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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on statements by the Council and Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Johannes Blokland and H el ene Goudin

on behalf of the IND/DEM Group

on the export of toxic waste to Africa

European Parliament resolution on the export of toxic waste to Africa

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) 259/1993 of 1 February 1993 on the supervision and control of shipments of waste within, into and out of the European Community,¹
 - having regard to Regulation (EC) 1013/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2006 on shipments of waste,²
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas some 500 tonnes of chemical waste have been dumped in several areas in the neighbourhood of Abidjan, where 5 million people live,
- B. whereas news reports indicate that several people may have died so far as a result of this dumping and that tens of thousands have been treated for nosebleeds, diarrhoea, nausea, eye irritation and breathing difficulties that may possibly be linked to it; whereas the consequences of the dumping may be far-reaching, with soil contamination and surface and groundwater pollution as likely results,
- C. whereas the toxic waste was dumped by the Greek-owned, Panamanian-flagged tanker *Probo Koala*, leased by Trafigura, a company registered in the Netherlands; whereas, however, such sharing of responsibilities should not constitute a problem as far as the enforcement of EU legislation is concerned,
- D. whereas environmental regulations in the northern hemisphere have led to a system where it is no longer legally possible to dump hazardous waste; whereas, however, inspections in October 2005 by the British Environment Agency showed that 75 percent of waste shipments did not comply with the established rules, and a similar inspection in France in June 2005 found that none of the inspected cargoes complied with the rules,
- E. whereas the Amsterdam Port Authorities and the relevant Dutch authorities clearly made a mistake in allowing this ship to sail for Côte d’Ivoire despite their knowledge of the nature of the cargo and the absence of the documents required for a shipment of waste, and in the awareness that the export of hazardous waste from the EU to non-OECD countries has been prohibited since January 1997 under Regulation (EEC) No 259/1993 (implementing the Basel Convention),
- F. whereas the company had the opportunity to dispose of the waste in a legal and safe manner in Europe but chose a cheaper alternative in Côte d’Ivoire,

¹ OJ L 30, 6.2.1993, p. 1.

² OJ L 190, 12.7.2006, p. 1.

- G. whereas most African countries do not have effective regulations to protect the environment and the population from hazardous waste and are unable to prevent or treat the environmental and public-health effects that can be caused by the treatment of such waste on their territory,
- H. whereas the dumping of hazardous waste in Côte d'Ivoire is just the tip of the iceberg of ongoing shipments of hazardous waste from the EU to non-OECD countries without proper inspections; whereas very large amounts of waste electrical and electronic equipment are being dumped in non-OECD countries under the pretext of 'reuse'; whereas a significant number of ships laden with toxic substances and materials are being scrapped in Asia under conditions that are extremely harmful to workers and the environment,
1. Calls on the European Commission and the governments of the Netherlands and Côte d'Ivoire to investigate this case fully, to establish responsibility at all levels, to bring to justice those responsible for this environmental crime and to ensure full remediation of the environmental contamination;
 2. Reminds the Member States and the European Commission of their responsibility to comply with all existing legislation, including the updated regulation on shipments of waste¹ that was agreed upon last year, and to ensure that effective inspection and enforcement mechanisms are in place in order to prevent such a disaster from occurring again;
 3. Reiterates that the new regulation on shipments of waste requires Member States to work together to create an inspection network that can prevent such shipments from taking place, and calls on the Member States to ensure that adequate resources are available for this cooperation;
 4. Calls on the Commission not to focus only on closing loopholes in the current legal framework, but to work on effective enforcement, as this disaster would have been prevented if the current regulations had been properly enforced;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the government and parliament of Côte d'Ivoire.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 (OJ L 190, 12.7.2006, p. 1).