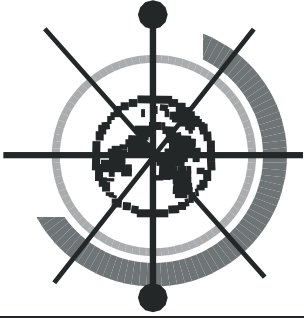


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20 June 2006

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❖ **Regional integration: a tool for the promotion of peace and security**

Regional integration: a tool for the promotion of peace and security

Report by Johan VAN HECKE (ALDE, Belgium) and Ateem Garang DENG DEKUEK (Sudan) on the role of regional integration in the promotion of peace and security

Debate : 20.06.2006

Vote : 22.06.2006

The Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) debated the role of regional integration in the promotion of peace and security during its meeting in Vienna.

Johan VAN HECKE (ALDE, Belgium), the co-rapporteur gave examples of where regional organisations had contributed to peace and conflict prevention in ACP countries for example African Union forces in the DRC or CARICOM in Haiti. However, the intervention of regional organisations was not always a guarantee of success. Since “*independence*” there were, he said, over 100 regional bodies created, but most lack cash, military equipment and aeroplanes to make a real difference. It was important for the international community to provide assistance to these regional organisations

Ateem Garang DENG DEKUEK (Sudan), the co-rapporteur on the report from the ACP side, stressed the important role that regional bodies play in conflict prevention. Mr Deng Dekuek stated that troops on the ground would be useful to protect resources on the ground

In the report, the JPA urges regional organisations, in conjunction with their Member States, to develop conflict prevention strategies rather than simply reacting once violence has already erupted.

The report urges the participation of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly as an actor in political dialogue, which has a preventive role and can foster mutual trust before a crisis breaks out, through consultation as required under Articles 96 and 97 of the Cotonou Agreement.

The report also calls for further funding for the strengthening of regional early warning and early response mechanisms, which have already been successfully established, such as the ECOWAS Early Warning Mechanism and the IGAD Early Warning and Early Response Mechanism (CEWARN).

Finally, the report to be adopted by the JPA on Thursday calls on the EU to support the creation of an All-ACP Peace Facility and provide funding for its effective functioning.

Vote Thursday, 22 June 2006

ACP-EU website:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/60_11/default_en.htm

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