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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the debate on cases of breaches of human rights,
democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 50(1) of the Rules of Procedure

by Niall Andrews

on behalf of the UEN Group

on the situation in Liberia

Resolution on the situation in Liberia

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Liberia,
 - having regard to UN Security Council Resolution 1497, adopted on 1 August 2003,
- A. deeply concerned by the recent resumption of fighting between Liberian government forces and rebels in central Liberia despite the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement on 18 August 2003,
- B. horrified by the alleged massacre of hundreds, possibly thousands of civilians, perpetrated in Nimba County since the signing of the peace agreement,
- C. whereas 14 years of violence and misrule in Liberia have resulted in immense human suffering, particularly among civilians, as well as gross human rights violations, massive displacement of populations, and a breakdown of social and economic structures, with 85% of the population living below the poverty line,
- D. whereas the conflict in Liberia has also contributed to severely destabilising the whole West Africa subregion, creating a humanitarian crisis of tragic proportions,
- E. whereas the peace agreement signed in Accra on 18 August under the aegis of ECOWAS constitutes a fundamental step towards restoring peace, security and stability in Liberia and, indeed, the whole West Africa subregion,
- F. whereas the speedy and complete deployment of the Multinational Force, as a vanguard force of the UN stabilisation force to be deployed no later than 1 October 2003, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1497, becomes all the more urgent to safeguard the implementation of the peace agreement, and in particular to create a secure environment that ensures respect for human rights, including the well-being and rehabilitation of children, especially child-combatants, protects the well-being of civilians and supports the mission of humanitarian workers,
1. Firmly condemns the resurgence of fighting in Liberia and urges all fighting forces to return to their previous locations and cease hostilities in strict application of the 18 August peace agreement;
 2. Welcomes the comprehensive peace agreement signed in Accra on 18 August 2003 and calls upon all the parties to the agreement to implement it in good faith and to establish on 14 October a transitional government that will lead the country to free and fair elections in October 2005;
 3. Commends ECOWAS for its untiring efforts that have led to this successful outcome, and

commends Nigeria in particular, which played a key role in the peace process, for making swiftly available troops to be deployed to protect the civilian population and humanitarian relief;

4. Notes with concern, however, that the Multinational Force established by UN Security Council Resolution 1497, expected to reach 3500 troops by 4 September, currently numbers only 1550 men from ECOMIL (the West African peacekeeping force in Liberia), with most of them being taken up in Monrovia, and is therefore unable to establish a meaningful presence outside the capital;
5. Calls therefore on all UN member states to contribute personnel, equipment and other resources to the Multinational Force, and in particular on other West African States to speed up the deployment of the troops already pledged, in order to establish and maintain security throughout the country and to secure the delivery of humanitarian assistance;
6. Welcomes in this context the EU allocation of EUR 50 million to support the peace process under way in Liberia, and in particular to allow the ongoing peacekeeping operation conducted by ECOWAS to continue until the arrival of the UN stabilisation force scheduled no later than 1 October 2003, but urges the EU and ECHO in particular to increase their response to the grave humanitarian situation;
7. Regrets that the European Union Council of Foreign Ministers was not convened to consider the catastrophic developments during the summer recess;
8. Requests the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Mr Solana, to explain why he did not undertake an urgent intervention in the matter of the terror in Liberia during the summer recess;
9. Demands that all states in the region refrain from any action that might contribute to instability in Liberia or on the borders between Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the European Commission, the Secretaries-General of the United Nations, the African Union and ECOWAS, and the governments of Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria.