

10/2/03

Strasbourg, 10 February 2003

BS-151/03

**MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

With request for inclusion in the debate on topical and urgent subjects of major importance pursuant to Rule 50(5) of the Rules of Procedure

Tabled by Bastiaan Belder

On behalf of the EDD Group

**On the situation in Zimbabwe**The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions of 13 April 2000, 18 May 2000, 6 July 2000, 15 March 2001, 6 September 2001, 13 December 2001, 14 March 2002, 16 May 2002, 4 July 2002, and 5 September 2002 on the situation in Zimbabwe,

A. whereas the Council of the EU Common Position of 18 February 2002, imposing targeted sanctions on the Mugabe regime, requires renewal by 18 February 2003,

B. whereas the European Parliament has consistently called for the widening and rigorous enforcement of sanctions, as well as other measures in order to make international action against the Mugabe regime more effective,

C. whereas political oppression in Zimbabwe has intensified, and the leader of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change, Morgan Tsvangirai, its secretary-general, Welshman Ncube, and one of its MPs, Renson Gasela, have now been put on trial in Zimbabwe, charged with treason,

D. whereas the UN estimates that by March some 7.2 million people - over half the country's population - will be reliant on food aid, and the overall economic situation is spiralling downwards with unemployment at 70% and inflation at over 100%,

E. whereas opportunities to circumvent the EU's travel ban have been exploited by leading members of the Mugabe regime and the Council of the EU has been complicit in this by allowing exemptions,

F. whereas the European Parliament itself had to take action in November 2002 to refuse access to Parliamentary premises to two banned Zimbabweans, granted visas by the Belgian authorities,

G. whereas in its resolution of 5 September 2002 the European Parliament called for greater transparency and detailed information on the application of EU sanctions and, in particular, that the Commission provide information on the freezing of the bank accounts of those in Mugabe's entourage,

H. whereas a significant part of the United Nations Panel of Experts' October 2002 Report on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo refers to the illicit role of government-backed Zimbabwean interests and gives startling evidence of how the actions of Mugabe's corrupt henchmen impact not just on their own people but also on neighbouring countries,

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- I. whereas Zimbabwe is a focal example of failure in respect to questions of good governance, and the promotion of human rights and the rule of law in Africa,
- J. whereas African nations must not allow their relations with the countries of the European Union to be hostage to the Mugabe regime, and whereas therefore it is in the interests of the African Union and SADC to take urgent action along with the rest of the international community to bring about rapid change for the better in Zimbabwe,
- K. whereas South Africa in particular, as Zimbabwe's most powerful neighbour and economic partner has the opportunity and responsibility to show leadership in helping bring about urgent change for the better in Zimbabwe,
1. Expresses deep concern that the Council and the governments of Member States are not heeding views of European Parliament in regard to the rigorous enforcement and extension of the sanctions against the Mugabe regime;
  2. Calls for the European Parliament's wishes on this matter to be respected by the Council;
  3. Calls upon the Council immediately to renew its Common Position of 18 February 2002 to ensure that sanctions against the Mugabe regime continue without interruption and without exception;
  4. Condemns the French Government's invitation to Mugabe, the main instigator of the oppression and misery of the Zimbabwean people and the very target of the sanctions, to attend the Franco-Africa Summit in Paris on 19-21 February 2003;
  5. Condemns the underhand deal that has condoned this visa to Mugabe, and calls upon the Council and the governments of Member States to refrain from conniving to breach the EU's own sanctions regime;
  6. Insists that the representatives of the EU and of its Member States should absent themselves from any meetings at which Mugabe or other banned persons are present,
  7. Insists that Council refuse a visa to Mugabe, and any other banned Zimbabweans, to attend the EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon on 4-5 April 2003;
  8. Calls upon banned Zimbabweans not to be allowed to attend the EU-ACP Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Brazzaville on 31 March - 3 April 2003;
  9. Calls upon the Council and Commission to extend the travel ban and asset freeze to include all members of the Mugabe regime, their families and those business leaders funding the regime; furthermore calls for greater international coordination to ensure compatibility of lists on the most extensive basis;
  10. Calls yet again upon the Commission and Council to provide information on the freezing of the bank accounts of those in Mugabe's entourage;
  11. Calls upon the Council and governments of Member States to introduce further measures to make its actions against the Mugabe regime more effective;
  12. Insists that the charges against Morgan Tsvangirai, Welshman Ncube and Renson Gasela, based on the activities of Mugabe's *agents provocateurs*, be dropped; that the systematic violence and intimidation against opponents of the Mugabe regime cease; and that fresh elections - free, fair and international supervised - take place as a matter of urgency;

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13. Calls for questions of good governance, and the promotion of human rights and the rule of law, focusing on Zimbabwe, to feature in all EU discussions with African countries and their regional organisations, and not be merely reserved for dialogue with southern Africa;

14. Urges President Mbeki to take the initiative in bringing pressure to bear on Zimbabwe, through effective regional initiatives, and to demand fresh presidential elections in Zimbabwe under international supervision;

15. Calls upon sporting authorities to refrain from locating international sporting events in Zimbabwe;

16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. G. J. J.', written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

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