EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999 **** 2004

Session document

8 March 2004 B5-0124/2004

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement
pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure
by John Alexander Corrie
on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
on Haiti

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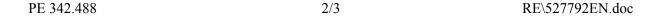
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B5-0124/2004

European Parliament resolution on Haiti

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Haiti,
- having regard to the EU Presidency statement of 1 March 2004 on UN deployment of a multinational interim force to Haiti.
- having regard to UN Security Council Resolution 1529 (2004) of 29 February 2004 authorising deployment of a multinational force to Haiti,
- having regard to the CARICOM Heads of Government statement of 3 March 2004 at the conclusion of an emergency session on the situation in Haiti,
- having regard to the renewal in January 2003 of the partial suspension of EU cooperation with Haiti,
- having regard to Rule 37(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, beginning with the celebrations of the nation's 200th anniversary of independence, anti-government protests have steadily grown in strength and violence, leading up to the control by an armed rebel movement of the whole country, and resulting in hundreds of dead and wounded civilians,
- B. whereas President Aristide's second term has been mired by crises, including a coup attempt in July 2001, and whereas the political opposition called for him to step down as a condition for participation in legislative elections,
- C. whereas President Aristide resigned and left the country on 29 February, following which the head of Haiti's Supreme Court was sworn in as acting President in accordance with the Constitution,
- D. whereas the UN Security Council promptly decided to authorise the deployment of a multinational interim force to Haiti for three months in order to promote security and stability, to facilitate humanitarian assistance and to assist the Haitian police and Coast Guard in maintaining law and order and protecting human rights,
- E. whereas the Security Council also favours a follow-on UN stabilisation force to support and promote a democratic and peaceful political process,
- F. whereas the EU Presidency joins the UN Security Council in calling on all groups to refrain from violence and to promote a peaceful and democratic solution to the current crisis,





- G. whereas the Commission has earmarked € 1.8 million in emergency funding for the Haiti crisis,
- 1. Welcomes the UN Security Council decision authorising deployment of a multinational force to Haiti in order to restore law and order and prevent a humanitarian disaster;
- 2. Welcomes the establishment on 4 March of a Tripartite Council, appointed by the Government of Haiti, Plate-forme Démocratique and the international community on a CARICOM initiative, to select a Council of Wise Men that will in turn submit to the interim President a candidate for prime minister;
- 3. Calls on the government, in cooperation with the multinational force, to proceed urgently with the disarmament of all unconstitutional armed groups;
- 4. Welcomes the Commission emergency funding but calls for EU and international aid to increase, in order to address not only humanitarian needs but also reconstruction of the legal system and the national police and security forces on a basis of respect for human rights and the rule of law;
- 5. Calls for an impartial investigation of allegations of human rights abuses and for convicted human rights violators to be brought to justice; calls, in this context, for the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission;
- 6. Calls for the urgent creation of an interim government that includes the political opposition and for preparations for an electoral process then to begin, with a view to reestablishing conditions for the resumption of international development aid;
- 7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the United Nations Secretary-General, the Organisation of American States, CARICOM, the interim President of Haiti and the Tripartite Council of Haiti.