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## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

further to the Council and Commission statements

pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by Niall Andrews, José Ribeiro e Castro, and Cristiana Muscardini

on behalf of the UEN Group

on the situation in Zimbabwe

PE 340.704

**European parliament resolution on the situation in Zimbabwe**

*The European parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Zimbabwe and specifically its last Resolution of June 5 2003,
- A Whereas the political and economic situation in Zimbabwe has been deteriorating more and more over the past months as a direct consequence of the policies of the Mugabe regime,
- B Whereas the number of hungry people in the country is growing more and more and private relief groups are concerned that the government is trying to « politicise » food distribution to Zimbabwe's people,
- C Whereas the country is losing skilled and professional people to South Africa because of the economic crisis and this brain drain will have an impact on the sustainable development of the country,
- D Whereas civil society organizations representing unions, women, religious groups, youth and human rights advocates as well as political opposition have not stopped condemning the country's human rights crisis and calling for urgent action by regional governments and institutions, and the international community,
- E Whereas the Zimbabwean officials continue to strongly resist all peaceful and legitimate national protests over the economy and human rights situation and continue to attack freedom of information and are operating strict control on the national press, including forcing the closure of the « Daily news », Zimbabwe's only independent daily newspaper,
- F Whereas the Zimbabwean government is planning to introduce new measures to police all broadcast and Internet-based information circulation, which will enable, once implemented, the government to monitor individual information, message and letters, and to arrest people involved on the ground,
- G Whereas all attempts carried out by other African political leaders to seek a solution to the rapidly escalating political, economic and social crises, unfortunately, have failed ,
- H Whereas in February 2002, further to the repeated violations of human rights, the European Union imposed targeted sanctions on President Mugabe and other close aides of the Zimbabwean leader, pursuant to Article 96 of Cotonou Agreement,
- I Whereas, in spite of the repeated worldwide criticism on recent events in Zimbabwe, the behaviour of President Mugabe and his regime has not changed and more and more is pushing the country towards hunger and international isolation

- 1 Reiterates its condemnation of the events which are unfolding in Zimbabwe, the breakdown in the rule of law, the on-going violence, loss of life, illegal occupation of property, and continues to be concerned about the fate of farmers and the families employed on their farms ;
- 2 Expresses its concern about the climate of tension in Zimbabwe, aggravated by pressure on the judiciary and the intimidation of and violence against the Zimbabwean people who are unable to enjoy their fundamental rights ;
- 3 Deplores the violent interruption of peaceful demonstrations and detention of the Zimbabwean Congress of Trade Union leaders as well as members of several civil society organisations and journalists ;
- 4 Applauds the efforts of the political opponents and civil society organizations who continue to stand up against the Mugabe regime, in spite of the serious threat to their own lives ;
- 5 Is deeply concerned that the warnings about the expected food shortages have not been heeded and stresses the need to find a solution which helps the people most at risk but does not enable the Mugabe government to profit from food aid to its own political advantage and demands that humanitarian aid be channelled through reputable NGOs and not the government ;
- 6 Congratulates the countries within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) which distanced itself from the Mugabe regime by contributing to isolate him within the Organization ; reiterates its disappointment that this tougher line has not been taken by all African leaders in the region ;
- 7 Urges the government of Zimbabwe to engage in active and meaningful dialogue with other stakeholders, in particular the main opposition party, on urgent ways to solve the political and economic the conditions for the recovery of agricultural production ;
- 8 Insists that the Council and the Commission take urgent and resolute action to oblige the Zimbabwean government to review its recent positions and to respect all the commitments it has subscribed to in its international Agreements;.
- 9 Calls on the Council and the Commission, in the light of the current situation, to take into consideration the necessity of extending the application of measures adopted in February 2002 , as stipulated in Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement and to take all possible steps to ensure safety of citizens of the EU Member States in Zimbabwe ;
- 10 Recalls that these sanctions must not be designed to harm ordinary citizens of Zimbabwe or its neighbours, nor should they completely prevent dialogue and considers it essential that the EU should remain committed to providing humanitarian assistance to the people of Zimbabwe ;
- 11 Suggests that the LANCASTER HOUSE Agreement leading to independence of Zimbabwe be revisited by the signatories ;

- 12 Instructs its President to forward this Resolution to the Commission, the Council and Member States and candidate countries, the Government and Parliament of Zimbabwe, the Secretary General of the United Nations, the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the Secretary General of the OAU, the Secretary General of the Commonwealth and the President of the World Bank.