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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by Bashir Khanbhai, Jas Gawronski and Bernd Posselt

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on Burundi

PE 340.700

European parliament motion for a resolution on the situation in Haiti

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure,

- having regard to declaration on Haiti by the UN Secretary-General on 1 January 2004 on the day of the bicentennial of the country;

A. whereas Haiti is celebrating its bicentennial of the proclamation of independence of 1 January 1804 that put a stop to slavery in the country and marked the beginning of the end of slavery in the Americas;

B. whereas during these celebrations, violence and protests against President Aristide have escalated and whereas at over twenty people have died and several have been injured in confrontations between opposition demonstrators and government supporters since September 2003;

C. whereas international donors suspended aid to Haiti following the parliamentary and presidential elections of 2000, which were widely considered to have been deeply flawed and fraudulent;

D. whereas the European Union suspended its cooperation with Haiti, after consultations in accordance with article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement, as a result of the elections, but increased humanitarian aid to the country;

E. whereas the opposition parties, judging the parliamentary elections of May 2000 to have been fraudulent, chose to boycott the presidential elections of October 2000, have called for general strikes in protest of the Aristide regime and call for the President to step down as a condition for participation in legislative elections;

F. seriously concerned with the human rights situation which has worsened since 2000, and whereas threats and intimidation of opposition politicians and media have increased;

G. whereas the worsening health situation and the HIV/aids epidemic have led to a reduction in the average life expectancy in Haiti to 49 years;

H. whereas Haiti is the poorest country in the Americas and 80 % of its population is below the poverty line, and whereas the political, social and economic crises of Haiti have worsened since 2000;

I. whereas according to the UN and the FAO, half of the Haitian population suffers from malnutrition and many also from difficult access to clean water, and whereas exports of traditional products have diminished while drug trafficking and corruption are flourishing;

J. whereas legislative elections pledged by President Aristide and scheduled for 2004 are currently blocked by a political disagreement on appointments to the electoral council;

K. whereas CARICOM is attempting to mediate in the political dispute between the Haitian government and opposition and UN Secretary-general Kofi Annan has also pledged to play a role in resolving the crisis;

1. Strongly condemns the human rights abuses and the violence against peaceful demonstrators by the Haitian police force and calls on the authorities to bring those responsible to justice;
2. Calls for the police and government authorities to publicly commit themselves to respect the right to peaceful assembly and association and to put an end to killings, torture, intimidation and other grave human rights violations,
3. Calls on the Commission and on the international community to put pressure on the Haitian government to commit itself to and take action for the organisation of free and fair legislative elections in 2004,
4. Calls on the Haitian government, the opposition as well as on civil society to engage in a constructive dialogue in view of paving the way for legislative elections and to address the present political, human rights, social and economic difficulties;
5. Calls on the Commission to increase its humanitarian aid to Haiti,
6. Calls for EU development cooperation with Haiti to be re-established as soon as the conditions set out in the Cotonou Accord are fulfilled,
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the governments of the ACP and CARICOM countries.