening of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity in order to pave the way for a commitment to providing adequate, predictable long-term funding for its implementation, particularly in developing countries; encourages, on an urgent basis, the ratification and implementation by all states of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with the object of ensuring an adequate level of protection in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs); supports the idea that world leaders should agree at the Johannesburg Summit to bring the worldwide loss of biodiversity to a halt by 2015, in the context of the work carried out by the Convention on Biodiversity;

10. Urges the Commission to promote new rules in the WTO to allow discrimination based on process and production methods, if the environmental damage caused by production is transboundary, and the measures are not arbitrary and are proportionate to the environmental damage caused;

11. Considers, in view of the growing pressure on natural resources and the environment, that there is a need for responsible concentration on the development of infrastructure and the expansion of establishments to take account of environmental requirements; calls on the Commission to assist the organisation of working partnerships with industry to raise awareness of and encourage a culture of environmental responsibility and the application of good practice;

12. Recognises that mountain ecosystems include watershed resources and biological diversity and that many are particularly fragile and vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change; encourages, therefore, the Johannesburg Summit to make concrete commitments to protect mountain ecosystems;

13. Encourages international joint observation and research and the dissemination of scientific knowledge for effective disaster and risk reduction; stresses the need for natural-risk factors to be incorporated into regional and urban planning;

14. Believes that the precautionary principle should be incorporated into all international agreements;

15. Urges countries to meet their national commitments fully, such as limitation and reduction targets for greenhouse-gas emissions in all their sectors, and to ratify the Kyoto Protocol so as to ensure that it comes into force before the Johannesburg Summit; calls, furthermore, on countries to take prompt action to combat other sources responsible for atmospheric pollution;

16. Considers that further measures for substantial increases in energy and resource efficiency are indispensable; calls on the EU to take the lead by setting a target of 25% of all energy supplies to be from renewable sources by 2020;

17. Urges the Johannesburg Summit to make a commitment to accelerating the development of renewable energy globally, thereby bringing down the cost of such new energy technology, so that it can play a primary role in poverty eradication and in reducing emissions and combating climate change, inter alia, by adopting implementing measures within the G8 Renewable Energy Task Force;

18. Calls on the international community at the Johannesburg Summit to make available, within ten years, the finance and infrastructure necessary to bring basic sustainable energy services to two billion people who have no access to the grid and to agree on an international energy-efficient standard initiative, through the introduction of sustainable systems, which gives priority to renewables and efficient energy-use;

19. Asks the Commission to undertake further research into greater resource use efficiency, and to explore new and innovative ways of promoting technology cooperation and transfer to developing countries in order to bridge the digital divide and to facilitate 'technology leapfrogging' in areas including energy, transport, and waste management, incorporating the aspect of sustainable water and forestry management and combating desertification; also asks the Commission to consider a programme specifically targeted at eradicating rural poverty at the same time as promoting renewable energy in developing countries, by funding technology for converting biomass either directly into electricity or into methanol and/or hydrogen for use in fuel cells;

20. In addition to ratification of the Kyoto Protocol and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, calls on all parties which have not yet done so to ratify the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for food and agriculture, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the UN Fish Stocks Agreement including various FAO Plans of Action, and the Basel Convention and the Offshore Protocol on Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes;

Changing Production and Consumption Patterns

21. Recognises that sustainable management, use and conservation of natural resources are needed in order to reverse current trends in unsustainable consumption and production at national and global levels; notes also that the lack of progress in understanding what constitutes non-sustainable production models may be attributed in large measure to a failure to take account of the environmental cost of economic activities; recognises at the same time that, in order to address poverty in developing countries, there will be a need to increase consumption. Stresses, therefore, that significant improvements in resource efficiency will be critical to achieving sustainable development. Stresses also how important it is that sectors and various industrial operations pay the true cost to society, pricing products so that the real social and environmental costs are reflected provides an incentive for the consumer and producer when they are deciding which goods and services are to be produced or purchased;

22. Recognises the need to adjust lifestyles in order to bring about a significant reduction in the use of resources and generation of waste by developed countries. This requires absolute decoupling of economic growth from resource efficiency and use; calls on the Johannesburg Summit to agree absolute decoupling in the developed countries with a view to significantly reducing overall resource use by 2010;

23. Calls for the current criteria used to calculate economic growth to be supplemented by new human-development criteria such as standards of education and health care, life expectancy, the distribution of created wealth and changes in the state of the environment;

24. Hopes, in this regard, that efforts will be made to change consumption patterns in the north using a variety of instruments, including process and product standards, taxation on energy and other resource use, removal of environmentally harmful subsidies, targets for the market share of products certified as sustainable, increased awareness of the impacts (both local and global) of consumption choices (eco-labels etc.), and to combine such instruments into integrated product policies addressing all phases of the product life-cycle, including design, production, consumption and disposal;

25. Encourages the Commission in this regard to present a plan to phase out subsidies paid in respect of non-sustainable energy production and to present an action programme to identify and remove obstacles to the promotion of clean and resource-efficient technologies;

26. Calls on the Commission to make a thorough revision of the incentives structure in the economy – including fiscal instruments, subsidies, norms and standards etc. – with the objective of promoting environmentally sustainable systems of production and consumption;

27. Acknowledges the importance of technological innovation as a means of decoupling economic growth and the intensive use of natural resources; calls, therefore, for extra financial and human resources to be allocated in all areas of innovation, particularly those which contribute to the efficient use of natural resources; also calls for the best available techniques to be more widely transferred to the developing countries at the lowest possible cost;

28. Calls for a legal framework of corporate social responsibility for EU private corporations to be established by 2004, requiring private investors to comply with core labour and environmental standards defined in national legislation and international law;

Poverty eradication

29. Emphasises that the Johannesburg Summit should promote a better understanding of links between the environment, poverty, trade and protection of human health so as to ensure better integration between environmental protection and policies for poverty eradication and economic development; seeks, therefore, in the process leading up to the Johannesburg Summit, enhanced cooperation and solidarity with developing countries based on partnership and mutual responsibility for combating poverty and promoting sustainable development, taking into account in particular the process launched at the 1995 World Summit for Social development;

30. Invites the Johannesburg Summit to initiate a global plan of action with clear, time-bound commitments, resources and monitoring mechanisms so as to attain the International Development Targets and the Millennium Development Goals¹, in particular the target of halving extreme poverty in the world by 2015; in this connection, notes with interest the outcome of the Monterrey Conference but considers that it still falls short of the effort needed to achieve the modest targets set by the Conference itself;

¹ In 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted the Millennium Declaration, which embodies eight Millennium Development Goals: (a) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, (b) Achieve universal primary education, (c) Promote gender equality and empower women, (d) Reduce child mortality, (e) Improve maternal health, (f) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, (g) Ensure environmental sustainability, and (h) Develop a Global Partnership for Development.

31. Welcomes the Doha Development Agenda to integrate, inter alia, developing countries more effectively into the trading system, to remove trade distortions and to give the least developed countries duty-free and quota-free market access, and supports the launch of a new round of trade negotiations at the next session of the WTO, with sustainable development as an overarching objective;

32. Calls on all G7 countries and all Member States to swiftly achieve the agreed goal of 0.7% of GNP being spent on development assistance and advocates cancellation of the debt owed by the most heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and the rapid implementation of the debt relief initiative for very poor countries, which enhances the poor countries' capacity to reduce poverty by their own means. The HIPC initiative should also be extended to less poor but similarly indebted countries, and an international monitoring process should be developed to make certain that new debt remains at sustainable levels; calls on the Johannesburg Summit to agree to a firm plan of action for achieving these goals;

33. Recognises the need to secure access for the rural poor to natural resources and to enhance their capacity to manage those resources sustainably, and also to acknowledge the right of those people to exploit such resources primarily for their own subsistence and endogenous development;

34. Emphasises the need to enable the rural poor to gain more control over the resources in and around their communities, and to provide technical and economic support to assist the use of natural resources in a sustainable manner;

35. Emphasises the fact that prevailing models of economic development have failed to reduce poverty in the least-developed countries; believes that the Johannesburg Summit should launch a debate, around the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions, to promote a new model of economic development based on securing sustainable livelihoods, including investment in public health and consumer protection, education and trade in high-value and service-based economic sectors;

36. Recognises that good health is a prerequisite to economic wellbeing for individuals and communities, which in turn provides the ability to protect the environment; welcomes the commitment made by the Commission in Cape Town at the EU-ACP Joint Assembly to mainstream the health needs of children, the elderly and people living with disabilities;

calls for sustained action to prevent ill health and disability and to tackle the massive, and often linked, challenges of HIV/AIDS, TB, mental illness, malaria, meningitis, river blindness, epilepsy and other diseases and disorders;

37. Stresses the need for public services to be maintained and developed in essential sectors such as water, health, social security, education, communication services, transport, housing and energy;

Role of local and regional authorities

38. Regrets that neither of the abovementioned Commission communications make much mention of the contribution of local and regional authorities to sustainable development, despite Agenda 21's definition of local government as a 'major group', one of the nine key partners involved in ensuring sustainable development;

39. Calls for the development and the implementation of 'Local Agenda 21' strategies on sustainable development, in order to promote innovative local solutions supporting partnerships of local people, community and voluntary organisations, indigenous people, local authorities and communities, together with business and trade unions;

40. Believes that citizens and civil society as a whole must be given the chance to evaluate its European policies; also believes that it is equally essential for the Parliament as a European political power to be able to see that measures it adopts produce the desired results; considers, therefore, that a number of indicators are necessary for the three dimensions of sustainable development, that are themselves broken down sector by sector and at national level;

41. Considers that, if the aim is to redress the regional imbalances that globalisation can cause, there is a need to support local and regional development models, with production systems capable of long-term continuity based on the complementary nature of economies, and to seek formulas that permit the use of human resources and serve to stimulate local potential in a specific region;

42. Considers that to secure sustainable world development there is a need to encourage the growth of local small businesses, creating productive centres capable of promoting the local economy and consolidating social progress in depressed regions;

Strengthening governance for sustainable development at the national, regional and international levels

43. Believes that good governance, including respect for human rights (in particular, those of women and children), the rule of law, democracy, transparency and combating corruption, form part of the necessary foundation for sustainable development in all countries; is of the view that the Johannesburg Summit should initiate new efforts to improve partnerships with civil society, business and industry and other groups in seeking sustainable solutions to development challenges; considers that to show their commitment to good governance, international decision-making bodies should lead by example and adopt inclusive, transparent and accountable decision-making processes, notably within the G7/8 countries, and the WTO and its dispute settlement system: this should be based on financial support and capacity-building at home, as supported by the Doha Agreement; also calls for the prompt ratification and general implementation of the Aarhus Treaty to improve access to information, public participation and access to justice;

44. Acknowledges that both governance on sustainable development and international governance may require implementation and coordination efforts at regional level and will need a more coherent regional institutional framework; urges, therefore, the Johannesburg Summit to consider the creation of a World Environment Organisation under the auspices of the UN; urges international organisations, notably the UN bodies and organisations, working on environmental and sustainable development issues at regional or national levels, to extend their consultations with non-governmental organisations and other major groups; calls upon the Johannesburg Summit to discuss ways and means of promoting compliance with, and enforcement of, multilateral environmental agreements; believes that, at the same time, the Johannesburg Summit should clarify that the responsibility for workers' rights and environmental protection remains with governments and the respective international fora (ILO, UNEP, etc.), and that the roles of those fora should be strengthened;

45. Confirms at the same time, however, that underdevelopment is also attributable to corruption, wars and poor governance; points out that cooperation with industrialised countries should therefore be tied to standards of democracy and the rule of law;

46. Proposes that sustainability, gender impact assessments and the precautionary principle become an integral part of the mandate and conclusion of all international trade agreements between the EU and third countries; calls on the Commission to strengthen environment and social governance in EU bilateral and regional Association Agreements, and to identify and include environmental provisions and safeguards in the Economic, Trade and Investment Chapters of the Agreements, in line with Article 6 of the EC Treaty;

Making Globalisation Work for Sustainable Development

47. Considers that sustainable development should ensure that globalisation contributes to ensuring long-term welfare for all countries, by achieving increased international equity and by respecting the carrying capacity of the world's resources and ecosystems; political decisions should therefore be based on a holistic analysis that reflects the effects of such decisions on all three dimensions of sustainable development;

48. Considers that, in order to compensate for the effects of globalisation, social and economic development policies should be promoted in specific places and increased aid should be made available to allow sustainable exploitation of resources, access to services and the promotion of local wealth, so as to reduce the need for emigration and to stimulate local economies, in accordance with the principles of regional equity;

49. Considers that trade rules and their implementation should support rather than contradict the effective implementation of environmental, social, health and consumer protection objectives; believes, furthermore, that trade should actively promote ecologically sustainable production of and trade in goods and services by providing positive incentives, technical assistance and capacity building in developing countries; also considers that trade instruments should be used to address conflict and poverty issues as well as environmental and public health issues;

50. As part of the forthcoming intergovernmental conference, asks the Council and Commission to secure increased transparency of trade policy making within the EU, in particular in relation to the Article 133 Committee of the Council; believes that the priorities are the development of a more effective system of consultations with other Council formations, opening up consultation with stakeholders, and strengthening the role of the European Parliament in EU trade policy;

51. Emphasises the fact that investment in sound environmental technology produces synergy effects as it simultaneously improves health and human wellbeing, reduces healthcare costs, curtails absence from work due to illness and creates new jobs;

52. Recognises the growing role played by Foreign Direct Investment and considers that this should support corporate social responsibility, while social, development and environmental criteria in lending and financing decisions by Export Credit Agencies and investment banks should be strengthened; calls on the Johannesburg Summit to strengthen the existing guidelines for multinational enterprises, leading to the adoption of a legally binding instrument; believes that investment provisions should also be introduced in international environmental agreements relating to natural resource use;

53. Welcomes in principle the EU's commitment to replenishing the Global Environment Facility (GEF) by at least 50% this year but insists that the integration of additional tasks such as the Persistent Organic Pollutant (POP) Convention, land degradation, deforestation and possibly desertification can only be accepted on condition that substantial supplementary resources are made available; demands in addition that the scope of application of the GEF should reflect an adequate balance between the needs of developing and developed countries in order to avoid the bias towards issues motivated by the industrialised countries;

Means of Implementation

54. Urges all countries to intensify their efforts to implement the commitments already agreed at the United Nations Conference on Environmental and Development (UNCED) and recommends the ratification and effective implementation of conventions and protocols adopted since UNCED and designed to bring about sustainable development, the endorsement and adoption of environment and development targets to revitalise the political commitment and more effective action and follow-up at national, regional and international level; considers that international assistance flows, including debt relief and official development assistance (which must be increased), should supplement domestic and private efforts towards sustainable development. To this end, developed countries should reconfirm their commitment to and specify an action plan designed to attain the target of 0.7% of GDP as overseas development aid;

55. Calls on the EU to propose to the Johannesburg Summit that the concept of 'social traceability' should be introduced at international level as a reflection of an integrated production system which takes due account of social considerations throughout the production and marketing process;

56. Urges the Commission to seek out alternative sources for development financing, and expects the EU to present the conclusions of its analysis at the latest in time for the Johannesburg Summit;

57. International investments must be made conditional on the existence of national policies which take account of the social and environmental costs of development and the need to ensure an equitable distribution of benefits;

58. Urges the development partners to continue to make available financial and technical assistance for the promotion of sustainable development in developing countries and countries in transition;

59. Asks the development partners to provide developing countries with access to publicly owned, environmentally sound technologies and to promote capacity building for the purpose of absorbing and adapting knowledge and techniques; in this connection, stresses the need for international bodies active in the field of development cooperation to step up their efforts with regard to education and information campaigns aimed at the peoples with whom they work so as to ensure that, in particular: - the abovementioned sustainable technologies are transferred for the purpose of ensuring better and cleaner agricultural production, - the best technologies which will enable better use to be made of water resources and water to be brought up to drinking standard are transferred, - as regards health, any information on health protection is passed on which will enable the impact of diseases such as AIDS to be reduced and help in the drawing up of family-planning policies designed to alleviate the demographic problems experienced by certain countries;

60. Considers that the exchange of technology in the environment sector makes a particularly important contribution to progress in global environmental work and to economic and social development in developing countries; calls on the EU to commit itself to setting up a European Centre to promote the transfer of environmentally sustainable technology, to support the development and the spreading of renewable energy technologies as well as energy effective technologies to developing countries, with the main aim of supporting the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification, the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, etc.;

61. Supports the Commission's efforts to make progress in the areas of technology transfer and resource creation, facilitating greater market access and increasing participation by less developed countries (LDCs), universities and research centres;

62. Calls on the Commission to take steps to restart the dialogue within OECD in order for environmental guidelines for export credit agencies to be established; recalls in this context the statement of the G8 Environment Ministers at Trieste 'to quickly develop and implement common binding environmental guidelines for export credit agencies [...] based on the practices of other internationally recognised, publicly supported multilateral finance agencies such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank. Export credit agencies should also adopt common measures to increase the transparency of their decision-making process, including public access to environmental information, public consultation and consideration of relevant elements of the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams';

63. Considers that sustainability impact assessments (SIA) must be undertaken for all major policy initiatives and notes that these require an analysis of the impact on sustainable development of all international trade negotiations; wishes to see such SIA become a mandatory precondition for all EU trade agreements and programmes;

64. Calls for the establishment by the Johannesburg Summit of development targets specifically aimed at poverty eradication and for these to be subject to an overall evaluation within 10 years, preceded by a mid-term review; believes that while, at the Rio Summit in 1992, the starting point was to identify strategies and make commitments, it will from now on be important to measure progress, using universal indicators for sustainable development;

65. Calls for the initiation of a set of headline indicators for sustainable development at the Johannesburg Summit which takes into account social, economic and environmental issues;

66. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.