

13/5/02 **DRAFT!! - EPP-ED GROUP MOTION FOR URGENCY RESOLUTION**

**ON THE SITUATION IN MADAGASCAR**

**TABLED BY MR. MORILLON, MR. BOWIS AND MR GEMELLI**

**ON BEHALF OF THE EPP-ED GROUP**

**+ ANDREWS, UEN**

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*BS-289/02*

**THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,**

- having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou, Benin, on 23 June 2000;
- having regard to the New African Initiative proposed in Pretoria, South Africa, during July 2001;
- having regard to the European Parliament's Resolution on the Elections in Madagascar adopted on 7 February 2002;
- having regard to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly's Resolution adopted on 22 March 2002;
- having regard to the recent EU Presidency Statements concerning Madagascar issued on 27 February [6567/1/02], on 17 April [8052/1/02], on 22 April [8223/02], and on 8 May 2002 [8769/02];
- having regard to the President of the United Nations' Security Council statement [SC/7281] about the elections in Madagascar on 28 January 2002;
- having regard to the Secretary-General of the United Nations statement on Madagascar of 19 April 2002 [SG/SM/8202];
- having regard to the agreement in Dakar [Senegal] signed by the two Madagascar Presidential candidates on 18 April 2002;
- having regard to the EU Heads of State and Government meeting in Seville [Spain] from 21 to 22 June 2002;
- having regard to the G-8 Summit in Kananaskis [Canada] between 26 and 28 June 2002, which will focus on G-8 cooperation with Africa;

- A. Whereas the objectives and principles of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the 15 EU Member States and the 77 nations from across Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific [ACP] include inter alia "a view to contributing to peace and security and to promoting a stable and democratic political environment" [Article 1];
- B. Whereas the EU Presidency "is convinced that the Dakar agreement remains the appropriate framework for the achievement of a solution" to the growing crisis in Madagascar;
- C. Whereas on 29 April 2002 - after a recount under the terms of the Dakar political agreement - Madagascar's High Court declared that Marc Ravalomanana had won 51.46% of the vote in the 16 December 2001 Presidential elections, but that previous president Didier Ratsiraka refuses to accept this result;

- D. Whereas tensions in Madagascar are rising with the capital Antananarivo blockaded after the destruction of six bridges, four of the six Provincial Governors backing the outgoing president Didier Ratsikara, over 60 people killed in political violence, reports of many further deaths due to the shortage of medicines, and Madagascar's economy crippled with over thirty textile factories closed and 65000 workers laid off;
- E. Whereas the international community has shown a cautious but increasing acknowledgement of Ravalomanana's inauguration as President of Madagascar on 6 May 2002, with both the European Union and United States calling for national reconciliation and praising Senegal's President Abdoulaye Wade's efforts on behalf of the African Union to restart talks between both sides;
- F. Whereas Members of the United Nations Security Council have "expressed concern over the situation of unrest prevailing in Madagascar and the potential for undermining peace and stability in that country and the region as a whole";
- G. Whereas despite some defections to both sides, the Malagasy Army's Chief of Staff General Olaf Zafitsiarendrika has stated "This is a political problem, not a security issue" - although in the absence of law and order: political violence and economic disruption for Madagascar's 16 million people persists;
- H. Whereas Madagascar's neighbours - and in particular South Africa - are reluctant to intervene and support the decision reached by Madagascar's High Court as a basis for new talks and national reconciliation to further the Dakar process;
- I. Whereas under the ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement, the European Commission and Council can start moves under Article 8 to "engage in a comprehensive, balanced and deep political dialogue leading to commitments on both sides", and encourage the United Nations Security Council to focus on the growing plight of Madagascar;
1. Welcomes the efforts by the African Union and supports Senegal's President Abdoulaye Wade's efforts to prevent Madagascar dividing into two, and calls on both Didier Ratsikara and Marc Ravalomanana to put the interests of Madagascar's 16 million people first by returning to the negotiating table;
  2. Condemns all acts of political violence and sabotage in Madagascar, and asks for the immediate lifting of all roadblocks so that emergency relief can reach those in need;
  3. Urges the pro-Ratsiraka Provincial Governors in Tulear, Diego Suarez, Tamatave and Majunga to attend also the Dakar talks;
  4. Calls on the European Union and the United Nations to work with the African Union to bring about a swift solution to the crisis facing Madagascar, and for the Commission to work with the World Food Programme to prepare immediate humanitarian aid supplies and assistance with reconstruction as the plight of the population in the capital Antananarivo worsens;
  5. Warns that the rising numbers of deaths, climate of unrest and increased political tensions are not conducive to "a stable and democratic political environment", appeals to the supporters of both candidates to refrain from violence, and notes that the situation in Madagascar is already having an economic impact on other southern African economies such as Mauritius;
  6. Urges the EU Spanish Presidency to send an official Troika to hold talks with all sides and with Madagascar's southern African neighbours, and for EU Member States to highlight the plight of Madagascar in the United Nations Security Council;

7. Calls on the European Commission, Council and Member States to ensure that the Dakar Agreement is respected, and to start the process of political dialogue under Article 8 of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement to prevent the partition of Madagascar;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Madagascar Parliament, the European Council, Commission, governments and parliaments of the EU Member States and applicant countries, the Secretaries General of United Nations, African Union and OECD, the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly, United Nations Security Council, United Nations Economic and Social Committee, European Investment Bank, World Bank and International Monetary Fund, and the Director-General of the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] and World Food Programme[WFP].

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ENDS [Strasbourg - 13-05-2002]