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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 Frithjof Schmidt and Angelika Beer

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo

European Parliament resolution on the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions, in particular that of 23 October 2008 on the Democratic Republic of Congo: clashes in the eastern border areas of the DRC,
 - having regard to its resolution of 5 July 2001 on the illegal exploitation of natural resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo,
 - having regard to its resolution of 17 January 2008 on the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo and rape as a war crime,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the renewed fighting between forces from the rebel group Congrès National pour la Défense du Peuple (CNDP), led by former General Laurent Nkunda, and the regular Congolese army allied with militias in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo has caused tremendous suffering to the civil population and deaths among them,
- B. whereas armed groups, including the government troops, are committing grave human rights abuses in eastern DRC and plundering natural resources,
- C. whereas a UN-sponsored African Union emergency summit on the situation in the DRC took place in Nairobi on 7 November and was also attended by DRC President Joseph Kabila and Rwandan President Paul Kagame, and as the summit opened, fresh fighting erupted near Goma,
- D. whereas the peace agreement which was signed between the Congolese Government and 22 armed groups, including the group led by Laurent Nkunda, collapsed in August,
- E. whereas the UN appointed Mr Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria, as its special envoy to convene UN-sponsored peace talks and to agree on a ceasefire and open a humanitarian corridor to aid refugees,
- F. whereas an estimated 1 million people are displaced in the province of North Kivu alone,
- G. whereas the presence of Rwandan recruits in Laurent Nkunda's army fuels hostility towards Congolese Tutsis as well as towards Rwanda and according to human rights organisations is supported by the Rwandan Government,
- H. whereas the exploitation of the DRC's natural resources such as coltan used in mobile phones is one of the main factors fuelling the conflict in the region, which has perpetuated the conflict for the past decade,
- I. whereas the neighbouring countries of the DRC, namely Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi and

Tanzania, in many cases serve as export and transit countries for illicitly exploited natural resources from the DRC which fuel and finance the armed conflict,

- J. whereas without sources of funding derived from the plundering of natural resources, it is doubtful that many of the armed groups terrorising the population of eastern DRC could remain operational, while, at the very least, their capacity would be significantly weakened,
- K. whereas the UN peace-keepers in East Kivu are too few and too ill-equipped to adequately protect the civilian population,
- L. whereas the DRC National Assembly has adopted a position which stresses the need for a direct political dialogue with the National People's Defence Committee and the need to address the factors underlying the conflict, particularly the illegal exploitation of mineral resources,
 - 1. Condemns the massacres of the civilian population and considers it important to organise an international independent investigation mission to establish responsibilities and put an end to impunity;
 - 2. Calls upon all parties to uphold their commitments to protect the civilian population and respect for human rights as outlined in the Goma peace agreement and the Nairobi Communiqué;
 - 3. Considers that it is necessary to strengthen the mandate and equipment of MONUC in order to enable MONUC to fulfil its responsibility to protect the civilian population in eastern DRC against harassment from any armed group;
 - 4. Considers that an international conference on the Great Lakes should be convened to find a viable political solution to the conflict and promote sound regional economic integration, which will benefit all countries in the region;
 - 5. Considers the root causes of the conflict in eastern Congo to be the presence of foreign armed groups, control over mineral and agricultural resources and the culture of impunity for human rights abuses;
 - 6. Calls on the EU Member States to implement the recommendation of the UN Panel of Experts on the illegal exploitation of the DRC's natural resources, including sanctions on those persons and companies whose participation in the pillage has been proven in order to contribute to the stabilisation of the country;
 - 7. Calls on the Commission and the Council to insist in talks with the governments of the DRC and its neighbouring countries on effective actions to curb the illicit exploitation of the natural resources of the DRC and to implement effective systems of traceability and proof of origin of natural resources, namely gold, cassiterite (tin ore), coltan, cobalt, diamonds, pyrochlore and timber, including accepting the deployment on their territory of UN-mandated monitors to observe imports of natural resources from the DRC and to ensure the protection of these UN-mandated monitors;

8. Reiterates its demand for the effective establishment of monitoring mechanisms analogous to the Kimberley process for the certification of the origin of natural resources from the DRC imported into the EU;
9. Calls for war crimes and looting of the DRC's natural resources to be investigated and prosecutions to be brought in accordance with the principle of universal justice in order to put an end to impunity;
10. Calls on the Council and the EU Member States to ask the UN Secretary General to draft a report on the role of natural resources in conflict situations;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the UN Secretary General, the AU and the governments of the DRC and of neighbouring countries.