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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 Colette Flesch, Marieke Sanders-ten Holte, Johan Van Hecke and Bob van den Bos

on behalf of the ELDR Group

on the illegal exploitation of the wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

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

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Democratic Republic of the Congo,
 - having regard to the final report of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the DRC,
- A. whereas there is clear evidence of exploitation of the DRC's vast natural resources and proof that this activity is fuelling the war,
- B. whereas the international community, in particular African countries, must contribute to the restoration of security in the country,
1. Reaffirms the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the DRC;
 2. Reaffirms, further, the sovereignty of the DRC over its natural resources and notes with concern reports of the illegal exploitation of the country's assets, which is continuing despite the physical presence of foreign armies;
 3. Welcomes the Pretoria Agreement and the efforts made by the African Union and the United Nations to support the implementation of the democratisation process in the DRC;
 4. Considers that the early establishment of an all-inclusive transitional government in the DRC will constitute an important step towards halting the exploitation of natural resources;
 5. Calls for the guidelines concerning the trade in diamonds, which came into force at the beginning of 2003, to be strengthened and independently monitored;
 6. Recommends that Member States actively support the efforts being made by intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations at both international and regional levels to halt illegal logging and to agree on an international definition of ‘conflict timber’;
 7. Calls for the requisite funding for reintegration programmes and security assurances for those members of armed groups who are not wanted for war crimes and acts of genocide;
 8. Calls on the UN Security Council to impose targeted sanctions on governments and companies proven to have participated in the illegal exploitation of natural resources in the DRC;

9. Urges the Kabila Government to take further steps in the reconciliation and democratisation process without delay so that the EU may resume full structural aid to the DRC;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Government of the DRC, the signatories to the Pretoria Agreement, Mr Mbeki, Mr Masire and Mr Ajello, and to the UN.