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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

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on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on the European Union's role in conflict-prevention in Africa, and in particular on implementing the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement in Côte d'Ivoire

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European Parliament resolution on the European Union's role in conflict-prevention in Africa, and in particular on implementing the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement in Côte d'Ivoire

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire,
 - having regard to the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement of 24 January 2003, signed by all parties to the conflict,
 - having regard to the efforts by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to resolve this conflict, restore peace and safeguard the country's territorial integrity,
 - having regard to the declaration by the President of the United Nations Security Council of 13 November 2001,
 - having regard to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure,
- A. pointing out that Côte d'Ivoire, the most prosperous country in West Africa, descended into political and economic crisis in September 2002 following a failed attempt at a coup d'état,
- B. concerned at the failure to secure a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire and at the resignation in September of rebel ministers from the government of national reconciliation, precipitating the inability to implement the Linas-Marcoussis Agreements and the freeze on disarmament plans,
- C. concerned at the human rights violations and abuses committed by the Côte d'Ivoire government and by the rebels who control the north of the country,
- D. whereas this conflict, which cannot be attributed to the ethnic factor alone, has complex and multidimensional origins, including in particular poverty, unequal distribution of wealth, social injustice, human rights violations, the oppression of minorities, religious discrimination and the dysfunctional State,
- E. pointing out that the collapse in prices of the main primary products between 1970 and 2001 caused incomes to plummet in Côte d'Ivoire, with, for example, cocoa dropping from €2.40 per kilo to €1.42, coffee from €3.30 to 63 euro cents and cotton from €2.25 to €1.09,
- F. pointing out that the guaranteed prices scheme that had enabled the country's social cohesion and economic growth to be maintained was dismantled in 1999 under World Bank and IMF pressure, plunging hundreds of thousands of producers into poverty,

- G. noting that big multinational companies specialising in exports today control agricultural supply chains, imposing their prices on small-scale cocoa, coffee and cotton producers, and thereby undermining the public authorities,
- H. whereas the spread of the concept of '*ivoirité*', under which nationality is determined by bloodline rather than by place of birth, has encouraged the ethnicisation of the political, economic and social problems that the country has to confront,
- I. whereas EU conflict-prevention policy has hitherto been confined to crisis management, without addressing structural aspects of conflicts, in particular economic, social and environmental crisis,
- J. alarmed at the Commission's position in favour of extending by one year the current fisheries agreement with Côte d'Ivoire, even although development cooperation under the Cotonou Agreement remains suspended until the conflict has been resolved,
1. Condemns the human rights violations that have occurred, and calls for an international committee of inquiry to be set up to investigate the abuses committed by both government and rebels;
 2. Urges all belligerents to resume negotiations with a view to ending a conflict that threatens to destabilise the entire region, and to resolve their differences by peaceful means;
 3. Urges all parties to the conflict to respect human rights, the democratic principle and the rule of law, and considers that they have the duty to protect the civilian population and the responsibility to find peaceful solutions to the fundamental causes of the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire;
 4. Condemns the murder of Jean Hélène, the *Radio France Internationale* reporter, and calls for an international investigation to bring the perpetrators to justice;
 5. Condemns the concept of '*ivoirité*', which serves to exclude part of the population from playing any democratic part in political activity in the country;
 6. Considers that EU conflict-prevention policy must address the structural causes of conflicts, which are linked to such factors as poverty, unequal distribution of wealth, social injustice, human rights violations, the oppression of minorities, religious discrimination and the dysfunctional State, in order to guarantee a sustainable peace;
 7. Considers that the European Union can play a leading role by pursuing a consistent policy aimed at encouraging the emergence of genuine political pluralism in Africa extending beyond free and transparent elections;
 8. Considers that the EU must adopt a consistent trade and development policy to help African economies to defend themselves against destabilising competition;
 9. Calls on the Côte d'Ivoire government to strive for a balance of all political forces in the country with a view to finding a peaceful and democratic solution to the present crisis;

10. Encourages ECOWAS in its efforts to resolve this conflict by peaceful means, and asks it, consequently, to acknowledge the structural causes of the conflict in its search for sustainable solutions;
11. Calls on the Commission to freeze the fisheries agreement with Côte d'Ivoire on the same basis as development cooperation under the Cotonou Agreement;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission, and to the African Union, the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and ECOWAS.