Resolution on the 3rd United Nations Conference on the least developed countries, Brussels 14-20 May 2001

2001/2545(RSP) - 05/04/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament welcomed the decision of the third UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries in May 2001 to be held on its premises in Brussels as an opportunity and commitment for the international community, and in particular the industrialised countries, to agree on specific measures in favour of the LDCs going beyond diplomatic declarations. The Parliament calls on the Conference to reiterate and reinforce the UN declaration of 1986 recognising the right to sustainable development as an inalienable human right and calling for a new international economic order based on equality, sovereignty, interdependence and mutual interest. The Commission's initiative to open up EU markets to products from the poorest countries is welcomed. Parliament supports the continaution of favourable access to EU markets for ACP sugar and duty free imports at guaranteed prices for other raw materials. There is a call to cancel the debt of the poorest countries and support for renewed effort to eliminate poverty. The Parliament urges the Member States that have so far not yet provided their contribution to the special Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility to do so before the end of the year. The resolution emphasises the important role that women can play in the development process and calls on the developing countries to promote women's interests. Further, the Parliament wants the Commission and Council to take action and help those countries affected by HIV/AIDS and other serious diseases to be allowed to manufacture appropriate drugs or to import them cheaply.