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Strasbourg, 1 September 2003

B5-375/03

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

by Bob van den Bos & Anne André-Léonard on behalf of the ELDR Group

**on the situation in Liberia**

Niccolò Rinaldi

The European Parliament,

LT

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Liberia;
  - having regard to UN Security Council Resolution 1497, adopted on 1 August 2003;
- A. deeply concerned at the recent resumption of fighting between Liberian government forces and rebels in north-eastern Nimba County, a stronghold of former President Charles Taylor and one of the few areas still under government control, despite the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement on 18 August 2003;
- B. 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 sub-region;
- C. whereas the renewed violence could jeopardise the Peace Agreement and hamper relief efforts;
- D. whereas the UN Security Council has decided that a UN peacekeeping force will be sent to Liberia in October 2003;
- E. whereas the Bush Administration, while stressing that they will not participate in such a peacekeeping force, succeeded in getting an exemption clause adopted at the International Criminal Court in the event that US military personnel commit human rights violations;
- F. whereas the African Union summit has decided to set up "a Council of Peace and Security", which will allow the African Union to intervene to put an end to the conflicts;

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- G. whereas the Commission has given its agreement in principle to give financial support to an African peacekeeping force;
- H. whereas a transitional government will be installed for a duration of two years;
- I. whereas the sanitary and economic situation of the Liberian population is drastic;
1. Strongly condemns the resurgence of fighting in Liberia and urges all fighting forces to cease hostilities in strict application of the 18 August Peace Agreement, reached by Liberia's government, rebel groups, political parties, and civil society leaders;
  2. Expresses its ongoing concern at the continuing dire humanitarian situation of much of the Liberian population;
  3. Calls upon all the parties to the Agreement to implement it in good faith and to establish on 14 October next a transitional government that will lead the country to free and fair elections in October 2005;
  4. Commends ECOWAS for its untiring efforts and Nigeria in particular, which played a key role in the peace process;
  5. Welcomes the establishment by 1 October of a United Nations stabilisation force - a follow-on to the ECOWAS-led force now in the country - to support the transitional government and assist in the implementation of the Agreement;
  6. Considers that the Bush Administration, as United States interests were not at stake, did not live up to the expectations of the Liberian people and furthermore has profited from this occasion to weaken the authority of the International Criminal Court; regrets that EU did not take a firm European stand regarding this major topic at UN level;
  7. Calls 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;
  8. Welcomes the EU allocation of EUR 50 million to support the peace process under way in Liberia, and in particular to allow the ongoing peace-keeping 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;
  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 Commission, the co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the Secretaries-General of the UN, the African Union and ECOWAS, and the governments of Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria.