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PRESS RELEASE

Political and institutional crisis in Madagascar

**ACP-EU Assembly condemns "Coup" and
calls for return to constitutional order**

Urgent resolution

Directorate-General for Communication
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

MADAGASCAR

Debate: 02.12.2009

Vote: 03.12.2009

Madagascar: ACP-EU Assembly condemns "Coup"

The ACP-EU Assembly condemns "vigorously" the seizure of power in Madagascar, which is "nothing less than a Coup", according to the resolution. The JPA calls for a return to constitutional order and insists that the Malagasy Parliament must be reinstated immediately and involved in the efforts to resolve the crisis.

The JPA condemns the seizure of power in Madagascar, "in flagrant breach of the national constitution", and the decision to entrust the Presidency of the Republic to Mr Andry Rajoelina, who, after suspending the National Assembly and the Senate, proclaimed himself President of the Republic and head of the High Authority of Transition on 17 March 2009.

This amounts to "nothing less than a coup d'état", according to the ACP-EU Assembly. The African Union and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have suspended Madagascar from both organisations' membership. The EU suspended funding to the country, apart from humanitarian assistance and certain programmes and projects of direct benefit to the population, until it is satisfied that the roadmap to return constitutional order is credible.

The Assembly calls for a return to constitutional republican order and asks the four political groupings involved to reach consensus on the sharing of positions of responsibility and government posts, in accordance with Maputo and Addis Ababa commitments. In the event of failure to respect the undertakings given in Maputo and Addis Ababa, individual sanctions should be put in place.

The resolution insists that the Malagasy Parliament must be reinstated immediately and involved in the efforts to resolve the crisis and calls for the immediate release of all political prisoners.

Finally, the Assembly calls on the international community and the EU to gradually resume aid to Madagascar, as soon as the transitional institutions of the government of national unity are in place.

On 6 July 2009, the EU initiated a consultation process with the Republic of Madagascar under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement, thereby opening a dialogue to explore means of finding appropriate solutions to the country's political problems. This article lays down the possibility of taking appropriate measures (including the suspension of the Agreement) in cases of violation by one of the parties of the requirements of essential elements of the Agreement, namely respect for human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law.

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/60_18/default_en.htm

Link to website of the ACP/EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly

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