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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 John Corrie and Thierry Cornillet

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

to wind up the debate on the Council and Commission statements on illegal exploitation of the wealth of the Democratic Republic of Congo

European Parliament resolution to wind up the debate on the Council and Commission statements on illegal exploitation of the wealth of the Democratic Republic of Congo

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC),
 - having regard to the final report of the United Nations Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of Congo,
 - having regard to the EU Presidency declaration on the Conclusion of the Inter-Congolese Negotiations in Pretoria¹,
 - having regard to EU accession to the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for the international trade in rough diamonds,
- A. whereas the final UN report on the illegal exploitation of the DRC's natural resources provides detailed evidence of the widespread diversion of State funds through the plundering of natural resources and of other related criminal activities,
- B. whereas the report shows that the withdrawal of foreign armies has coincided with the development of so-called military, political and business 'elite networks', cooperating to divert public revenues and to engage in various criminal activities,
- C. whereas funds from trade in illegally exploited products have been used to finance conflicts in several African countries,
- D. whereas some of the products resulting from the illegal exploitation of natural resources in the DRC find their way to EU Member States,
- E. whereas the UN Panel considers that the involvement of a number of European companies in trade in these products amounts to a violation of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises,
- F. whereas the power-sharing agreement for the DRC concluded on 17 December 2002 was followed by renewed fighting in the north-eastern parts of the country in late December, which resulted in a massive exodus of refugees to Burundi,
- G. whereas the DRC President, Joseph Kabila, lifted the moratorium on executions on 23 September 2002, and whereas 30 people were sentenced to death by a military

¹ 15713/02

court on 7 January 2003 for their involvement in the assassination of former President Laurent-Désiré Kabila,

1. Expresses its grave concern at the findings of the UN Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of Congo and reiterates its condemnation of all such exploitation;
2. Calls on the Council and on the governments of Member States to take account of the UN Panel report and to take immediate action to stop the involvement of European companies in the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the DRC;
3. Welcomes the Pretoria power-sharing agreement, hopes that it constitutes an initial step in a lasting peace and democratisation process and calls for all countries in the region to cooperate with the transitional government in order to facilitate the implementation of the agreement;
4. Urges the warring factions involved in conflicts in the north-eastern parts of the DRC to ceasefire immediately and to stop all human rights violations against the local people;
5. Emphasises the need for urgent development aid for reconstruction and rehabilitation in the DRC in order to support the very fragile peace process initiated by the Pretoria Agreement and for urgent humanitarian aid to refugees;
6. Calls for the granting of aid to the DRC be made conditional on a genuine commitment to a democratisation process and for that aid to the DRC and to other nations involved in the conflict be made conditional on their commitment to take measures to halt the illegal exploitation of natural resources,
7. Condemns the lifting of the DRC moratorium on executions and the sentencing to death of the 30 persons accused of involvement in the assassination of the former President, Laurent-Désiré Kabila;
8. Welcomes the EU accession to the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for the international trade in rough diamonds and calls on all the States involved in this trade to join the Scheme;
9. Calls on EU governments to respect and uphold the principles of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, with particular regard to the principles of integrity and transparency and the non-acceptance of double standards in these areas;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the UN Secretary-General and the African Union, and to the governments of the DRC, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia.