

Resolution 28600-V, number 24,
Dutch Parliament,
18 December 2002

Resolution:

In view of the fact that:

- the historic low prices of coffee present dire consequences for developing countries and threaten the livelihood of 25 million coffee growers around the world;
- the Assistant Secretary for Developmental Cooperation has taken the initiative to promote dialogue among governments, industry and social assistance services;
- the government of the Netherlands, in conjunction with the EU, has made a proposal to ask the International Coffee Organization (ICO) to conduct a worldwide comparative analysis of the coffee zones and to encourage coffee producing countries to design restructuring plans for the coffee sector, facilitated by the ICO and supported financially by the European Commission and the World Bank, among others;

Hereby requests the government:

- a. to support the implementation of the Coffee Quality Improvement Program of the ICO by requesting the European Commission to monitor-via independent controls-the quality of the coffee beans imported into the European Union, and to make the data produced by the program available to the ICO;
- b. to urge-bilaterally and in conjunction with the EU-that the United States rejoin the ICO;
- c. to assume a proactive role for the purpose of bringing about transparent and independently verified behavioral codes within the coffee industry in a framework of socially responsible undertakings that, as a minimum, take into account a compliance with ILO and UN treaties and national legislation and that contain a specific commitment to pay prices that meet social needs and environmental standards, implemented in cooperation with the stakeholders and proceeding to the order of the day.