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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 Isabelle Caullery

on behalf of the UEN 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 declarations by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union of 22 September and 27 October 2003 and to the declaration by the President of the UN Security Council of 13 November 2003,
 - having regard to Rule 37(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the implementation of the reforms envisaged by the various parties to the conflict must lead to national pacification and to free and transparent elections in 2005,
- B. whereas there must be full and final implementation of disarmament and the ceasefire, and the normal functioning of government services must be re-established throughout the national territory,
- C. whereas one rebel group is accusing President Gbagbo of 'acts of war' against it and has replied by declaring a state of maximum alert, despite the political, economic and humanitarian risks that renewed hostilities in Côte d'Ivoire would pose to the whole subregion,
- D. whereas the Council decided on 17 November 2003 to allocate EUR 250 m from the EDF to financing operations aimed at ensuring peace and stability in Africa,
1. Reaffirms its full confidence in and support for the national reconciliation process as outlined in the Marcoussis Agreement, and considers its rigorous application to be 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; deplores the lack of political goodwill and the slow progress of implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement;
 3. Urges all the Ivorian political and military forces to implement the agreement immediately, with a view to entering the stage of national reunification and reconciliation as swiftly as possible, and to cooperate among themselves with a view to holding free and transparent elections in 2005;

4. Expresses its concern at the fact that the New Forces rebels left the government of national reconciliation on 23 September 2003 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 army to guarantee the protection of civilians whatever their ethnic origin or nationality; deplors the recent arrests and detentions of politicians, mainly from political parties other than that of President Gbagbo;
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 stability and the rule of law; strongly condemns, in this context, the attacks on UN personnel in Bouaké and Man which occurred on 24 and 25 October 2003;
7. Strongly condemns the murder in Abidjan of the French journalist Jean Héléne on 21 October 2003, and calls on the Ivorian authorities to open a full investigation 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, the authority of the state and properly functioning public services throughout the country, while ensuring security and respect for human rights;
9. Reiterates its call for a political solution to the crisis on the basis of an integrated approach aimed at tackling the underlying causes of the conflict;
10. Calls, as a matter of urgency, for the disarmament and demobilisation of the rebel forces, and for action to facilitate their integration into the national armed forces or civilian life;
11. Reiterates its full support for the ECOWAS, French and UN Mission efforts to stabilise the situation and permit a peaceful settlement of the conflict;
12. Calls on the UN Security Council to consider transforming the ECOWAS mission into a peacekeeping force under its auspices;
13. Expresses its deep concern over the grave humanitarian situation in Côte d'Ivoire, and calls for international humanitarian assistance, especially that provided by the EU, to be stepped up;
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.