

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

13 January 2004

B5-0031/2004

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by Niall Andrews

on behalf of the UEN Group

on the situation in Haiti

PE 340.713

European parliament resolution on the situation in Haiti

the European parliament,

- having regard to the report of the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on the human rights situation;

- A. whereas violent clashes where twenty people have died marred the 200th anniversary of Haiti's independence, and many more have been killed in various anti-government protests since September 2003;
 - B. whereas Haïti is still confronted by desperate poverty, with the lowest life expectancy, literacy and health indicators in its region;
 - C. whereas the action plan presented to government authorities and the international community is designed to give specific recommendations for confronting the gravest human rights abuses in the country;
 - D. whereas the recent demonstrations underscored the deepening crisis facing President Aristide, who should hold elections this year ;
 - E. whereas the opposition has refused to take part in new parliamentary elections unless the President resigns, despite the fact that Aristide has indicated he will complete his mandate ;
 - F. whereas Jean-Bertrand Aristide has been locked in a stalemate with the opposition since 2000, when he returned to power in a landslide election which his opponents say were rigged;
 - G. whereas the 15-member Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is attempting to mediate in the bitter political dispute and the United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan, has pledged to work with CARICOM to resolve the Haitian crisis;
 - H. whereas the EU, has suspended cooperation with Haiti, but, at the same time, has increased humanitarian aid;
 - I. whereas the worsening health situation and the HIV/aids epidemic have led to a reduction in the average life expectancy in Haiti to 49 years;
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- 1. Is deeply concerned at the continuous clashes between “pro”and “anti”government forces in Haiti and deplores the casualties incurred during the opposition protests over the last months;
 - 2. Asks the authorities to immediately bring those responsible to justice;
 - 3. Calls on political leaders to immediately address their supporters and demand them to stop committing abuses;

4. Calls for constructive dialogue between the Haitian government, the opposition, members of the religious community and associations representing civil society, in line with pluralist democracy;
5. Calls on the Commission and on the international community to put pressure on the Haitian government to commit itself to and take action for the organisation of free and fair legislative elections in 2004,
6. Calls for the restoration of the UN mission working with the Haitian police force, the disbandment of the so-called "special brigades" (requested by the UN Special Envoy), and the disarming of the militias ;
7. Calls for reform of Haitian society and for real democratic development in that country;
8. Requests that the Commission intensify its humanitarian and sanitary aid to Haiti;
9. Calls for the establishment of cooperation, in particular in the education and health sectors, as soon as the conditions, set out in the Cotonou Accord, have been fulfilled ;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the co-presidents of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly ACP-EU, and the governments of the countries of CARICOM.