

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

2 June 2003

B5-0285/2003

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

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

by Nelly Maes, Caroline Lucas, Didier Rod and Paul A.A.J.G. Lannoye

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on Nigeria

European Parliament resolution on Nigeria

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM),
- A. whereas President Obasanjo was declared winner of the presidential election, held on 19 April 2003,
- B. whereas the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) obtained an absolute majority in the national Parliament and legislative majorities in 28 of Nigeria's 36 states,
- C. whereas international and local observers declared that evidence of widespread fraud, including voter intimidation, ballot-box stuffing and alteration of results took place across the country,
- D. whereas the elections have been marred by serious incidents of violence between supporters of rival political parties, with some of the worst violence taking place in the oil-rich Niger Delta, in Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers states,
- E. whereas the National Electoral Commission is criticised by human rights group and opposition parties for its conduct of the polls,
- F. whereas Obasanjo urged the National Electoral Commission to investigate some of the issues raised, particularly in Enugu and Rivers states in the south-east,
- G. whereas opposition parties have challenged the results of the election before the electoral tribunals,
- 1. Regrets that the inauguration ceremony to renew President Obasanjo's mandate took place without any procedure being put in place to investigate the controversial electoral results;
- 2. Urges the president to investigate all irregularities and massive fraud witnessed by local and international election observers teams and to bring to court those responsible for these acts;
- 3. Asks that the independence of the National Electoral Commission be secured, as a primary condition to guarantee the enhancement of democracy in the country;
- 4. Calls upon all political parties to discourage political violence by their respective supporters and calls upon the Nigerian authorities to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice;
- 5. Asks the government to take all necessary measures to guarantee the impartiality of the media;

6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Nigerian Government, the President of the African Union, the ACP, the Council and the Commission.