



Plenary sitting

B8-0401/2017

7.6.2017

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
(2017/2703(RSP))

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on behalf of the S&D Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
(2017/2703(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions, in particular those on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) of 23 June 2016¹, 1 December 2016² and 2 February 2017³,
 - having regard to the statements by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission Federica Mogherini and by her Spokesperson on the situation in the DRC,
 - having regard to the resolution of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly of 15 June 2016 on the pre-electoral and security situation in the DRC,
 - having regard to the EU Council declarations of 12 December 2016 and 29 May 2017 adopting sanctions against individuals responsible for violence and serious human rights violations in the DRC,
 - having regard to the revised Cotonou Partnership Agreement,
 - having regard to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of June 1981,
 - having regard to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance,
 - having regard to the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Congo, adopted on 18 February 2006,
 - having regard to Resolution 2348 (2017) adopted by the UN Security Council at its 7910th meeting on 31 March 2017,
 - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the challenging humanitarian and security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has further deteriorated as a result of the political crisis caused by non-compliance with the national Constitution;
- B. whereas in August 2016 armed clashes broke out between the Congolese army and local militias in the Central Kasai province and spread to the neighbouring provinces of Eastern Kasai, Lomami and Sankuru, causing a humanitarian crisis and resulting in more than 42 mass graves, the destruction of homes, schools and medical facilities, and the internal displacement of more than 1.3 million civilians;

¹ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2016)0290.

² Texts adopted, P8_TA(2016)0479.

³ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2017)0017.

- C. whereas the discovery in March 2017 of the assassination of UN experts has led to calls for an international investigation;
 - D. whereas the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) launched a USD 64.5 million appeal in April 2017 for urgent humanitarian assistance in the Kasai region; whereas nearly 400 000 children are at risk of acute malnutrition in the Greater Kasai region as a result of the violence;
 - E. whereas the crisis in Kasai is occurring in the context of political transition in the DRC following the end of the constitutional mandate of President Kabila and the commitment of the Congolese authorities to respect and implement the Political Agreement of 31 December 2016 under the auspices of the National Episcopal Conference of Congo (CENCO);
 - F. whereas there have been increasing reports from civil society, including human rights organisations, expressing serious concern at the worsening situation in the country regarding human rights and freedom of expression, assembly and demonstration in the country, the excessive force used against peaceful demonstrators, journalists and political opposition, and gender-based violence, particularly perpetrated by the army and militias;
 - G. whereas thousands of people have escaped from Makala prison and many others have escaped from Kasangulu and Kalemie prisons;
 - H. whereas the situation in the country has implications for the region; whereas the peaceful, transparent, smooth and timely conduct of the next presidential and legislative elections are vital for the security of the Great Lakes region;
 - I. whereas, under its mandate which was renewed in April 2017, MONUSCO should contribute to the protection of civilians and should support the implementation of the political agreement of 31 December 2016;
 - J. whereas the EU adopted restrictive measures on 12 December 2016 against seven individuals in response to the obstruction of the electoral process and human rights violations, and on 29 May 2017 against a further nine individuals who hold positions of responsibility in the State administration and in the chain of command of the DRC security forces;
1. Is deeply concerned at the deterioration of the political, security and humanitarian situation in the DRC; strongly condemns all acts of violence by all perpetrators, and calls on the DRC authorities to guarantee the security of the population with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
 2. Recalls that the Government of the DRC bears the primary responsibility to protect civilians within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, including protection from crimes against humanity and war crimes;
 3. Recalls the commitments made by the DRC under the Cotonou Agreement to respect democracy, the rule of law and human rights, including freedom of expression and of the media, good governance and transparency in political office;

4. Supports the establishment of an international commission of inquiry to shed light on the violence in the Kasai region and to ensure the perpetrators of these massacres are held to account for their actions;
5. Strongly regrets the postponement of the election; reiterates its calls for transparent, free and fair presidential and legislative elections before the end of 2017 in compliance with the agreement of 31 December 2016; calls for the early implementation of the commitments contained in the agreement, in particular the amending and adoption of the necessary laws in the Congolese parliament before the end of the parliamentary session;
6. Notes the high rates of participation so far from the voter registration initiatives conducted by the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI); recalls that the CENI must be an impartial and inclusive institution; calls for the immediate creation of a national council for monitoring the agreement and the electoral process, in accordance with the 2016 political agreement;
7. Urges the international community to mobilise increased resources to address the humanitarian crisis in the Kasai province; insists that the Congolese authorities ensure the smooth and timely delivery of aid to the population by humanitarian organisations;
8. Notes with concern the risk of regional destabilisation; recalls in particular the role of the United Nations, the International Organisation of La Francophonie and the African Union in mediation to restore stability in the country;
9. Recalls the importance of holding individuals to account for human rights abuses and other actions which undermine a consensual and peaceful solution in the DRC; supports the use of EU targeted sanctions against individuals responsible for serious human rights violations; encourages the High Representative, in partnership with the UN, AU and OIF, to engage in dialogue aimed at resolving the current crisis; recalls also the possibility of extending restrictive measures in the event of further violence, as provided for in the Cotonou Agreement;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the European Commission / High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the African Union, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the Secretary-General of the UN, and the President, Prime Minister and Parliament of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.