

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Session document

17.11.2008

B6-0591/2008

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 Tobias Pflüger

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the response of the European Union to the deteriorating situation in the east
of the Democratic Republic of Congo

B6-0591/2008

European Parliament resolution on the response of the European Union to the deteriorating situation in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Joint Statement by the Heads of State of the Great Lakes Region on the situation in the DRC issued in Nairobi on 7 November 2008,
 - having regard to the communiqué issued following the 155th Meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union held on 31 October 2008,
 - having regard to the Goma Declaration of 23 January 2008,
 - having regard to the Council conclusions on the DRC of 10 and 11 November 2008,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the recent fighting between the armed forces of the DRC and Laurent Nkunda's National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP) has further exacerbated the situation in the east of the DRC,
- B. whereas these clashes come after lengthy fighting between the armed forces of the DRC, the CNDP, the fighters of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and troops of Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) which has caused tremendous hardship to the civilian populations of the eastern provinces of the DRC for many months,
- C. whereas according to reports the armed forces of the DRC are being accused of working together with the FDLR to exploit the region's mineral wealth instead of combating this force, which was supposed to have been disarmed by the end of August 2008,
- D. whereas according to various reports troops from neighbouring countries are ready to intervene,
- E. whereas the UN is considering expanding MONUC by 3000 more soldiers and police, in addition to the already 17 000-strong mission, and extending deployment in the eastern part of the DRC,
- F. whereas three EU missions have been deployed in the DRC since 2005,
- G. whereas since the Goma peace agreement on 23 January 2008 there have been massacres, rapes of young girls, mothers and elderly women, forced recruitments of civilians and child soldiers and a host of other acts of violence and serious human rights abuses in the eastern DRC, both by the CNDP and the FDLR and by the armed forces of the DRC themselves,
- H. whereas it is vital to find a political solution to the conflict in the eastern provinces of the

DRC, so as to build trust, consolidate peace and hence clear the way for democracy and social and economic development in the region, for the well-being of all the peoples of the Great Lakes region,

- I. whereas the conflict affecting the DRC has claimed the lives of 5 400 000 people since 1998 and still causing, directly or indirectly, approximately 1500 deaths each day,
- J. whereas according to UNHCR reports the new fighting in North Kivu has led to a high number of casualties and created more than 250 000 new displaced persons, bringing the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in North Kivu to 1 000 000,
- K. whereas MONUC is considering moving 40 000 IDPs caught in crossfire,
- L. whereas there is a danger of a cholera epidemic in the region,
- M. whereas there is an urgent need for food and medical aid to reach the areas caught in the fighting,
- N. whereas the EU has pledged an additional € 4 million for humanitarian aid to the DRC,
 - 1. Considers that the conflict in the eastern part of the DRC can only have a political solution, which should be reached through negotiations between all the parties involved; hence welcomes the UN Secretary-General's appointment of a Special Envoy and a team of facilitators led by former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo;
 - 2. Welcomes the readiness expressed by President Kabila and General Laurent Nkunda to cooperate with the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy and urges all parties involved to enter a peace process, as already agreed in Goma in January 2008;
 - 3. Is opposed to any further EU military intervention and to any increase in the number of troops under the command of MONUC;
 - 4. Supports the call, made in the Nairobi Joint Statement of Heads of State of the Great Lakes Region on the situation in the DRC, for an immediate ceasefire covering all the armed forces and militias in North Kivu;
 - 5. Calls on all the parties involved to immediately implement the Nairobi communiqué, the Goma agreement and all other relevant agreements and protocols with a view to establishing a sustainable peace and lasting political stability;
 - 6. Encourages all the governments of the Great Lakes region to initiate a dialogue with the aim of coordinating their efforts to lower tensions and stop the violence in the eastern DRC before this conflict spreads to the region as a whole;
 - 7. Calls on all neighbouring countries to refrain from sending troops into the DRC and from supporting rebel groups in the DRC;
 - 8. Calls for an end to the illegal exploitation of natural resources in the eastern DRC and for respect for the ownership of natural resources by the peoples of the Great Lakes region;

9. Expresses its strong condemnation of the massacres which have been continuing for too many years in the eastern provinces of the DRC and calls on all the relevant national and international authorities systematically to bring the perpetrators to justice;
10. Urges all actors to restore the rule of law and fight impunity, particularly in view of the mass rapes of women and girls and the recruitment of child soldiers;
11. Notes with concern UNHCR reports of some 80 missing children, confirming fears of a new drive involving the forced recruitment of child soldiers;
12. Welcomes the European Commission's pledge of additional aid of € 4 million to the DRC to address the current humanitarian situation and calls for a further increase in EU humanitarian aid;
13. Calls on the Council and Commission to implement with immediate effect large-scale medical assistance programmes for the civilian populations in the eastern DRC, in order to meet immediate needs and in anticipation of the reconstruction which will be required;
14. Calls for the effective establishment of monitoring mechanisms, such as the Kimberley process, for the certification of the origin of natural resources, particularly coltan, imported into the EU;
15. Calls on the Council and every EU Member State to provide special aid to the populations of the eastern DRC;
16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the institutions of the African Union and the parliaments and governments of the Great Lakes region.