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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure

by the Committee on Budgets

on the European Council's position on the Financial Perspective and the renewal of the Interinstitutional Agreement 2007-2013

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European Parliament resolution on the European Council's position on the Financial Perspective and the renewal of the Interinstitutional Agreement 2007-2013

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the EC Treaty and in particular Article 272 thereof,
 - having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure¹ and in particular point 26 thereof,
 - having regard to the Communications from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament of 26 February 2004 entitled 'Building our common future: Policy challenges and budgetary means of the Enlarged Union 2007-2013' COM(2004)0101 and of 14 July 2004 entitled 'Financial Perspectives 2007-2013' (COM(2004)0487) and to the Commission working document of 12 April 2005 entitled 'Technical adjustments to the Commission proposal for the multiannual financial framework 2007-2013' SEC(2005)0494,
 - having regard to its resolution of 8 June 2005 on Policy Challenges and Budgetary Means of the Enlarged Union 2007-2013²,
 - having regard to its resolution of 1 December 2005 on the Interinstitutional Agreement on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure (2005/2237(INI))³,
 - having regard to Rule 54 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the European Council of 15-16 December 2005 adopted a common position concerning the Financial Perspective 2007-2013,
- B. whereas the current Interinstitutional Agreement on Budgetary Discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure will, in principle, end in 2006 and whereas a new agreement or an extension of the current one can only be established if agreed by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission,
- C. whereas, in the absence of a financial perspective, Article 272 of the Treaty provides for annual budgets,
- D. whereas the budget for the year 2006, the last year of the current Financial Perspective, amounts to 1.093% of EU GNI in commitment appropriations for 25 Member States,

¹ OJ C 172, 18.6.1999, p. 1. Agreement as last amended by Decision 2005/708/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 269, 14.10.2005, p. 24).

² *Texts Adopted*, P6_TA(2005)0224.

³ *Texts Adopted*, P6_TA PROV(2005)0453.

- E. whereas the European Council's common position as agreed on 15-16 December foresees an average figure of 1.045% of EU GNI in commitment appropriations for 27 Member States within the EU budget, with total commitment appropriations amounting to EUR 862,363 billion,
- F. whereas the European Parliament's negotiating position adopted on 8 June 2005 ensures a better match of political priorities and financial needs, a modernising of the budget through more flexibility, an improvement in the quality of implementation, with a financial framework amounting to EUR 974,837 billion, representing an average of 1.18% of EU GNI in commitment appropriations,
1. Notes the fact that the European Council finally found a common position between Member States which allows for the opening of the negotiations with the European Parliament on the next Financial Perspective;
 2. Notes that the conclusions of the European Council focus on traditional policies which are administrated by the Member States rather than putting emphasis on policies enabling the Union to face new challenges and to develop the European added value for citizens; deplores moreover that Member States fight to preserve their national interests rather than to foster the European dimension and were unable to address the major issue of reforming the own resources system;
 3. Recalls that the conclusions of the European Council - referring sometimes to very specific rules within spending programmes - cannot overrule the powers vested in the European Parliament as one arm of the legislative and budgetary authority and insists to play its full parliamentary role in the definition of policies, their reform and their budget;
 4. Rejects the European Council's common position in its current form, because it does not guarantee an EU budget enhancing prosperity, competitiveness, solidarity, cohesion and security in future, in compliance with policies already decided by the Council itself; it fails to fulfil commitments made towards the new Member States and does not provide for a sufficient and detailed flexibility mechanism, a firm commitment to undertake the review with a clear role for the European Parliament or sufficient accompanying measures for example to ensure better implementation and control of expenditure of funds in Member States;
 5. Underlines the importance it is attaching to a higher degree of flexibility;
 6. Reaffirms its position voted on 8 June 2005 and charges its Committee on Budgets to negotiate the inter-institutional agreement accordingly;
 7. Is willing to enter into constructive negotiations with the Council on the basis of respective positions provided the Austrian Presidency is entrusted a real negotiating mandate. Is determined to defend the quantitative, structural and qualitative elements of its negotiating position and to enhance the European dimension of agricultural, internal and external policies;
 8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.