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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 John Corrie and Fernando Fernández Martín

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the EU role in conflict prevention in Africa and in particular the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement in Côte d'Ivoire

European Parliament resolution on the EU role in conflict prevention in Africa and in particular the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement in Côte d'Ivoire

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Côte d'Ivoire,
 - having regard to the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, signed by all parties to the Côte d'Ivoire civil conflict on 24 January 2003,
 - having regard to the efforts made by ECOWAS in re-establishing peace and security, thereby safeguarding the national integrity of Côte d'Ivoire,
 - having regard to the declarations by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union of 27 October and 22 September 2003,
 - having regard to the declaration by the President of the UN Security Council of 13 November 2003,
- A. whereas the implementation of the reforms envisaged by the various agreements concluded by the political and military forces must lead a unified and cohesive Côte d'Ivoire to credible, transparent and open elections in 2005,
- B. whereas, as a matter of urgency, the opposing armed forces must be confined, disarmament must take place, and the administration must be re-established throughout the national territory,
- C. whereas the New Forces rebel fighters accuse President Gbagbo of having issued an 'act of war' against them and have replied by declaring a 'state of maximum alert',
- D. mindful of the political, economic and humanitarian risks that a resumption of hostilities in Côte d'Ivoire poses to the whole subregion,
- E. whereas the Council decided on 17 November 2003 to allocate € 250 million from the European Development Fund to a Peace Facility for Africa, which is intended to provide the African Union with the financial muscle to ensure stability and peace in Africa,
1. Reaffirms its full confidence in and support for the national reconciliation process, based on the full implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, as a precondition for the continuation of EU economic support for the rebuilding of the country;
 2. Welcomes the reopening of the border between Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso as an important step towards normalisation of their relations;

3. Deplores the lack of political goodwill and the slow progress of implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement; urges all Ivorian political forces to fully implement the Agreement without delay, preconditions or reservations, as a necessary step towards reunification and national reconciliation in Côte d'Ivoire, and with a view to the organisation of open, free and transparent elections in 2005;
4. Expresses serious concern at the fact that the New Forces rebels left the government of national reconciliation on 23 September and that the PDCI, the main opposition party, has threatened to do the same;
5. Calls on President Gbagbo to urge his government and the Ivorian military to guarantee the protection of civilians, whatever their ethnic origin and including foreign nationals; deplores the recent arbitrary arrests and detention without trial of politicians, mainly from political parties other than the President's ruling party;
6. Strongly condemns any attempt to make direct or indirect use of violence in the political process in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as any threats to law and order and stability in the country; strongly condemns, in this context, the attacks on UN personnel in Bouaké and Man on 24 and 25 October;
7. Strongly condemns the murder in Abidjan of the French journalist Jean Hélène on 21 October, and calls for a swift and full investigation by the Ivorian authorities into this crime;
8. Calls on the Côte d'Ivoire government to take all necessary measures in order to re-establish the rule of law and the authority of the state, uphold and safeguard respect for human rights, and restore public services;
9. Reiterates its commitment to a political solution to the crisis that encompasses all the opposing parties and pursues the course of national reconciliation embarked upon in October 2001;
10. Calls, as a matter of urgency, for the disarmament and demobilisation of the rebel forces to begin, accompanied by efforts for reintegration into the national army or civilian life;
11. Reiterates its full support for the ECOWAS, French and UN Mission efforts to stabilise the situation and achieve a peaceful settlement of the conflict;
12. Calls on the UN Security Council to consider the possibility of increasing the strength of the ECOWAS mission in Côte d'Ivoire, within the context of the African Union Peace Facility, and transform it into a UN peacekeeping force;
13. Expresses its deep concern over the grave humanitarian situation in Côte d'Ivoire, and calls for EU and international humanitarian assistance to be intensified;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Secretaries-General of the UN, the AU and ECOWAS, and the President and Government of Côte d'Ivoire.