

1. Situation in Bosnia

B4-1188, 1189, 1190, 1192, 1193 and 1196/95

Resolution on the situation in former Yugoslavia

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, especially its resolution of 13 July 1995 on Srebrenica¹,
- A. whereas the London conference of 22 July 1995 created a new political and military framework aimed at protecting more effectively the safe areas established by the United Nations in Bosnia-Herzegovina,
- B. whereas forces under the command of NATO, in agreement with the UN, and the Rapid Reaction Force have since taken action with the aim of enforcing the UN Security Council's resolutions, particularly as regards the withdrawal of the Bosnian Serbs' heavy weapons from a 20 km area around Sarajevo,
- C. whereas some of these weapons have now been withdrawn or placed under UN control and access to the city of Sarajevo by road appears to be more or less ensured for the moment; whereas, in these circumstances, military action has been suspended pending the complete withdrawal of the weapons concerned,
- D. having regard to the leading role played by the USA in taking diplomatic initiatives following the Council's failure to take effective action,
- E. greatly concerned by the helpless situation of thousands of refugees, who are the innocent victims of this war, expelled by armed Croats, Bosnians and Serbs, and having regard to the alarming reports about lootings of Croatian-Serbian properties and attacks on the Croatian-Serbian civilian population in Krajina by Croatian forces,
- F. whereas the European Union cannot remain neutral in this conflict and should defend the principles and values on which its very structure is based by means of a political solution aimed at the restoration of a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural society on the whole of the territory of the former Yugoslavia,
- G. having regard to the agreement reached at Geneva on 8 September 1995 between the Foreign Ministers of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Yugoslavia,
- H. having regard to the initial agreement between Greece and FYROM reached in New York on 13 September 1995,
- I. having regard to the initiative taken by the Council for a reconstruction plan in the former Yugoslavia,

¹ Minutes of that Sitting, Part II, item 12.

1. Supports the action that had to be taken to enforce UN Security Council resolutions concerning the Sarajevo exclusion zone and the protection of the UN safe areas, and therefore calls for the withdrawal of all heavy weapons from the exclusion zone around Sarajevo and for the permanent opening up of the air and land routes to the city; is aware of the regrettable need to continue the pressure of NATO forces until there is full compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions;

2. Insists on the need for the earliest possible mutual and explicit recognition of the internationally recognized frontiers of Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia, as part of the peace process;
3. Calls on the Governments of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia to refrain from any actions that may cause a further increase in the number of refugees from and displaced persons on the territory of the former Yugoslavia; calls on them in particular to guarantee the protection of the inhabitants of the town of Banja Luka and to prevent a new exodus of Bosnian Serbs from that region;
4. Notes with interest that negotiations among all the parties concerned have led to a preliminary agreement that may bring peace to Bosnia-Herzegovina, and calls on the European Union to follow closely developments in this regard;
5. Is convinced that the work of the International Tribunal on War Crimes in the former Yugoslavia should be adequately supported;
6. Insists that all the EU Member States, the Russian Federation and the other members of the UN Security Council be fully involved in the implementation of the peace proposals and contribute to the reconstruction of the whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina;
7. Insists furthermore that special attention be given to the restoration of a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural society in Bosnia-Herzegovina and to the establishment of a system of democratic government and respect for human rights; therefore insists that all refugees be given the right and the possibility to return to their places of origin;
8. Urges the Croatian and Serb Governments to refrain from the use of force to settle the question of the control of Eastern Slavonia;
9. Insists that the Croatian Government must allow all Serbs driven from places in Croatia where Serbs have lived for generations to return safely to their homes if they wish to do so, and believes that the implementation of the PHARE programme in Croatia should be made conditional on this;
10. Insists that the Belgrade government should not send Serbian refugees to Kosovo and Vojvodina in an attempt to reshape the ethnic composition of these two provinces;
11. Supports the Council proposal of a reconstruction plan for the former Yugoslavia, but asks that it be directed only to those governments which respect the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and cooperate with its measures, and insists that the encouragement of the repatriation of refugees, concrete measures of confidence-building, inter-ethnic dialogue and multi-cultural coexistence be integral parts of this plan;
12. Welcomes the fact that, through the mediation of the United States, an initial agreement has finally been signed by FYROM and Greece, which is a sign of the willingness to contribute to the stability of the region, and hopes that all the remaining problems may be resolved in the present climate of collaboration and in good faith;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and NATO, the Governments of the United States and the Russian Federation and the Governments of all the countries of the former Yugoslavia.

2. World conference on women

B4-1194/95

Resolution on the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing: Equality, Development and Peace

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (10 December 1948),
 - having regard to the United Nations Convention on the Political Rights of Women (31 March 1953),
 - having regard to the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) of 18 December 1979,
 - having regard to its resolution of 11 June 1986 on the results of the UN Conference concluding the Decade for Women (1975-1985) held in Nairobi (15-26 July 1985)¹,
 - having regard to the Commission working document on European Union participation in the Fourth World Conference on Women: "Action for Equality, Development and Peace" (COM(95)0221),
 - having regard to its resolution of 15 June 1995 on the fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing: Equality, Development and Peace²,
 - having regard to the Final Declaration and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (15 September 1995),
- A. whereas women's and children's rights are an integral, inalienable and indivisible part of universal human rights,
- B. whereas the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty, which is a persistent and increasing burden on women,
- C. whereas economic independence for women is essential in order to attain true equality,
- D. whereas it is essential actively to pursue and coordinate the mainstreaming of policies for equality and equal opportunities and to have a gender perspective in all legislation policies, programmes and structures,
- E. mindful of the need for specific measures to ensure women's equal access to full participation in power structures and decision-making,

¹ OJ C 176, 14.7.1986, p. 64.

² Minutes of that Sitting, Part II, Item 8.

1. Expresses its satisfaction with the text adopted in the Platform for Action, in particular those sections dealing with human rights, sexual rights, trafficking in women, violence against women, new and additional resources, inheritance rights and parental rights and responsibilities;

2. Welcomes the reference in the Platform for Action to freedom of decision and responsibility on matters related to sexuality, full respect for the integrity of the individual and equality in the relationship between women and men in matters of sexual relations and reproduction; the recognition of the right of young girls to privacy and confidentiality, as well as the responsibility of parents to provide support and guidance;
3. Welcomes the recognition as war crimes of rape and forced pregnancy in times of war;
4. Welcomes the condemnation of worldwide trafficking in women and the appeal for international cooperation and for punishment of the perpetrators;
5. Supports the appeal to ratify CEDAW and to abolish the reservations that undermine this Convention;
6. Strongly supports the commitment expressed in the Platform to the notion of equality between women and men;
7. Welcomes the compromise whereby women are to be involved in the planning and implementation of all development projects and programmes;
8. Emphasizes the importance of the parliamentary day at the World Conference on Women, at which 500 elected parliamentarians, men and women, confirmed the democratic legitimation of the deliberations;
9. Welcomes the international acceptance of positive action as a structural measure to provide women with equal access to employment and economic decision-making;
10. Welcomes the recognition of affirmative action, inter alia in the form of quotas, as a measure to achieve equal participation by women and men in decision-making;
11. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to implement the decisions taken on the Platform for Action and assume the role of catalyst with regard to efforts to achieve equality for women in political and economic life, the family in all its forms and society in general;
12. Welcomes the fact that the European Union spoke with one voice on behalf of the Member States;
13. Regrets however that the EU accepted a UN final declaration with no reference to sexual rights;
14. Regrets the withdrawal from the Platform of Action of protection against discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and expresses support for the strong position that the EU has taken in the negotiations on women's sexual autonomy;
15. Urges the Commission to ensure that, in future conferences of this nature, there is greater cooperation with the countries of central and eastern Europe and with the Mediterranean countries;
16. Welcomes the fact that the fundamentalist Islamic countries failed in their efforts to perpetuate exclusively traditional roles, and supports the Islamic Women's Parliament, which held its first sitting in Beijing, adopted an egalitarian family programme and explicitly endorsed the principle of equality;

17. Underlines the need to increase the importance of the role of elected representatives, and in particular European Members of Parliament, and that of NGOs in similar conferences, and calls on the Commission to continue to support the efforts of NGOs which deal with the promotion of equality;
18. Calls on the Commission to urge the United Nations to reinforce existing criteria which must be fulfilled before taking any decisions on a site for any future conferences and to place emphasis on compliance with the criteria by the host government, those criteria to include guaranteed acceptable conditions for NGOs and people with disabilities;
19. Records its protest at the way the Chinese authorities handled visa authorizations, including delay or refusal of visas for (unwelcome) groups such as Tibetan exiles and other applicants, and calls on the Commission and the Member States to convey their disapproval of this visa policy in their future contacts with China;
20. Instructs its committee responsible to follow closely the implementation of those policies contained in the Platform for Action;
21. Regrets the lack of timetables in the Platform for Action for implementation of the measures proposed;
22. Calls on the Commission and Council of the European Union to state their intentions in this respect and to allocate the necessary resources to implement these demands, in particular in the fourth action programme;
23. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, Commission, the governments of the Member States and the UN Secretary-General.

3. Automobile industry

A4-0188/95

Resolution on the communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on "The Automobile Industry - Current Situation, Challenges, Strategy for the Future and Proposals for Action"

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the European Union Automobile Industry (COM(94)0049 - C3-0158/94),
 - having regard to the Commission's previous communication on the car industry,
 - having regard to its resolution of 17 November 1993 on the automobile industry¹,
 - having regard to submissions from parties concerned,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy and the opinions of the Committee on Research, Technological Development and Energy, the Committee on External Economic Relations, the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment, the Committee on Regional Policy, the Committee on Transport and Tourism and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (A4-0188/95),
- A. whereas a dynamic and successful automobile industry is vital to the prosperity of Europe - accounting for nearly 2% of total GDP in the EU and 1.8 million jobs,
- B. whereas the demands on the automobile industry as regards technology, environmental compatibility, production processes, international competition and customer demand for safer, cleaner, more reliable and qualitatively better cars have changed fundamentally,
- C. whereas the strong recovery in sales of almost 6% in 1994 has been followed by a marked slowdown to just 0.2% in the first four months of this year,
- D. whereas the fall in sales on the automobile market has had an extremely adverse impact on employment, according to a Commission study which has shown a loss of 400 000 jobs in the supply industries alone,
- E. whereas the automobile industry in Europe faces the task of developing the car of the future and competing with similar efforts of the major manufacturers of Japan and the USA,
- F. whereas the automobile and related components industries, in partnership with the Commission and Member States, must continue to improve levels of investment in research, environmental compatibility and technological development, and in education and training to enhance productivity and competitiveness,

¹ OJ C 329, 6.12.1993, p. 213.

- G. supporting the objective of developing environmentally friendly, lean produced, intelligent, quality and safe cars for the year 2000 and beyond,

- H. concerned at the weakness of the Commission's strategy for the automobile sector which remains constrained by its multi-sectoral approach and the limitations on its support for near-market investment in research and technological development,
 - I. believing that there should be a specific strategy for the European automobile industry to ensure that it remains a competitive and world class industry producing the car of the future,
 - J. believing that such a strategy must be informed by the wider needs of transport and mobility in Europe; welcoming Commissioner Kinnock's recently established task force on 'Intermodality in Transport' which can play a valuable role in developing an integrated transport policy for the European Union,
 - K. relieved that the recent agreement reached between the USA and Japan has prevented an all-out trade war between those two countries and that the multilateral system and the rules of the World Trade Organization have not been subverted,
 - L. concerned that the agreement reached on 29 June 1995 between the USA and Japan will adversely affect European vehicle manufacturers and suppliers,
 - M. welcoming the Commission's recent announcement of a seven-year extension of the block exemption for car distribution arrangements;
 - N. welcoming the forthcoming Commission/European Parliament 2nd Forum of the European Motor Vehicle Industry to be held in Stuttgart (5-6 October 1995) which provides an important opportunity to consider the Commission's communication and this resolution,
1. Calls on the Commission to develop a specific strategy for the European automobile industry comparable in scale to the similar efforts already underway in Japan and the USA, in particular, by:
- (a) broadening the scope and the work programme of the recently formed Commission Joint Task Force on the Car of Tomorrow,
 - (b) reappraising the Commission's policies and levels of funding for automotive R&TD, in particular to ensure higher levels of safety, notably the safety of pedestrians, and a diminution of pollution of individual mobility,
 - (c) establishing a High-Level Panel made up of senior representatives of the industry, social partners, motoring organisations/user groups, the Parliament and the Commission to meet three times a year to review the impact of the range of EU policies as they affect the automobile industry, including also the review of the implementation and efficiency of the new block exemption on car distribution and servicing agreements,
 - (d) coordinating European R&TD programmes relating to automobiles with national research efforts; research and development concerning motor vehicles under the Community's R&D programmes by the 'mixed group' of representatives of the industry and the Commission's services proposed in the Commission communication entitled 'Research and technological development - Achieving coordination through cooperation' should be launched and its transparency ensured; appropriate involvement of the European Parliament is essential in this context,

- (e) building on the successful groundwork that has been done in telematics research; it should be geared to mobility rather than merely to the car, and further development to complete traffic management systems should be the aim; incentives should be provided for the rapid implementation of the results; account should be taken of data protection requirements in this context,
 - (f) taking greater account of the socio-economic aspects of the car of the future, e.g. its effects on infrastructure, the environment, employment, the role of small and medium-sized enterprises, urban development and external costs,
 - (g) supporting efforts to improve working conditions and guarantee the wage levels expected in this sector;
2. Emphasizes the importance of boosting demand to stimulate growth in the European automobile industry and calls on the Commission to submit proposals to achieve this objective;
 3. Stresses the importance of having an increasingly well-trained and skill-intensive labour force, which will enable new jobs to be created, based on creativity, innovation and quality, as well as generating its own momentum as part of the development of the information society and the adaptation of workers to the structural changes in industry, thereby contributing in the long term to the creation of new jobs and stable employment;
 4. Calls on the Commission to encourage Member States to provide fiscal incentives to scrap old cars for new and to carry out an assessment of the potential benefits of a European-wide incentive scheme which would both stimulate activity in the industry and modernise the car population, thereby reducing vehicle emissions;
 5. Calls on the Commission to complete the Single Market as quickly as possible, in particular to bring forward outstanding draft Directives in the framework of European Whole Type Approval and proposals for the harmonisation of taxes related to the purchase, registration, and use of a car, and to ensure that the market for the supply of original spare parts for motor cars, currently subject to the same exemption from competition rules, is liberalized in tandem with the market for cars themselves;
 6. Calls on the Commission to submit a proposal for a financial contribution to assist the work of the Task Force on the Car of Tomorrow as part of the supplementary financing of the fourth framework research programme, if an adequate level of appropriations is available for this purpose. A decision will be taken on the proposal in 1996 during the revision of the fourth framework research programme. This calls for an action plan with clear priorities. It should include low and zero emission vehicle technologies (fuel cells, hybrid engines, use of alternative fuels such as regenerative raw materials, improved existing engine systems (both petrol and diesel) as well as electronic propulsion systems), telematics-supported integrated mobility systems and socio-economic back-up research. In parallel with the work of the Task Force, the Commission and the Member States must push through the market application of low and zero emission vehicles and telematics-supported mobility systems, in particular in conurbations, through fiscal and regulatory instruments;
 7. Calls on the Commission to ensure that the components industry gains as much benefit as possible from Commission support for R&TD given the key importance of this sector to the strength of the automobile industry as a whole; the components industry must be more heavily involved in measures to encourage technology transfer and the development of cooperative networks;

8. Calls on the Commission to continue to support investment in education and training within the automobile industry and to make greater use of the Community's financial resources under the Leonardo da Vinci and Socrates programmes, and measures to encourage the adaptation of workers to industrial change and to changes in production systems, and calls for an investigation of the possibility of conducting a pan-European best practice training and industrial adaptation audit;
9. Calls on the Commission to ensure, in particular, that the special requirements of small and medium sized enterprises and their contributions to the automobile industry are taken fully into account, that programmes such as ADAPT are constantly monitored as to their "user friendliness" to SMEs, and that SMEs are afforded genuine key partner status with regard to problem solving in the automobile industry;
10. Calls on the Commission to develop the highest attainable standards consistent with scientific and technical developments in vehicle safety and environmental compatibility and, specifically within the framework of European Whole Type Approval, to support:
 - (a) the introduction of an Offset Deformable Barrier frontal impact test standard and a 300mm Ground Clearance Barrier side impact test on early but realistic lead times,
 - (b) the introduction of a child safety seat system as a mandatory requirement as soon as possible based upon the ISOFIX concept that has been developed for the International Standards Organization,
 - (c) a ban on 'Bull Bars' and the encouragement of more 'pedestrian friendly' vehicle designs,
 - (d) a mandatory requirement for seat belts in buses and coaches and measures to promote their roadworthiness;
11. Calls on the Commission to assist the development of a European-wide new car assessment programme testing new models for crashworthiness using the most realistic front and side impact test procedures to encourage wider consumer awareness and to promote a market for safety performance;
12. Calls on the Commission to encourage the development of environmentally friendly cars and specifically to develop a low-emission car with a fuel consumption of 3 litres per 100km suitable for everyday use, and to develop a comprehensive range of measures to limit levels of car pollution as follows:
 - (a) action against poorly maintained vehicles (so-called 'Gross Polluters') by encouraging use of remote sensing equipment and the introduction of a European-wide standard for vehicle roadworthiness to include emission tests,
 - (b) the mandatory fitting of On-Board Diagnostic Systems (so-called 'Green Box' systems) within the framework of European Whole Type Approval and to establish common EU-wide information standards (including signals, fault codes, digital information interchange, test equipment and diagnostic tools and connectors) to enable easy diagnosis and repair,
 - (c) initiatives to establish a legal framework in the European Union for integrated concepts of automobile recycling and the avoidance of waste in the automobile sector; recyclability must be given high priority in R&TD automobile development programmes,

- (d) further research of new fuels and propulsion and engine technologies as being carried out by the Joint Auto-Oil programme,
 - (e) measures to reduce car noise levels, especially by new tyre tread designs and road surfaces,
 - (f) submission forthwith of a proposal on exhaust gas limit values and reduction in consumption in the year 2000. Efforts should be made to ensure a common proposal for cars and light commercial vehicles;
13. Calls on the Commission to continue to monitor closely all customs and non-customs barriers impeding the access of European cars to third country markets, and, in particular, to encourage South Korea to remove all remaining trade obstacles - especially non-tariff barriers - to the access of European cars and components to their market; calls on it also to monitor adherence to the 1991 EU-Japan Understanding on the basis of the Commission's written understanding of the elements of consensus and to defend a rules-based open international trading system;
 14. Calls on the Commission to promote and support the dialogue on work time models that safeguard employment and to monitor the dialogue on the necessary structural change so that suitable measures can be taken to oversee the process of modernising production structures; particular emphasis should be placed in this context on safeguarding employment;
 15. Calls on the Commission to stimulate measures to promote model projects with a view to accelerating development towards integrated transport concepts combining different means of transport; the transition from automobile manufacturer to mobility company must be supported;
 16. Calls on the Commission to achieve better coordination of the various regionally significant provisions for the automobile industry (research programmes, guidelines, ESF, etc.), on the basis of cooperation between the Member States and with the participation of such regional operators as the two sides of industry, local and regional authorities and associations;
 17. Calls on the Commission to develop a monitoring system concerning relocations of automobile enterprises and take measures against the "subsidy shopping" practices of big firms; asks the Commission to give Parliament a regular report on relocations and public subsidies for the automotive branch in Europe;
 18. Calls on the Commission to seek international cooperation on minimum standards relating to working hours, social conditions and the environment so that there may be a common response to global environmental problems and unfair competitive advantages may be eliminated;
 19. Calls on the Commission to look into the precise effect on European vehicle manufacturers and suppliers of the agreement reached on 29 June 1995 between the USA and Japan and to share in monitoring the agreement in order to ensure that all companies can benefit from the further opening up of the Japanese market;
 20. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.

4. Interchange of data between administrations (legal basis)

A4-0194/95

Resolution on the legal basis of the draft Council Decision adopting a multiannual Community programme to support the implementation of trans-European networks for the interchange of data between administrations (IDA) (COM(93)0069 - C3-0164/93 - 94/0527(SYN) and C4-0121/95)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(93)0069 - 94/0527(SYN)¹,
 - having regard to its opinion at first reading of 17 November 1994²,
 - having been consulted by the Council on the appropriateness of Article 235 of the EC Treaty as the legal basis (C4-0121/95)³,
 - having regard to the draft Council Decision 4159/95,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy and the opinion of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights (A4-0194/95),
1. Disputes the appropriateness of the legal basis proposed by the Council;
 2. Considers that the Commission proposal should be based on Article 129d, third paragraph, of the EC Treaty;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and Council.

¹ OJ C 150, 31.5.1993, p. 5.

² OJ C 341, 5.12.1994, p. 123.

³ OJ C 109, 1.5.1995, p. 269.

5. Machinery construction

A4-0183/95

Resolution on the communication from the Commission 'Strengthening the competitiveness of the European machinery construction industry' (COM(94)0380 -C4-0216/94)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission communication 'Strengthening the competitiveness of the European machinery construction industry' (COM(94)0380 - C4-0216/94),
 - having regard to the Commission communication of 14 September 1994 on an industrial competitiveness policy for the European Union (COM(94)0319 - C4-0140/94),
 - having regard to the Commission communication on the work programme for the implementation of the measures provided for (COM(94)0437),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy and the opinions of the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment and the Committee on Budgets (A4-0183/95),
1. Welcomes the initiative adopted by the Commission for strengthening the competitiveness of the European machinery construction sector and its work programme in response to the EU's concerns regarding industrial competitiveness;
 2. Considers that the European Union should promote forms of technological and organizational development making it possible to combat unemployment without increasing precarious employment;
 3. Supports the Commission's strategy to stimulate innovation in the sector in areas such as information and communications, new materials, clean and environmental-friendly technologies, and micro-mechanics;
 4. Draws attention to the strategic importance of this sector for European competitiveness and the development of environment-friendly means of production, since it supplies industry in general with machinery and capital goods which are necessary in order to respond on an ongoing basis to industrial change and environmental needs;
 5. Pays tribute to the consultation and information process conducted with the industry and the trade unions and considers permanent, effective communication in the future between the Commission and the sector to be essential;
 6. Stresses the need to boost demand in order to stimulate investment and the importance of promoting demand in vital capital goods, essential in guaranteeing the soundness and competitiveness of the EU machinery industry, and thereby to stimulate intermediate consumption and employment;
 7. Considers that vocational training and upgrading the skills of the labour force are vital competitive factors for any modern, dynamic and job-creating industry;

8. Underscores the importance of this sector of industry, which is skilled-labour intensive, for employment in the European Union;

9. Considers that the machinery industry can play an important role in boosting the EU export sector, mainly owing to demand from Central and Eastern European countries and industrializing countries, and can help secure a share of the international market and possibly create jobs in the EU;
10. Calls on the Member States to encourage capital investment, new forms of work-organization, training, R&D and innovation amongst other industries in the machinery sector;
11. Calls for measures to be adopted to mitigate the adverse effects on the sector of fluctuations between European currencies, demonstrating the need to introduce a single currency on the timescale projected, including the provision of information for businesses regarding forms of protection against exchange risks and facilitating their access to them;
12. Considers that, in view of the predominance of SMEs, the various EU and Member State programmes aimed at such businesses should take the needs of the sector into account;
13. Presses for an appropriate Community policy for verifying and penalizing inadequate transposition and implementation of EU directives in national law;
14. Agrees that there is an urgent need for the basic legal framework enabling businesses to plan their activities to be established and for the Member States to be encouraged to incorporate the relevant EU directives into national law, as well as for administrative simplification of the application of Community legislation;
15. Urges the Commission to minimize the duration of the present transitional VAT arrangements and to submit a proposal soon for a definitive VAT system;
16. Stresses that the Fourth Framework Programme should incorporate the R&D requirements of the machinery industry into its sectoral programmes and calls on the Member States to ensure better coordination amongst themselves of their R&D programmes in the sector;
17. Believes that, owing to the structure of SMEs, businesses which invest in R&D should be eligible for tax advantages and enjoy better access to the venture capital market in the Union and stresses the need for transnational association and cooperation amongst businesses, including those in disadvantaged regions, to ensure that they obtain access to Community R&D programmes;
18. Highlights the importance of training amongst workers in the sector concerned and the need to ensure that it is constantly adapted to accommodate technological innovations by taking advantage of Community programmes such as ADAPT and Leonardo;
19. Considers that education systems should support mechanical engineering institutes and their relations with vocational training centres;
20. Calls for the establishment and promotion of arrangements to associate universities, engineering colleges and training institutes, industrial research organizations and national and local authorities with industry, with a view to an ongoing transfer and updating of best-practice methods, environment-friendly production systems and technical know-how;

21. Calls on the Commission to encourage the mutual recognition of vocational qualifications, the adoption of common minimum standards and the involvement of young apprentices in vocational training schemes linked with businesses in other Member States, thus emphasizing vocational skills, together with special encouragement for disadvantaged young people;
22. Believes that it is necessary to give greater support to applied and development-oriented research, demonstration and dissemination in order to maintain Europe's technological leadership and to coordination at European level between the representatives of the industrial sectors and of the machinery industry;
23. Shares the concern at the loss of skilled workers as a result of changes in employment patterns and proposes that flexible systems negotiated with workers' representatives should be introduced to allow certain sections of the labour force to remain in place and to facilitate a return to work during periods of economic recovery, and calls on the Commission to analyze the various options with national authorities, businesses and trade unions;
24. Acknowledges the need to establish a link between in-service training opportunities, flexible working time arrangements and, where appropriate, reduced working time;
25. Stresses that the introduction of new forms of organization of labour should under no circumstances encourage precarious employment or neglect the need to protect the purchasing power of wage-earners;
26. Calls on the Commission to harmonize the amounts of the various forms of public aid granted by the EU to machinery companies in the different Member States, taking into account regional disparities (Objectives 1 and 2), and calls on the Commission to encourage long-term investment within the Union;
27. Looks to the Commission to provide detailed facts and figures periodically on business concentration and interrelationships in the machinery production sector in the EU, on business relocations within and outside the EU (in particular to Eastern Europe) and on the number of bankruptcies in this sector;
28. Advises businesses to take advantage of the resources which skilled and motivated young women represent in terms of the labour market, especially in view of their limited presence in this sector;
29. Urges that national legislation on putting machinery into service be harmonized;
30. Notes with concern the close economic and technological interdependence between the machine industry sector and mining in the EU, which is undergoing major restructuring, and the adverse effects which this has on its competitive position on the international market, and calls on the Commission to submit a study to Parliament on this subject;
31. Considers that the international presence of the European machinery industry must be promoted in third countries and, in particular, in South-East Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe by facilitating the involvement of SMEs;
32. Insists that full use is made of the EU's trade protection instruments in response to anti-competition practices by third countries, and that mutual recognition agreements are negotiated which ensure fair trade;

33. Insists that the competition laws of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe with which the EU has established association agreements are harmonized without delay;
34. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission.

6. Immigration and asylum

A4-0169/95

Resolution on the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on immigration and asylum policies (COM(94)0023 - C3-0107/94)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Treaty on European Union,
- having regard to the principles of the Treaty establishing the European Community,
- having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on immigration and asylum policies (COM(94)0023 - C3-0107/94),
- having regard to the Joint Declaration of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission of 5 April 1977 on fundamental rights¹,
- having regard to the Council of Europe's Convention on the legal status of migrant workers,
- having regard to Council Directive 77/486/EEC of 25 July 1977 on the education of children of migrant workers², and having regard to its resolution of 21 January 1993³ on cultural plurality and the problems of school education for children of immigrants in the European Community,
- having regard to its resolution of 12 March 1987 on asylum laws⁴ and its resolution of 18 November 1992 on the harmonization within the European Community of asylum laws and policies⁵,
- having regard to its resolution of 14 October 1987 on discrimination against immigrant women and migrant women workers in the laws and legal provisions in the Community⁶,
- having regard to its resolution of 18 November 1992 on European immigration policy⁷,
- having regard to its resolution of 15 July 1993 on European immigration policy⁸,
- having regard to its resolution of 19 January 1994 on a European refugee policy⁹,

¹ OJ C 103, 24.7.1977, p. 1.

² OJ L 199, 6.8.1977, p. 32.

³ OJ C 122, 20.5.1980, p. 61.

⁴ OJ C 99, 13.4.1987, p. 167.

⁵ OJ C 337, 21.12.1992, p. 97.

⁶ OJ C 305, 16.11.1987, p. 70.

⁷ OJ C 337, 21.12.1992, p. 94.

⁸ OJ C 255, 20.9.1993, p. 184.

⁹ OJ C 44, 14.2.1994, p. 106.

- having regard to its resolution of 27 April 1995 on racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism (B4-0731/95)¹,

¹ OJ C 126, 22.5.1995, p. 75.

- having regard to the reports of its Committee of Inquiry into Racism and Xenophobia in Europe,
 - having regard to the joint declaration of the European Parliament, the Council, the representatives of the Member States meeting in Council and the Commission of 11 June 1986 against racism and xenophobia,
 - having regard to the following petitions:
 - (a) 574/93 by Mr Gunter Feneis (German) on visa requirements for citizens from third countries,
 - (b) 335/94 by Mr Wilfried Rundholz (German) on the harmonization of the right of asylum on the basis of the Geneva Convention on Refugees,
 - (c) 434/94 by Mrs Ute Dorschner (German), on behalf of 'Initiative Pro Asyl Wörthsee', on the imminent expulsion from Germany and deportation to Turkey of a Kurdish family of refugees,
 - (d) 449/94 by Mrs Ute Dorschner (German), on behalf of 'Initiative Pro Asyl Wörthsee', on the imminent expulsion from Germany and deportation to Turkey of a Kurdish family of refugees,
 - (e) 458/94 by Mr Paliah Ganesh (Sri Lankan) requesting political asylum,
 - (f) 564/94 by Mr Krishna Vaikunthavasam (British), on behalf of the 'Tamil Coordinating Committee', on the situation of Tamil political asylum seekers in the European Union,
 - (g) 591/94 on behalf of 'Anti-Rassismus AG' (German) on the imminent expulsion from Germany of a Romanian family of refugees,
 - (h) 714/94 by Mr Constantin Lascu Sorin (Romanian) on a request for political asylum,
 - (i) 778/94 by Mrs Erika Rennhack (German) on the imminent expulsion from Germany of her husband,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs and the opinions of the Committee on Women's Rights and the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment (A4-0169/95),
- A. whereas a clear distinction must be made between asylum policy and immigration policy,
- B. whereas the right of asylum is a universal human right enshrined in Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and connected with the best European traditions,
- C. whereas the broad approach advocated by the European Commission to the asylum and immigration policy for the European Union consisting of:
- controlling the pressure of migration;
 - management of migration fluxes;
 - integration of refugees and migrants,
 - combating all forms of discrimination,
- is desirable and necessary, but whereas the measures taken by the Council in this context must primarily contribute to the actual protection of refugees and to the elimination of the causes of the refugee problem,

- D. whereas such a balanced approach should be based on the treaties in force in this field, notably the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the status of refugees, the 1967 New York Protocol, the guiding principles of the HCR and the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights; whereas this approach should be broadened so that the international protection of refugees
- is based on a harmonized interpretation of the term 'refugee,'
 - may be based on a smoothly functioning system of international obligations in which UN member countries are bound by the UNHCR policy and provide a substantial contribution thereto,
- E. whereas politicians and policy-makers bear special responsibility to pursue the debate on asylum and immigration policy on a balanced and painstaking basis,
- F. whereas most refugees and asylum-seekers are intercepted in their own region; whereas the European Union only has to deal with a relatively modest number of refugees and asylum-seekers; whereas a large proportion of these return to their home countries once the cause of their flight has been eliminated,
- G. whereas the Dublin Convention of 15 June 1990 determining the state responsible for examining a request for asylum has still not been ratified by all Member States which have signed the Convention,
- H. whereas the Council's recommendations, resolutions and other decisions of general application on immigration and asylum policy are wrongly not subject to parliamentary and judicial scrutiny, and as such are of an unsatisfactory democratic and constitutional nature, and are therefore not acceptable as forms of Union legislation,
- I. whereas, in view of the growing freedom of movement which exists within the European Union, arrangements for admission of asylum-seekers and refugees can no longer be made nationally but must be harmonized,
- J. whereas the European Union as a whole is seen as a safe area for refugees, and whereas an exclusively national policy is therefore no longer adequate,
- K. whereas, because of their nationality, immigrants from third countries are in many cases subject to discrimination as regards access to employment, remuneration, taxation and social security, and whereas they are most adversely affected by unemployment and other consequences of the economic crisis,
- L. whereas many people in the Union do not enjoy full civic rights because they are the descendants of immigrants, although they were born in the Union and have spent all their lives there,
- M. whereas the Member States' asylum and immigration policy pays inadequate attention to the specific position of women,
- N. whereas, as women, young people and children are often exposed to the risk of trafficking in humans and mistreatment, particular consideration must be given to them in the immigration process,
- O. whereas, despite Parliament's repeated requests, the Commission and Council have not developed an action programme for the integration of immigrants and for the combating of racism and xenophobia,

- P. whereas the implementation of the Schengen Agreements is a first positive step towards the free movement of persons within the European Union, but whereas it has unfortunately created a two-speed Europe in the field of justice and home affairs,
- Q. having regard to the increase in the Member States in racist attacks and arson attacks on refugees, immigrants and citizens whose skin is a different colour,
- R. whereas racism and anti-Semitism in Europe have visibly increased, whereas, against this background, racist and extreme right-wing parties have been increasingly successful in elections, and whereas this development must be seen as jeopardizing the democratic values of the Community,
- S. whereas various Member States have tightened up their national legislation in the fields of asylum and immigration policy in recent years,
- T. whereas a convention on the temporary admission of refugees from civil wars, containing appropriate provisions for burden-sharing, is overdue in the European Union,

Institutional affairs

1. Considers that the Commission must, by 1 January 1996, submit a programme based on this resolution and setting out clear objectives as regards practical implementation of the policy, timescales and the financing of the proposed measures;
2. Urges the Commission to play a more active role in this policy area and to use its right to propose legislation to bring about rapid harmonization of the aspects of this policy and calls in this connection for the development of Community criteria which - based on the Geneva Convention - are helpful in answering the question whether refugees must be granted permanent or temporary admission; points out that the principle of provisional admission must not be used to avoid offering permanent protection to refugees and therefore sets out requirements for:
 - the conditions for provisional admission;
 - the duration of admission;
 - and the nature of admission;and asks the European Commission to draw up a proposal;
3. Believes that decisions on asylum and immigration policies should be taken gradually under the authority of the Community, and urges the Commission to submit a proposal by 1 January 1996 for implementing Article K.9 of the EU Treaty;
4. Takes the view that recommendations, resolutions and other decisions of general application by the Council on immigration and asylum policies are wrongly excluded from parliamentary and judicial scrutiny and are therefore not acceptable as forms of Union legislation; demands that decisions which the Council intends to adopt on the basis of the EU Treaty are submitted to the European Parliament, before the decision-making process commences, for consultation under Article K.6 TEU, and calls for draft texts submitted to the Council by Member States or the Commission to be made public in the same way as Commission proposals relating to the first pillar of the EU Treaty;
5. Considers the harmonization of immigration and asylum policies without proper international judicial supervision to be unacceptable and calls, therefore, for the European Court of Justice's

jurisdiction to be extended generally to include matters falling within the sphere of justice and home affairs;

6. Calls on the Council, in preparation for the annual debate on progress made with implementation in relation to the third pillar, to submit a written report to the European Parliament at least once a year;

Migration

7. Urges the Commission to submit a proposal comprising specific recommendations for improved coordination and cooperation between institutions and organizations which study and process information on migration;
8. Calls on the Commission, in particular, to compile Union-wide comparable figures on the basis of uniform categories concerning immigration into the Union and emigration to third countries;
9. Points, in this connection, to the ongoing talks on the possibility of establishing a migration observatory and stresses that a flexible and project-based approach is preferable to the establishment of such an observatory;
10. Urges the Commission to act on the recommendations of the Social Summit in Copenhagen and to formulate policy proposals for investing in social priorities and the development of a 'civic society' in developing countries; urges it likewise to step up its efforts and initiatives to combat the economic causes of migration and suggests that a higher-profile and more effective foreign and security policy could help to achieve this;
11. Urges the Commission to draw up an adequate preventive migration policy for the Union and, in that context, likewise to improve the Union's contribution to the organization of reception facilities for displaced persons in their regions of origin in the event of large-scale emergencies, so that these people are alienated as little as possible from their country of origin, and proposes that the following should be enshrined in EC law as basic principles:
 - Community criteria for the assessment of asylum requests,
 - (after assessment) adoption of procedures and criteria for the actual reception and protection of refugees in the European region;
12. Urges the Commission and the Council to establish an efficient, transparent system of emergency aid making it possible to take effective action in the event of disasters, conflicts and flagrant violations of human rights;
13. Calls once again on the Commission to propose a framework directive on immigration followed by specific directives relating to:
 - access to the labour market,
 - training and further training,
 - labour status limited in time,
 - return of migrantsand to replace the existing resolution on family reunification with a directive;
14. Calls especially on the Member States to abide by the principles of the 1952 New York Convention as regards the right to education, health and assistance for minors, even if these are the children of illegal immigrants;

Asylum

15. Considers that the Commission must subject decisions of the Council with implications for asylum-seekers to closer scrutiny, check whether the measures are compatible with the requirements of the 1951 Geneva Convention, comply with the UNHCR handbook (on procedures and criteria for the determining of the status of refugees) and take account of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms; assumes that the Commission will keep Parliament informed of the outcome of that scrutiny;
16. Maintains that the right not to be turned back is one of the fundamental rights contained in the Geneva Convention and calls on the Commission to set up an inquiry to ascertain whether the use of the term 'safe third country' directly or indirectly jeopardizes that right;
17. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to amend their legislation so that asylum procedures never take longer than three years to complete and to make arrangements for cases in which such a time limit is exceeded through no fault of the asylum seekers;
18. Calls on the Commission and the Member States, likewise in the context of asylum policy, to devote special attention to persons with inadequate legal status, including the victims of violence, children and women; calls on the Commission and the Member States likewise to devote additional attention to the growing phenomenon of unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors, both as regards its root causes and the provision of decent reception facilities for such persons; calls on the Commission rapidly to draw up a proposal in which gender-related oppression and sexual violence against women are accepted as legitimate grounds for asylum;
19. Calls on the Member States not to use the pretext of 'international zones' in airports and fears that the persistence of such situations may well result in a marked increase in the number of homeless refugees;
20. Calls on the Commission and Member States to devote special attention in their asylum policies to people who have evaded participation in civil war operations by deserting from military units or private armies;
21. Calls on the Commission and the Member States, given their intention to draw up a harmonized interpretation of the term 'refugee' in accordance with Article 1A of the 1951 Convention, to follow the authoritative guidance as contained in Conclusions of the UNHCR Executive Committee and the UNHCR Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status;
22. Urges the Council to ensure that work on harmonizing the definition of refugee in accordance with Article 1A of the Geneva Convention is completed, while paying particular attention to ensuring that refugee status is granted to all those actually persecuted in their own country, even if the State authorities are not the authors of the persecution;
23. Notes that, owing to the entry into force of the Schengen Agreements between seven Member States, a two-speed Europe does in fact now exist in the field of justice and home affairs; regrets this state of affairs and takes the view that it must be remedied as soon as possible; calls, therefore, on the Council and the Member States to ensure that the Dublin Convention on asylum policy enters into force as soon as possible, without prejudice to the desire for Union legislation likewise to be introduced in this field;

24. Calls on the Member States to respect the minimum standards for asylum procedures drawn up by the UNHCR and to ensure that all those involved in the process are properly trained and trained further on an ongoing basis;
25. Expresses its concern as to the substance of the Council Resolution on minimum guarantees for asylum procedures; considers the fact that the Council took a decision on 20 June 1995 to be unacceptable and calls on the Council to consult Parliament pursuant to Title VI of the EU Treaty;
26. Calls on the Council and Member States to use the instruments expressly provided by the Treaties to establish minimum guarantees in asylum procedures which respect the 1951 Geneva Convention, such guarantees providing at least for the respect of the following criteria:
 - all asylum seekers should have the right to a full and fair hearing of their case;
 - states may not send asylum-seekers on to third countries without a substantive examination of the claim and unless the asylum seeker is guaranteed effective and durable protection against being turned back;
 - any decision to refuse a claim should be taken only by the body responsible for dealing with asylum requests;
 - all asylum-seekers whose applications are refused should be able to appeal to a judicial authority; an appeal should have suspensive effect on expulsion;
27. Points out that penalties imposed on carriers of persons whose documents are not in order must not contravene Annex 9 to the 1944 Chicago Convention;
28. Urges the Commission to draft Union legislation, in the form of a Community framework and specific measures, concerning the granting of temporary protection to very large numbers of displaced persons who, through no fault of their own, face great danger, even though such persons are not refugees within the meaning of the Convention relating to the status of refugees and, in so doing, to cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
29. Urges the Commission to improve the Union's contribution to the organization of reception facilities for displaced persons in their regions of origin in the event of large-scale emergencies;
30. Considers that such rules governing temporary protection should under no circumstances jeopardize the rights of persons seeking asylum under the Geneva Convention; they should offer minimum guarantees including the assurance that protection will be maintained as long as the danger persists in the country of origin, no decision to cease temporary protection being taken before close scrutiny of the human rights situation in the country of origin, and until it has been ensured that persons returning will not be subject to human rights violations;
31. Urges the Commission without delay to devise a European system for the total reception of asylum-seekers, displaced persons and refugees so that the responsibility for such reception is borne jointly and equitably by the Member States;

32. Calls on the Commission to draw up a proposal to transfer expertise and financial resources for the reception of asylum-seekers and refugees to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe;

Illegal immigration

33. Deplores the fact that, whilst internal frontiers are disappearing, the Convention on the crossing of the Union's external borders has still not been concluded;
34. Calls on the Commission to make a proposal for a coherent policy for the repatriation of illegal immigrants which focuses on the prospects for training within repatriation projects and agreements with non-member countries on the readmission of their nationals and to draw up such a plan in consultation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM);
35. Calls on the Member States to step up their action against the organizers of illegal immigration rackets and their networks and against illegal employment whereby undertakings would be penalized and obliged to make subsequent payments of appropriate remuneration and social levies as well as taxes for illegally employed persons, in order to facilitate their reintegration in their countries of origin;

Racism and xenophobia

36. Is of the opinion, inter alia on the basis of the case law of the Court of Justice, that there are grounds for arguing that the combating of racism and xenophobia falls within the first pillar of the Union Treaty; calls on the Commission to submit an anti-discrimination directive; is also of the opinion that, on the basis of the principle of subsidiarity, action to combat racism and xenophobia is the responsibility of all public authorities and social institutions; calls likewise on the Commission to take seriously the recommendations of the Committee of Inquiry into Racism and Xenophobia in Europe;
37. Urges that the fight against racism and xenophobia be included in the Union's list of priorities and duly reaffirmed at the 1996 intergovernmental conference;
38. Calls on the Commission to encourage the social partners to take part in drawing up a code of practice prohibiting racial discrimination in the workplace by January 1997;

Integration

39. Stresses the need to promote measures, inter alia through local authorities and NGOs, for the integration of the wives and children of immigrants and refugees in the host countries;
40. Deems it of great importance that priority be given to the strengthening of the legal position of citizens of third countries who are legally resident in one of the Member States; confirms its view that the right to free movement in the Union must apply to all persons living legally in the Member States, irrespective of their origin, nationality, religion or colour of skin; calls on the Commission to submit by 1 January 1996 proposals for achieving such aims and to draw up a list of the legal provisions which place such third-country nationals at a disadvantage relative to Union citizens and of the possibilities for giving them access to European citizenship;
41. Calls on the Member States to make it easier for legal residents to acquire dual nationality and, in this connection, refers to the positive experiences gained by a number of Member States;

42. Calls on the Member States to grant immigrants from non-member countries who have been resident in the Union for at least five years the right to vote and stand as candidates in elections at least at local and regional level and in elections for the European Parliament;
43. Takes the view that women from third countries who are legally resident in the Union should have the right to an independent residence status which will not be repealed in the event of emigration, divorce or the death of the spouse; calls on the Commission to submit proposals for a directive on this subject;
44. Refers to the varying practices in the Member States as regards the right of residence which hamper long-term planning for immigrants and calls on the Commission to ensure harmonization of provisions governing the right of residence in the Community in order to reinforce the residence status of immigrants from third countries;
45. Calls on the Commission to draw up specific programmes under the European Social Fund which are geared to support for vocational training and the integration of young people who are subject to specific problems as a consequence of migration and general discrimination;
46. Calls on the Commission to draw up a Community programme for the integration of migrants, central to which is the strengthening of the social position of migrants and in which specific attention is paid to the position of immigrants' wives;
47. Calls upon the Commission to prepare an action programme for the integration of immigrants which respects their cultural identities and draws upon the opportunities provided by the Socrates and Leonardo programmes for the education and training of migrants, their families, and public servants who act as 'gate-keepers' to systems of integration, e.g. police, housing, health, education, etc.;
48. Calls on the Commission to promote basic standards of treatment for immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers and their families such as social assistance, education (including language courses), employment, family unity and freedom of movement, in order to help them come to terms with life in their host countries;
49. Calls on the education and media sectors to play a more active role in informing the general public in Europe about foreign communities, their history, culture and contribution to the economic and social life of the European Union, in order to promote harmonious inter-community relations;
50. Urges the Council to adopt the Poverty IV programme immediately and to continue the fight against the exclusion of vulnerable groups in society, including migrant workers and their families;

Conclusion

51. Notes that the Union and its Member States have always been de facto immigrant countries and calls on the Commission and the Member States to promote a public exchange of experience between politicians, researchers and practitioners on a permanent basis in their asylum and immigration policies with a view to determining whether and to what extent an active immigration policy will be required in the future;

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52. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and applicant countries, the Council of Europe, and the United Nations.

7. Situation in Rwanda and Burundi

B4-1104, 1105, 1106, 1110, 1111, 1119, 1137, 1138, 1152, 1165 and 1178/95

Resolution on the situation in the Great Lakes region of Africa and particularly in Burundi and Rwanda

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Rwanda,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Burundi, especially that of 6 April 1995¹,
 - having regard to the Carcassonne declaration on Burundi by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union,
 - having regard to the Council's common positions of 24 March 1995 and 1 June 1995 on Burundi,
 - having regard to the declaration by the European Council meeting in Cannes on 26 and 27 June 1995,
- A. whereas it is the duty of the international community to help create legitimate, democratic institutions in the Great Lakes region, which will guarantee peace and national reconciliation in the various countries of this region,
- B. greatly alarmed by the situation in Rwanda and Burundi,

WITH REGARD TO BURUNDI

- C. recalling the Council's formal undertaking to take preventive action to halt the rise in violence in Burundi,
- D. welcoming the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of Resolution 1012/95 of 28 August 1995 setting up an international commission of inquiry into the assassination of President Melchior Ndadaye and the other serious acts of violence that followed,
- E. welcoming the appointment of the special representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to prepare the Regional Conference on the peace, stability and development of the Great Lakes countries,
- F. aware of the pressure exerted on and daily attempts made to destabilize and intimidate the President and the Prime Minister,
- G. condemning the brutality of police operations conducted in the Kamenge area of Bujumbura and in the north west of the country,

WITH REGARD TO RWANDA

¹ OJ C 109, 1.5.1995, p. 108.

H. concerned, similarly, at the climate of insecurity prevailing in Rwanda, which is heightened by the difficult situation and the fact that crimes go unpunished, and maintained to a great extent by the uncontrolled supply of arms against an insufficiently regulated international background,

- I. having regard to the massacres carried out at Kinama by soldiers of the Rwandan Patriotic Front, which caused the deaths of more than 100 civilians and injuries to around 15,
 - J. deeply concerned about the resurgence of tension reflected in the resignation of the Rwandan Prime Minister, Faustin Twagiramungu, and four other members of the Government,
 - K. noting the lifting on 17 August 1995 of the international embargo on supplies of arms and ammunition to Rwanda,
 - L. concerned at the persistent powerhold of the militias of the former Rwandan Government in the camps and their continuous rearming and training with a view to waging a revenge war on the Rwandan Government,
 - M. deploring the forced repatriation of approximately 15 000 Rwandan refugees recently undertaken by Zaire and also regretting Zaire's refusal to allow the deployment of UN observers to monitor respect for the arms embargo in the refugee camps,
 - N. having regard to reports of arms supplies to militias of the former Rwandan Government and the FAR (Rwandan Armed Forces),
 - O. welcoming the unanimous adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1013/95 of 7 September 1995, which set up as matter of urgency an international committee of inquiry into allegations that former Rwandan government forces were receiving military training and illicitly procured arms with a view to destabilizing Rwanda,
1. Condemns the acts of violence by all extremists in Burundi and Rwanda, wherever they are from, who are continuing to prey upon the inhabitants and hinder the process of national reconciliation and the repatriation of the refugees;
 2. Calls on the Council to act swiftly to provide the basis and the necessary financial support for a global policy for this region of Africa;
 3. Calls for the introduction of a specific budget heading for measures to prevent the outbreak of conflict in the Great Lakes area of Africa;

WITH REGARD TO BURUNDI

4. Calls for the armed militias to be disbanded and supports the efforts of the Head of State and the Head of Government to restore peace to Burundi;
5. Reaffirms its full support for the legitimate democratic institutions of Burundi, in particular the Presidency of the Republic, the Government and the parliament, and for all those using appropriate means to bring about the reconciliation of the people of Burundi;
6. Reiterates that national reconciliation can only be achieved by abiding in full by the Convention of Government signed on 10 September 1994, as stated in the joint declaration signed on 30 March 1995 by Burundi's Head of State and Head of Government;
7. Emphasizes the importance of the 'national debate' already envisaged in the Government Convention for reactivating the process of national reconciliation and democratic dialogue;

8. Supports the efforts of the OAU to re-establish constructive political dialogue among the various political forces in Burundi;

9. Calls on the Council to implement without further delay the general plan of action which it formulated at Carcassonne;
10. Restates its full support for the UN special representative in Burundi, Mr Ould Abdallah;
11. Calls on the Council and Member States to cooperate fully with the Burundian authorities, in the framework set out in United Nations Resolution 1012/95, in bringing to justice those responsible for the assassination of President Ndadaye and the perpetrators of the ensuing violence, and in promoting national reconciliation in Burundi;
12. Urges the Council also to implement speedily the other actions envisaged in the common position of 24 March, in particular as regards the despatch of human rights experts under the aegis of the UNHCR, and assistance in restoring the rule of law and the training of magistrates;
13. Calls on the Commission to reply as swiftly as possible to the repeated requests by the Government of Burundi concerning humanitarian aid and the necessary instruments for technical and financial cooperation;
14. Calls on the governments of the countries in the region, especially Zaire and Uganda, to end all financial, logistical, military and political aid to the Burundian extremists;

WITH REGARD TO RWANDA

15. Severely condemns those countries which knowingly continue to supply arms to the groups intent on destabilizing Rwanda;
16. Calls on the Government of Rwanda, the governments of the other countries in the region, the Member States and the Council to cooperate fully with the United Nations commission and to assist in identifying the parties that are helping the former Rwandan government forces to acquire arms illegally or are supporting them in this activity;
17. Repeats its request for the work of the international tribunal to be completed, this being an essential prerequisite for a return to civil peace;
18. Calls on the Government of Rwanda to speed up the screening of returning refugees in the detention centres and to improve the appalling jail conditions that prevail throughout the country, in particular in Kigali;
19. Calls on the Rwandan Government to initiate talks with all parties concerned with a view to launching a democratic process of national reconciliation;
20. Calls on the international community, and the EU in particular, to step up financial and technical assistance to Rwanda, especially in the fields of justice and security, this being a major prerequisite for the return of the refugees;
21. Calls on all countries, especially those in the region, to cooperate fully with the judges of the international tribunal set up by the UN to investigate crimes against humanity in Rwanda and to permit all necessary investigations in their territory;

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22. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States, the Secretaries-General of the UN and OAU and the governments of Burundi, Rwanda, Zaire, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya.

8. Terrorism in France

B4-1121, 1141, 1148, 1153, 1160 and 1176/95

Resolution on terrorism in France

The European Parliament,

- A. outraged at the spate of terrorist attacks in public places in France which have killed seven people and wounded dozens of others since 25 July 1995 and have created a climate of anxiety among the general public,
 - B. recognizing the special responsibility of Member States to combat terrorism in the EU, but insisting that they must also cooperate with other democratic states in this struggle,
 - C. whereas each of these bombs was intended to kill a maximum number of innocent victims, including schoolchildren,
 - D. whereas it is dangerous to cultivate in public opinion the idea of a link between the abolition of internal borders and risks to internal security,
1. Expresses its deepest sympathy for the families of the victims of these horrifying terrorist attacks on French territory;
 2. Deplores also the attacks carried out in Israel in Tel Aviv on 24 July and in Jerusalem on 21 August 1995;
 3. Condemns the mindless violence of these criminal acts and denounces the cynical racism aimed at schoolchildren in Villeurbanne;
 4. Applauds the level-headedness of the French people, who are refusing to give in to the temptation of generalized prejudice and xenophobia;
 5. Urges the signatories to the Schengen Agreement to be especially vigilant at the Union's external borders and to use all the resources available under the Treaty to step up security on their territory; calls on the Member States to step up cooperation between the security services, police forces and judiciary, both among themselves and with their counterparts in other democratic states exposed to similar threats;
 6. Urges the Member States to apply the international conventions to combat terrorism and to ensure that alleged terrorists are extradited or brought to justice in those countries in which they are arrested;
 7. Calls on the French Government to make every effort to identify and dismantle terrorist networks so that they are no longer in a position to do harm;
 8. Calls on the governments of the Member States and the authorities of the European Union to take effective steps against countries which support and finance terrorism;
 9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the governments of the Member States.

9. Human rights

(a) B4-1151, 1161, 1180 and 1181/95

Resolution on the sentence to death in the United Arab Emirates of Sarah Balabagan

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women,
 - having regard to the declaration issued by the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna in 1993,
 - having regard to the United Nations declaration of December 1993 on the elimination of violence against women,
- A. appalled at the sentencing to death by firing squad, for the murder of her employer, of a Moslem Filipino girl, Sarah Balabagan, aged 16, in the United Arab Emirates on 16 September 1995, overturning an earlier sentence to seven years in prison and damages to be paid by the employer's family,
- B. pointing out that the earlier verdict recognized that the murdered man raped her and that his family was ordered by the court to pay her damages,
- C. noting that rape is a crime and a physical and mental assault on women and that Sarah Balabagan's murder of the rapist may be regarded as an act of self-defence, as her counsel argued,
- D. whereas thousands of servants of foreign origin leave the Gulf States each year because of the way in which they are treated by their employers and the outcome of court cases in several such matters,
1. Believes that to execute anybody in these circumstances must revolt even those who are not, in principle, opposed to the death penalty;
 2. Asks the relevant authorities in the UAE to re-examine the case of Sarah Balabagan and appeals to UAE President Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan al-Nahayan to consider granting her a presidential pardon;
 3. Calls on the Council to make clear to the Government of the UAE its great concern about this case and to stress that the carrying out of the death sentence will damage the European Union's relations with the United Arab Emirates;
 4. Calls on the United Arab Emirates Government to respect international agreements;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Governments of the Philippines and the United Arab Emirates.

Resolution on human rights violations in East Timor and Indonesia

The European Parliament,

- recalling its previous resolutions on human rights in East Timor and Indonesia,
 - A. having regard to international press reports of increasingly repressive measures by the army against public demonstrations in East Timor, in particular in Manatuto, against the Indonesian occupation,
 - B. having regard to the events of July 1995 in several towns in the Baucau region in which eight people died and twelve disappeared, and in the regions of Lospalos, Ermera and Liquiça, and the latest confrontations in Dili in which 14 people were injured, as well as the deaths of three pupils of the Komoro secondary school,
 - C. whereas the military authorities maintain that they have arrested 30 people since 8 September 1995; whereas, however, news reports refer to 66 arrests, including 11 women,
 - D. having regard to Amnesty International's report of July 1995 on the situation in East Timor,
 - E. whereas, following a recent visit to Jakarta, the US Ambassador to the UN, Madeleine Albright, expressed concern at the situation in East Timor,
 - F. having regard to the statements by Ximenes Belo, Bishop of Dili, establishing a link between the present acts of repression and attempts at forced 'Islamization' of the people,
 - G. having regard to the decision of the International Court of Justice in The Hague on East Timor,
 - H. having regard to the continuing demonstrations by the people of East Timor against the occupation of their territory by Indonesia,
 - I. deeply concerned about the conditions under which hundreds of political prisoners are still held in Indonesia and the fact that some continue to be under sentence of death in connection with events which occurred some 30 years ago,
 - J. shocked at the recent decisions by the Indonesian authorities to implement the death sentences imposed on Sergeant-Major I Bungkus and Sergeant-Major Nataneal Marsudi, both aged 67, who have been detained since October 1965,
1. Condemns in the strongest terms the Indonesian military oppression in East Timor and expresses its sympathy for the victims and their families;
 2. Calls for fundamental rights, including religious freedom, to be respected in East Timor;
 3. Expresses its support for the people of East Timor in their struggle for the right to self-determination and calls for the negotiations currently taking place between Indonesia and Portugal under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General and the internal dialogue in Timor to be brought to a successful conclusion as soon as possible; calls for the participation of the representatives of the people of East Timor to be guaranteed;

4. Calls on the international community and in particular the Member States to call an immediate halt to arms sales and any kind of military assistance to Indonesia and to suspend all economic cooperation while Timor remains occupied in accordance with its resolution of 14 June 1995 on the Communication from the Commission to the Council "Towards a new Asia strategy"¹;
5. Calls upon the Indonesian Government to annul the death sentences in Indonesia forthwith and inform the prisoners immediately;
6. Calls on the Indonesian Government immediately to free all political prisoners and to grant an amnesty to all the 24 prisoners still held in connection with the events of October 1965 and to authorize their release;
7. Reaffirms its decision in its resolution of 21 November 1991 on the massacre in East Timor² to send a fact-finding mission to East Timor and urges the Indonesian Government to refrain from placing obstacles in the way of this mission;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Indonesian Government and the UN Secretary-General.

¹ Minutes of that Sitting, Part II, Item 6.

² OJ C 326, 16.12.1991, p. 182.

Resolution on unfair trials in Kenya

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the case of Koigi wa Wamwere, a human rights activist in Kenya, and his three co-defendants - Charles Kuria Wamwere, James Maigwa and G.G. Njuguna Ngengi - whose court trial was abruptly stopped on 11 July 1995 after their counsel was denied the right to present their final submissions orally, which violates both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, both of which Kenya has ratified,
 - B. whereas prior to the date, the prosecution had been allowed to present its final submissions orally for 14 days,
 - C. appalled that the four men - who have all been adopted as prisoners of conscience - might face the death sentence if convicted,
 - D. expressing concern at reports by international legal and human rights observers at the trial that the four defendants were denied a fair trial in accordance with international standards,
 - E. whereas the case is part of a pattern of harassment and intimidation of human rights activists and political opponents by the Kenyan authorities,
 - F. applauding the recent public condemnation of Kenya's human rights record by Baroness Chalker, UK Minister of Overseas Development, before a meeting with President Moi,
1. Calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Koigi wa Wamwere, Charles Kuria Wamwere, James Maigwa and G.G. Njuguna Ngengi;
 2. Urges the Kenyan authorities to put an end to the harassment and intimidation of their political opponents;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Kenyan President, the governments of the Member States and the UN Secretary-General.

Resolution on the persecution of Mr Vladimir Orekhov

The European Parliament,

- A. perturbed by the sentencing of Mr Vladimir Orekhov to three years of imprisonment by a Russian court on 21 July 1995,
 - B. aware that during the Soviet era Mr Orekhov, then an officer in the KGB, used his position to help dissidents by warning them when they were to be arrested and by hiding documents,
 - C. aware that for these activities, Mr Orekhov was sentenced to eight years in a labour camp in 1978 and earned the admiration of many prominent dissidents,
 - D. aware that the new prosecution of Mr Orekhov followed his statement to the press in December 1994 that the head of the FSB (successor of the KGB), Mr Anatoli Trofimov, had been particularly zealous in persecuting dissidents during the Soviet era,
 - E. aware that the offence for which Mr Orekhov was convicted, namely the illegal possession of arms, bears some signs of having been fabricated by the security services,
 - F. aware of the concern that the Orekhov case has aroused among former dissidents and supporters of human rights such as Mr Sergei Kovalev, Mr Kirill Podrabinek and Mr Sergei Grigoriants,
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- 1. Hopes that the appropriate authorities will examine the evidence against Mr Orekhov with a view to re-opening the case or quashing his conviction;
 - 2. Notes that following a court hearing on 18 September 1995 Mr Orekhov has been returned to prison for a month until his case again comes before a court;
 - 3. Warns that any return to the methods and policies of the KGB must affect adversely relations between Russia and the EU;
 - 4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Minister of Justice in Russia and Mr Sergei Kovalev.

Resolution on the imprisonment of Mr Medhi Zana

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the human rights situation in Turkey, particularly those concerning Mr Medhi Zana and the members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly of Kurdish origin,
 - A. pointing out that on 13 May 1995 Mr Medhi Zana had been in prison in Turkey for a year,
 - B. pointing out that on 3 December 1992 Mr Zana outlined to Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights his view on the situation regarding Turkish citizens of Kurdish origin living in Turkey and that, according to Turkish law, the mere act of stating that a Kurdish minority exists in Turkey constitutes a crime,
 - 1. Condemns once more, in the strongest terms, the violation of human rights in Turkey, with particular regard to Turkish citizens of Kurdish origin;
 - 2. Calls for the immediate release of Mr and Mrs Zana and their colleagues and of all Turkish citizens who have been imprisoned for defending human rights in Turkey;
 - 3. Reaffirms its determination to defend, by all possible means, respect for human rights in Turkey and calls on the government in Ankara to adhere to the international human rights conventions which Turkey has signed;
 - 4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Turkish Government.

Resolution on the case of Mr Abu-Jamal in the US

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 15 June 1995 on the death penalty in the United States and the Abu-Jamal case¹,
 - A. having regard to the death sentence pronounced on Mr Mumia Abu-Jamal in December 1982,
 - B. whereas the international protest movement against this death sentence led the Pennsylvania legal authorities to defer the execution due to take place on 17 August 1995,
 - C. deeply concerned at the refusal of the Philadelphia judge to review Mr Abu-Jamal's case,
 - D. whereas Mr Abu-Jamal was sentenced to death in 1982 following political machinations and an unfair trial,
 - E. whereas numerous personalities and heads of government, human rights organizations, trade unions and political parties worldwide have called for Mr Abu-Jamal's life to be saved,
1. Reiterates its call for Mr Abu-Jamal's case to be reviewed;
 2. Calls on the EU authorities and the governments of the Member States to make representations to the Pennsylvania authorities with a view to preventing the execution and obtaining a review of the case;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the President of the United States and the Governor of the State of Pennsylvania.

¹ Minutes of that Sitting, Part II, Item 16(g).

Resolution on support for the Network of Cities of Asylum

The European Parliament,

- A. recalling its positions in the struggle for freedom of expression and against racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, political and religious persecution and all forms of intolerance,
 - B. having regard to the initiative of the International Parliament of Writers to set up a Network of Cities of Asylum for threatened and persecuted writers, supported notably by the Council of Europe and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe,
 - C. having regard to resolution no 5 of the Plenary Assembly of the 11th Congress of the World Poets' Organization, meeting in Sintra on 29 March 1995,
 - D. having regard to the growth of new forms of intolerance throughout the world, directed, in particular, against the faculty of thought and freedom of creation and reflected in numerous attacks resulting in full-blown censorship,
1. Expresses its support for the initiative to set up a Network of Cities of Asylum in the European Union;
 2. Believes that this support forms part of its support for human rights and its opposition to the recrudescence of intolerance in both old and new forms which threatens, often by violence, freedom of thought, creativity and expression;
 3. Welcomes the decision already taken by such European cities as Almería, Amsterdam, Berlin, Helsinki, Strasbourg, Venice and Sintra to join the Network of Cities of Asylum;
 4. Calls on European cities to subscribe to the commitments provided for by the Charter and join the Network of Cities of Asylum;
 5. Calls on the Commission to take action to fund programmes and instructs its Committee on Budgets to ensure that measures are taken under the 1996 budget;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe and the International Parliament of Writers.

10. Company relocations in the European Union

B4-1123, 1135, 1146, 1177 and 1182/95

Resolution on relocation of companies within the EU

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 17 February 1995 on relocation of businesses in the European Union¹,
- having regard to the relevant legislation on social policy in the European Union and, in particular, Council Directive 94/45/EC of 22 September 1994 on the establishment of a European Works Council or a procedure in Community-scale undertakings and Community-scale groups of undertakings for the purposes of informing and consulting employees²,
- having regard to the protocol on social policy attached to the EC Treaty,
- having regard to the Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers and the accompanying social action programme (1989),
- A. having regard to the adverse economic and social consequences of the company relocation strategies adopted by a number of industrial groups,
- B. whereas businesses, particularly in Objective 1 regions of the Community, are receiving financial aid,
- C. whereas, in many cases, these groups have received direct or indirect financial assistance from Member States and the Community itself; whereas Renault in Portugal has benefited from national and Community subsidies totalling 77 billion escudos,
- D. having regard to Articles 2 and 118 of the EC Treaty,
- E. reiterating its wish for social clauses to be included in international agreements and in the framework of the World Trade Organization,
- F. whereas, in view of the ever-increasing internationalization of businesses in the Union, European firms should preferably choose to locate their investments in Union Member States, aiming for a rational division of labour at European level,
- G. whereas a large number of such decisions are taken by the parent company without consulting management boards, works councils or trade unions, thus contravening the Social Charter and the social protocol,
- H. whereas Renault Portuguesa has turned out to be a great Portuguese success story, as evidenced by its high productivity and the excellent quality of the products manufactured in its factories, which are acknowledged to be among the best made by the Renault Group, and, above all, by

¹ OJ C 56, 6.3.1995, p. 197.

² OJ L 254, 30.9.1995, p. 64.

the substantial profits it has recorded since reaching 'cruising speed' in 1985, these being the best evidence of its triumph,

- I. whereas over 700 jobs are under threat at Renault's car assembly plant in Setúbal, following the breakdown of talks between Renault and the Portuguese Government; whereas, as a result of this strategy, there is an imminent prospect of mass redundancy of those workers remaining from previous redundancies, with extremely serious repercussions for the regional economy, to which would be added the indirect impact of the loss of services provided by and orders for subcontracting companies, most of which are SMEs set up in response to the project and dependent on it,
1. Expresses its solidarity with all the workers in the Renault plant in Setúbal who are threatened directly by the closure of the plant and with all the people in other plants belonging to the group as well as subcontractors who may be affected;
 2. Calls on the Commission to take account of this case during the debate on the directive relating to the safeguarding of employees' rights in the event of transfers of undertakings, businesses or parts of businesses;
 3. Reminds the Commission once again of Parliament's request of 27 October 1994 for a survey to be provided of all relocations of firms within and outside the EU since January 1993;
 4. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to urge multinational corporations to refrain from taking decisions which may have harmful consequences for employment without first informing and consulting workers in accordance with Directive 94/45/EC, considering all possible alternative solutions and taking maximum account of social measures in the interest of workers;
 5. Calls on Renault to implement the Directive on works councils without awaiting the deadline of 22 September 1996, to ensure that employees, and particularly the workers in Portugal, may be informed and consulted;
 6. Calls on the Commission to examine what forms of subsidy, both at national and at Community level, the above-mentioned firm has received and to work out proposals in the short term aimed at preventing all forms of 'subsidy shopping' both within and outside the EU;
 7. Expects the Commission to ensure that, when Structural Fund resources are allocated, employment guarantees are combined with the allocation;
 8. Calls for EU subsidies to be unavailable for companies which, having benefited from them in one Member State, go on to relocate soon afterwards to another state;
 9. Urges the Commission to take into account the latest developments regarding the Setúbal plant in its deliberations on relocation both within and outside the European Union, particularly the social and economic consequences for the regions concerned;
 10. Urges the Commission, in the light of this case, to review any subsidies already being granted or about to be granted anywhere for projects to which Renault may be a party;
 11. Calls on the Commission to submit a revised draft following the findings of the hearing held by the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment on the relocation of businesses;
 12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the parliaments of the Member States, the social partners and the workers of the Renault plant in Setúbal, and to have it published in at least two Portuguese national daily newspapers.

11. Disasters

(a) B4-1114, 1164 and 1179/95

Resolution on the disastrous fires in Greece in the summer of 1995

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas forest fires in the Community, particularly in the Mediterranean Member States, continued to cause catastrophic economic and environmental damage during 1995,
- B. whereas numerous fires in Greece burned down vast tracts in Lesbos, Pelion and especially in the villages of Argalasti, Thinovrisi and Sikki, in Ikaria, Rethymnon, Lasithi, Euboea, Messenia, Achaia, Halkidiki and elsewhere,
- C. whereas the fire in the already environmentally stressed Attica region on 21-22 July 1995 devastated more than 5 000 hectares of valuable suburban forest, for the 4 million inhabitants of Attica and left many homeless,
- D. whereas in Greece more land is destroyed by fire than in any other country in Europe,
- E. deeply concerned at the conclusions drawn by the EC's STOA programme 'Forest fires in southern Europe' in November 1993 to the effect that the various Community measures designed to promote regional and rural development are not sufficiently coordinated and on occasion completely contradict the objective of preventing fires,
- F. considers again that the lack of a common forestry policy is one of the main reasons for the ineffectiveness of Community and national measures to tackle the problems associated with forests, including fires,
 - 1. Expresses its sympathy and solidarity with the inhabitants of the stricken areas and calls on the Commission to grant them emergency financial aid to repair the damage as quickly as possible;
 - 2. Calls on the Commission to take the necessary steps to ensure the adoption of a common forestry policy, alongside the CAP and other common policies, when the Treaty is revised in 1996;
 - 3. Calls on the Commission to include in its planning policy, and especially the INTERREG programme, measures against fires;
 - 4. Calls for the creation of a European Forest Policy Centre in which a special forest-protection and fire-extinction institute should operate;
 - 5. Asks the Commission to provide information in response to its resolution of 29 September 1994 on forest fires in the countries of the south of the European Union¹, which called on the Commission to assess and report on the effectiveness of measures adopted by each Member State and by the EC itself to tackle forest fires;

¹ OJ C 305, 31.10.1994, p. 102.

6. Asks the Commission to provide information on implementation of the programme called for in its above-mentioned resolution on the training of local officers, focusing on fire-fighting methods and on practical information and guidelines for the general public so that, on the one hand, it can be included in the fire defence policy and, on the other hand, to avoid casualties;
7. Regrets the fact that the Commission has not yet acted on the requests made in Parliament's resolutions in recent years, particularly the above-mentioned resolution;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the Member States.

Resolution on forest fires in the Canary Islands, Minorca and Tarragona

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the very serious forest fires which have occurred: on the island of Minorca at the end of August 1995, which was caused by lightning; in the Canary Islands, where in July 1995 alone fires destroyed an area of over 1000 hectares on the island of Tenerife; and in the Sierra de Cardó (Tarragona), affecting the municipalities of Perelló, Rasquera, Tibenys and Tortosa,
- B. whereas the loss of pine and holm-oak woods in the devastated area in the Mercadal district, regarded as one of the 'green lungs' of the island of Minorca, is difficult to assess; whereas the same applies to the destructive impact of the fire that broke out on Mount Esperanza (Santa Cruz de Tenerife),
- C. whereas, because Minorca is an island, the ecological consequences of the fire there will be considerable and more complex,
- D. whereas the Sierra de Cardó is a designated area of outstanding natural beauty because of its flora and fauna, and the matter thus concerns the plan to develop rural tourism and improve navigability of the Ebro,
- E. whereas the persistent drought constitutes a particularly high risk factor,
- F. whereas Protocol 15 to the EC Treaty states that the Community cohesion funds will apply to environmental projects as well as the trans-European networks,
- G. whereas Declaration 26 attached to the Treaty on European Union provides for special consideration to be given to the outermost regions of the Community on account of their remote or island nature,
 - 1. Expresses its utmost sympathy with the victims of these disasters and calls on the Commission to grant emergency special financial aid to the municipalities affected by the fires;
 - 2. Calls on the Commission to set up special brigades, in the context of civil protection, to provide coordinated and effective support to complement the necessarily limited resources available for fire protection in the Community's island regions; also calls on the Commission to consider the possibility of carrying out studies aimed at preserving the forests in the regions of the Union most vulnerable to forest fires;
 - 3. Calls on the Commission and Council to use all possible economic measures, pursuant to Regulation 2158/92, to assist regeneration and reforestation in the areas damaged by the fires;
 - 4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States, the Regional Government of the Canary Islands, the Regional Government of Catalonia, the Minorca Island Council and the councils of the municipalities referred to in this resolution.

Resolution on the wave of forest fires in Portugal

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to its previous resolutions on forest fires in the south of the EU,
 - B. whereas no reply has been received to Parliament's successive requests for the Commission to submit a report on the situation created by the fires which occurred in 1992, 1993 and 1994,
 - C. whereas the lack of such information and of a list of measures adopted in each Member State and at Community level, including technical, administrative and educational measures and measures under civil and criminal law, has impeded the introduction of a global strategy to safeguard and support Community forests,
 - D. whereas the areas devastated by the fires are far larger than the area replanted each year,
 - E. whereas Community policy has been limited to occasional extraordinary emergency aid to mitigate the damage in the worst-affected areas, which is essential but also reveals the lack of a general prevention policy and of effective means and instruments for taking action,
 - F. whereas the CAP has responsibilities in the present situation, since it encourages the afforestation of set-aside farmland and consequently the increasing human desertification of various areas and regions,
 - G. having regard to the importance of forestry in the economy of certain regions and in the activity of hundreds of thousands of small forest proprietors,
 - H. whereas the more than 32 000 fires recorded this summer in all regions of Portugal (many of criminal origin), have resulted in the loss of 82 000 ha of forest, including nature reserves and protected areas, death and destruction in residential areas and other damage which has yet to be assessed, such as economic and financial damage, environmental damage, soil erosion and the process of desertification which is linked to the present drought,
 - I. whereas, of the 226 000 ha destroyed by fire in Portugal between 1991 and 1993, only 67 000 ha have been replanted,
 - J. whereas the Government's shortcomings in the areas of prevention (inadequate resources, a deterioration in existing resources, only 900 forest rangers for 3 million ha of forest, etc.), forestry planning and organization, together with the lack of a basic law on forestry, is partly responsible for the approximately 85 000 forest fires recorded since 1992,
 - K. having regard to the pressures caused by building speculation and the plan to replant the affected areas with eucalyptus trees,
1. Regrets the loss of human life, offers its condolences to the relatives and expresses its solidarity with the victims and with the firemen for their untiring efforts;

2. Calls on the Commission to provide urgent financial assistance to the areas in Portugal worst affected by the fires, some of which are facing veritable disasters, with priority to be given to the replanting of the affected areas with native species;
3. Reiterates its previous statements on forest fires, their causes and the measures it considers essential to combat this economic, social and environmental scourge;
4. Insists that the Commission submit to Parliament, by the end of this year, a survey of the situation caused by forest fires in recent years, the measures taken at national and Community level and a proposal for a global prevention strategy to protect Community forests;
5. Calls on the Commission to include among the measures to be taken the creation of a Community forest fund;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and Council, the Portuguese Government and Assembly of the Republic, the National Fire Service and the National Association of Portuguese Local Authorities.

Resolution on fires in Greece, Italy and Portugal

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the large number of fires which caused extensive damage in several parts of Greece in late July and during the month of August - including the areas of north-eastern Attica, Rethimnon in Crete, Aiyion in the Peloponnese and Psakhna in Evvoia - and destroyed thousands of hectares of woodland and farmland,
- B. having regard to the particularly fierce fire which devastated the villages of Argalasti, Xinovrisi and Siki in the Pilion area on 29 August 1995, totally destroying thousands of hectares of arable land and olive groves, which are the only source of income of local inhabitants and which had already been damaged in the past by frost and fires,
- C. having regard to the large number of fires which have caused extensive damage in Italy, particularly in Liguria, Sicily and Sardinia,
- D. having regard to the large number of fires which caused extensive damage in Portugal during the summer,
 1. Expresses its deep sorrow at these events and wishes to convey its sympathy to those affected;
 2. Calls on the Commission to cooperate with the various governments and local authorities with a view to formulating a consistent fire prevention policy;
 3. Calls on the authorities of the EU Member States in which such fires are most common to institute thorough forest maintenance programmes during the pre-summer months so as to reduce the likelihood of fires occurring in the first place;
 4. Calls on the Commission to cooperate with the various governments and local authorities in assessing the damage and taking the necessary preliminary measures with a view to compensation;
 5. Asks the Commission to grant financial aid to local inhabitants in the countries most affected;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of Portugal, Greece and Italy and the local authorities in the areas affected.

Resolution on the mining disaster in Asturias, Spain

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the firedamp explosion which cost the lives of 14 miners at the San Nicolás pit (Mieres) in Spain,
1. Conveys to the victims' families its shock and sorrow at the death of the Spanish, Portuguese and Czech workers;
 2. Calls on the Commission to participate directly, together with the regional and national administrations, in the investigation into the causes of the disaster, to verify that the Community legislation on safety at work was strictly observed and to inform Parliament as soon as possible of the findings of the inquiry;
 3. Asks the Commission to convey its condolences to the families affected and to take appropriate measures to assist them, making no distinction between European Union citizens and Czech nationals;
 4. Stresses that the inherent risks in the mining industry in the European Union and non-member states, which guarantees consumers reliable energy supplies, justify special treatment in the form of certain social measures as well as the ostensibly high investment costs and the application of strict safety measures at work;
 5. Calls on the European Union to apply equally high standards to working and safety conditions in soft coal mining in non-member states in general and in coal-exporting countries in particular;
 6. Calls likewise on the European Union to step up its research and development activity on safety in soft coal mining;
 7. Stress the importance of European coal production in guaranteeing European supplies and preserving economic activity and jobs in mining areas;
 8. Asks the Commission to increase the budget allocation under heading B3-4312 for assistance to victims of accidents in the coal and steel sectors and orphans' allowances and to extend the latter to the Asturias miners' orphanage;
 9. Calls on the Commission, through the ECSC social research programmes, to draw up a study on the present safety conditions in the mining industry in the Community, including Spain;
 10. Calls on the Commission to inform Parliament concerning the extent to which the Member States have incorporated into national law all the directives concerning the health and safety of workers and concerning the action it has taken to ensure a satisfactory outcome;
 11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the victims' families, the Spanish and Czech miners' unions, the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States and the Government of the Czech Republic.

Resolution on the severe storms in southern Chile

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the recent storms which hit six regions of Chile, with temperatures of -25° (thermic temperatures of -30°), the most severely affected regions from 11 to 16 August 1995 being Aysén and Magallanes, and whereas this has meant the total or partial destruction of port installations, small fishing industries and telecommunications networks,
- B. whereas the damage to agriculture includes the loss of over 800 000 sheep and 70 000 cattle and the destruction of 70% of the winter pastures of the region and the loss of all the 1995 harvests,
- C. whereas the Commission is providing significant Community aid for the small stockbreeders, farmers and traditional fishermen, whose households total some 20 000 persons,
 - 1. Proposes the granting of material aid for reconstruction to a value of at least ECU 1 million;
 - 2. Calls for this aid to be concentrated on the poorest victims and to be channelled, by preference, via NGOs, the churches, the Red Cross, the Agricultural and Stockbreeding Service (SAG) and social organizations;
 - 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States, the Government of Chile, the authorities of the provinces of Aysén and Magallanes and the liaison committee of development NGOs.

Resolution on the damage caused in the Antilles by hurricanes Luis and Marilyn

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the violence of the hurricanes, accompanied by violent winds and heavy rain, which ravaged the islands of the Antilles, particularly St Barthélemy, St Martin, Guadeloupe and Martinique, in September 1995,
 - B. whereas the personal, social and economic damage is enormous, and much of the positive economic development which had been achieved on the islands has been undone,
 - C. whereas Hurricanes Luis and Marilyn caused a number of deaths, while several other people are unaccounted for and thousands are homeless,
 - D. having regard to the extent of the damage to coastal infrastructure, public buildings, homes and farms, particularly banana farms,
1. Expresses its sympathy with the people of the countries affected by the hurricanes;
 2. Calls on the Commission to provide an ample sum in direct aid to the islands concerned during this difficult period;
 3. Calls on the Commission to consider how the Community's Structural Funds could be used to restore infrastructure, homes and seriously damaged farms in order to remedy the disastrous results of the hurricanes which are so frequent in this region;
 4. Calls on all providers of aid to provide their aid in such a way as to devote special attention to the situation of illegal workers, to ensure that they are treated humanely;
 5. Calls on the Commission to inform it of the use made of the aid;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments of the Member States, the ACP-EU Joint Assembly and the ACP-EU Council of Ministers.

Resolution on the floods which have affected numerous regions of Italy

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas the regions of Lombardy, Piedmont, Liguria, Tuscany and Lazio have suffered immense damage because of the floods caused by non-stop rain and downpours between 12 and 16 September 1995 that seriously affected persons, the environment and structures,
 - B. whereas many regions of southern Italy have also been devastated by violent storms during the summer of 1995,
 - C. whereas both industrial and agricultural areas have been equally hard hit, and whereas, in Lombardy, these areas lie in the belt between Varese and Milan (Cavaria, Cassano Magnago, Cairate and Olgiata), the Como area and the border areas of Porto Ceresio and Ponte Tresa,
 - D. whereas Cavaria and the entire Valle Olona had already been lashed by serious storms in 1992 and 1994; whereas Piedmont, where the harvest has been interrupted, was also devastated by floods last autumn,
 - E. whereas the main cause of this natural disaster was the exceptionally high rainfall and subsequent flooding and landslides, which led to roads, motorways, railway lines and some border passes being blocked,
 - F. whereas persons, homes, factories, small firms, farms and tourist facilities throughout the regions affected have been hit by violent and exceptional weather, and the ecosystem has in many cases been compromised,
 - G. whereas these repeated disasters, which are also due to climatic changes, are occurring more frequently in almost all the Member States, with devastating effects in human, social and economic terms,
 - H. whereas the Commission gave an undertaking on 1 February 1995 as regards the granting of aid to flood victims in the Netherlands, Belgium, France and Germany as part of a European strategy to prevent floods,
1. Expresses its solidarity with the people of the regions affected and the homeless;
 2. Calls on the Commission immediately to implement the emergency programme proposed as part of a new regional planning policy to set in motion all the requisite practical solidarity measures;
 3. Calls on the Commission to involve the competent national authorities in assisting the regions affected by means of an effective strategy to prevent and combat floods, within the meaning of Article 130r of the EC Treaty, the aim being to prevent the causes of environmental damage instead of taking action only in the aftermath;
 4. Urges the Commission to ensure that the people who have suffered material damage are compensated as quickly as possible;

5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States and the regional and local authorities concerned.

Resolution on storm damage in the north-east and the Highlands and Islands of Scotland

The European Parliament,

- A. noting the severe damage caused in the north-east and Highlands of Scotland by extraordinary rainfall concentrated within several days,
- B. noting the ruination of much agricultural land and of crops as a direct result of these floods and the damage to river protection systems,
 - 1. Requests the Commission to investigate the position and to gather facts as to the extent of the damage;
 - 2. Calls for an adjustment of the Community Support Frameworks in northern Scotland to enable additional funding to be spent on relief measures and for such support to be extended to affected zones not covered by Objective 1 or 5(b);
 - 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Scottish Office.