

Text adopted by the plenary session of the resolution by Staf Aerts, Maarten De Veuster, Orry Van de Wauwer, Annick Lambrecht en Emmily Talpe on opening a political dialogue with the European Commission on actions to combat the famine and humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa

The Flemish Parliament,

- having regard to:
 - 1° The report 'Dangerous Delay 2: 'The Cost of Inaction';
 - 2° The conclusions of the Council of 10 May 2021, on 'The Horn of Africa: a geostrategic priority for the EU';
 - 3° The European Parliament resolution of 16 September 2020, on security cooperation between the European Union and Africa in the Sahel region, West Africa and the Horn of Africa;
 - 4° UNICEF's cry for help stating that 350,000 Somali children are suffering from life-threatening malnutrition and that the current famine threatens to be worse than the great Somali famine of 2011;
 - 5° The fact that the region is currently facing the largest outbreak of measles in the world;
 - 6° The MSF warning that another 1.4 million people will be displaced in the coming months;
 - 7° The definition of famine used by the World Food Programme, where the threshold is at least 20 per cent of households facing extreme food shortages, 30 per cent of children suffering from acute malnutrition, and two in 10,000 people dying per day as a result;
 - 8° The announcement by the World Food Programme in early June 2022, that in the Horn of Africa, several regions are already balancing on the edge of the thresholds set by the World Food Programme definition, and are consequently in dire need;
- Considering that:
 - 1° Development and sustainable peace can only be achieved by addressing the root causes of poverty and hunger;
 - 2° The World Food Programme urgently needs \$192 million to scale up its emergency food programme to reach three million affected Somalis;
 - 3° Infant mortality in Somalia is already 15 per cent higher than last year;
 - 4° The situation is only likely to get worse and, in addition to long-term support, emergency aid is urgently needed;
 - 5° The main cause of death in children are preventable diseases such as diarrhoea and measles;
 - 6° Somalia and Somaliland are currently facing the largest measles outbreak in the world;
 - 7° The World Meteorological Organisation expects Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia to suffer the longest drought in forty years;
 - 8° Access to displaced population groups to provide humanitarian assistance remains difficult;
 - 9° Instability in the region directly affects the security of Europe and its citizens, as well as the stability of Europe's external borders;
 - 10° The Government of Flanders released emergency aid in 2018, for Rohingya children in Bangladesh and for fighting the Ebola outbreak in the DRC;
- Calls on the Government of Flanders:
 - 1° To diplomatically raise the humanitarian emergency in the Horn of Africa with the European Union and place it on the political agenda;
 - 2° To assess whether there is scope in the Flemish budget for emergency aid to allocate

- funds, coordinated with the efforts of Belgium and the European Union, to the humanitarian emergency in the Horn of Africa;
- 3° To explore how Flanders can structurally contribute to the economic, ecological and social sustainability of local agriculture through exchange projects with Flemish research institutions, knowledge and pilot centres;
- Asks the European Commission to:
 - 1° Place the humanitarian emergency in the Horn of Africa high on the political and diplomatic agenda, and work towards solutions to structurally address the root causes of the humanitarian crisis;
 - 2° To explore, through the coordinated, 'Team Europe' approach, ways in which the European Union can mobilise sufficient resources to address the looming humanitarian emergency in the Horn of Africa;
 - 3° To contribute, through humanitarian diplomacy, to improving access to medical assistance and compliance with humanitarian principles;
 - 4° To increase structural support for the region, using development resources to improve the resilience and self-reliance of the population, including making it more resilient to natural and climate disasters, and making the agricultural and food system economically, environmentally and socially sustainable;
 - Asks the European Commission to address this resolution within the framework of the political dialogue and indicate how it will take it into account;
 - Requests the Speaker of the Flemish Parliament to forward this resolution to the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.