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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Charles Pasqua

on behalf of the UEN Group

on the illegal exploitation of the wealth of the Democratic Republic of Congo

European Parliament resolution on the illegal exploitation of the wealth of the Democratic Republic of Congo

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the final report submitted to the UN Security Council by the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of Congo,
- B. whereas the armed conflict which has been laying waste the Democratic Republic of Congo for the past four years has helped to undermine the authority of the central government and has led, in particular, to the disintegration of the public sector at local level, a situation which has made it easier for certain foreign powers to exert a stranglehold on national wealth – diamonds, cobalt and coltan (columbite-tantalite) – and has resulted in persistent flagrant human rights violations,
- C. whereas three distinct zones have become apparent – the first under the joint control of members of the Congolese Government and Zimbabwean troops, the second under Rwandan control and the third under Ugandan control – and whereas ‘elite networks’ are operating in each zone and organising the systematic pillage of the country,
- D. whereas, for as long as these abuses continue (spoliation of public companies, falsification of their accounts, control of markets and organised theft, tax evasion, tax fraud, ‘front’ companies and requisitioning of assets), any hope of seeing the Democratic Republic of Congo progressing towards stability, democracy and development is doomed to certain failure, since those abuses directly fuel the ongoing conflicts,
- E. whereas the chain for the marketing of the wealth stolen in this way presupposes the more or less tacit approval of a dozen transit countries and a culpable lack of inquisitiveness on the part of a large number of countries of destination,
- F. having regard to the first steps taken in the Democratic Republic of Congo towards reorganisation which enable us, for the first time in a long time, to envisage a number of measures which might contribute to the reconstruction of the country and to the redirection of its economy so that the economy may contribute to the stability of the country and to the consolidation of peace,
 - 1. Calls for the genuine, total and definitive withdrawal from the territory of the Democratic Republic of Congo of all foreign troops and those helping them to hold on to or extend their territorial gains;
 - 2. Emphasises that a withdrawal of that nature would, by itself, be inadequate to put an end to the pillage of national resources and calls on the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo gradually to introduce measures to dismantle the ‘elite networks’ which are diverting the revenue deriving from the exploitation of those resources;

3. Welcomes the reorganisation at government level undertaken in the Democratic Republic of Congo, provided that it seeks to put an end to, and not to consolidate, the division of the country into zones under foreign control where the remit of the law does not run;
4. Calls on the European Union, with that in mind, to play a proactive role in the strengthening of institutional capacities and in the reorganisation of the public services which are essential for the country;
5. Proposes to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, as an earnest of its political will, that it should seek assistance from the United Nations, and/or the European Union, in order to help it to devise realistic and peaceful solutions which will lead to the gradual eradication of those illegal networks;
6. Calls on the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to make the peace process its top priority in order to legitimise and make effective the programme for disarming and demobilising the armed groups which, to this day, have been enabling such trafficking to be carried out with impunity;
7. Calls on the Member States of the European Union to begin the inquiries required to establish a list of any companies based on their territory which may have been contributing to the prosperity of such illegal networks; calls on them, in the event that they do establish such participation, to impose the appropriate sanctions in order to punish those responsible for the damage that they have caused;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, to the Organisation of African Unity and to the UN Secretary-General.