NEPAD, the new partnership for Africa's development

2003/2106(INI) - 14/01/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Jean-Pierre BEBEAR (EPP-ED, France), warmly welcoming the establishment of the African Union and expressing great interest in its NEPAD programme. (Please see the summary of 01/10/03.) It called on the Council, the Commission and the High Representative for the CFSP to develop a structured global political dialogue, on a union-to-union basis, between the EU and the African Union. It encouraged African States, African regional organisations and the Commission to ensure that NEPAD's priorities are reflected in Community aid programmes and to seek greater consistency between the NEPAD objectives and regional programmes (in the context of agreements with ACP countries, MEDA countries and South Africa). Parliament believes that the credibility of NEPAD will depend on the decisions - some of them involving difficult cases - taken by the AU regarding countries that fail to respect the APRM criteria in the medium term. It congratulated the African Union on the gradual development of a principle of 'non-indifference' and its willingness to intervene in individual member states in the event of war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. Parliament called on the AU member states, and in particular the SADC members, to take an initiative in support of the political and constitutional transition process in Zimbabwe, under which elections should be held within the next 24 months. It congratulated the AU on its commitment to achieving peace in Burundi through the MIAB. Parliament expressed its support for the AU's Peace and Security Council, as a political authority and coordination body for the efforts achieved by the external partners and encourages the AU member states to ratify the protocol relating to this Council. On the question of private finance, Parliament also stressed that the appeal to the private sector should not lead donors, including the EU Member States, to shirk their responsibilities. It recalled its requests for a reform of and an increase in public development aid.