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Plenary sitting

13.12.2010

B7-0716/2010

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 110(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire

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on behalf of the PPE Group

B7-0716/2010

European Parliament resolution on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Côte d'Ivoire,
- having regard to the EU-ACP Cotonou Partnership Agreement signed in June 2000,
- having regard to the relevant UN Security Council's resolutions on Côte d'Ivoire, particularly Resolution 1765(2007), Resolution 1933(2010) and Resolution 1946 (2010),
- having regard to the statements of HR/VP Catherine Ashton on the electoral process, and in particular, those of 3 December 2010 on Ivory Coast election results, and of 1 December 2010 on the second round of presidential elections in Côte d'Ivoire,
- having regard to the preliminary conclusions of the election observation missions sent by the European Union, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) which have concurred in their findings that the second round of presidential elections had taken place in a free and democratic manner,
- having regard to the UN Security Council Press Statement on Côte d'Ivoire Elections and to the statement of UN Secretary General Ban Kii-Moon of 2 December 2010,
- having regard to Statement of 3 December 2010 made by Mr Young Joon Choi, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Côte d'Ivoire on the certification of the results of the second round of the presidential election held on 28 November,
- having regard to the Declaration on the announcement of the results of the second round of the presidential election held on 28 November 2010 in Côte d'Ivoire adopted on 3 December 2010 in Kinshasa by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,
- having regard to the statement of UN Secretary General Ban Kii-Moon of 4 December 2010 expressing concern over the political standoff in Côte d'Ivoire despite the transparent and credible outcome of the presidential run-off polls,
- having regard to the statement made by the European Commission's President José Manuel Durão Barroso on 4 December 2010 confirming Mr Alassane Ouattara as legitimate winner of democratic elections,
- having regard to the communiqué by Mr Abdou Diouf, Secretary General of Organisation internationale de la Francophonie of 5 December 2010, calling on all political actors to recognize the results proclaimed by the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) and certified by the UN,
- having regard to the Final Communiqué of the ECOWAS summit held in Abuja on 7 December 2010,

- having regard to the UN Security Council Declaration of 8 December 2010,
 - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas after more than 10 years, and several postponements, on 31 October 2010, the first round of presidential elections was held in Côte d'Ivoire in accordance with the provisions of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement of 4 mars 2007,
 - B. whereas this first poll was marked by a high voter turnout and passed in a generally calm and peaceful manner, despite delays in the announcement of the results; whereas the CEI ultimately released the names of incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo and former Prime Minister Alassane Ouattara as the main contenders of the second round to be held on 28 November,
 - C. whereas the EU's Observation Mission in Côte d'Ivoire has concluded, in its Preliminary Statement of 30 November, that the electoral campaign for the second round of the elections was characterized by a climate of tension and violent acts inflicting injuries and causing several deaths,
 - D. whereas on the evening of 2 December 2010, the President of the CEI, Mr Youssouf Bakayoko, has declared Mr Alassane Ouattara the winner of the second round of elections with 54.1% of the votes; whereas this announcement occurred in a tense climate, marked by allegations of fraud stemming from the President-candidate's camp and acts of violence and intimidation directed towards Mr Ouattara's supporters, as well as the European Union's observers in the country,
 - E. whereas the UN Security Council has welcomed the announcement of provisional results by the Independent Electoral Commission of Côte d'Ivoire (CEI) and reiterated its readiness to take appropriate measures against those who obstruct the peace process, in particular the work of the CEI, as set out by paragraph 6 of resolution 1946(2010),
 - F. whereas following the release of the results, the head of Côte d'Ivoire's Constitutional Council declared the CEI announcement as null and void and proceeded to proclaim Mr Gbagbo as winner, after cancelling voting returns from four northern regions where Mr Ouattara had won by large margins,
 - G. whereas following the Constitutional Council's decision, all Côte d'Ivoire's frontiers have been closed and the broadcasting of all foreign information TV channels was suspended, thus isolating the country from the rest of the world,
 - H. whereas the UN Secretary General's Special Representative Mr Choi has subsequently certified the quality of the Ivory Coast electoral process and that the results released by the Independent Electoral Commission are representative of the will of the Ivorian citizens,
 - I. whereas Fatou Bensouda, Deputy Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), has encouraged the authorities in Côte d'Ivoire to investigate all acts of violence that have occurred before and in the aftermath of the second round of presidential elections and has expressed the determination of the ICC to scrutinize closely all reported acts of violence,

- J. whereas despite the protests of the international community Mr Gbagbo has been sworn in as President during a ceremony organized on 4 December, while Mr. Ouattara has taken the oath as President of Côte d'Ivoire by a letter sent to the Constitutional Council,
- K. whereas a considerable number of partners of Côte d'Ivoire have expressed their support for the electoral process, have recognized Mr. Alassane Ouattara as the legitimate winner of the Côte d'Ivoire poll and have called for the will of the people to be respected,
- L. whereas former President Thabo Mbeki, Africa Union's Special representative to Côte d'Ivoire visited the country in an effort of mediation,
- M. whereas Alassane Ouattara has announced on 5 December 2010 the formation of a government headed by ex-Prime Minister Guillaume Soro; whereas Mr. Gbagbo has replied by announcing the nomination of his own prime minister, despite the protests of several thousands of people in the Northern city of Bouaké,
- N. whereas the UN Security Council in its meeting of 8 December condemned in the strongest possible terms any attempt to subvert the popular will of the people and acknowledged the ECOWAS decision confirming Mr. Ouattara as President of Côte d'Ivoire,
1. Is deeply concerned by the situation in Côte d'Ivoire following the second round of presidential elections; stresses that the results of democratic elections must be accepted by those who are defeated and underlines that failure to do so would further put at risk the peace and stability of the country;
 2. Urges all the political forces in Ivory Coast to respect the will of the people that was reflected by the results of the 28 November poll, as announced by the CEI and certified by the UNSG Special Representative;
 3. Regrets that the work of the CEI was hampered by political obstruction and attempts of intimidation that ultimately delayed the announcement of provisional results; deplores the violent clashes that have preceded the proclamation of the results of the second round and expresses its solidarity with the victims and their families;
 4. Condemns the decision of the Constitutional Council to partially invalidate the results of second round of presidential election as a violation of the Ivorian Electoral Code which does not provide for such a situation; notes with concern that the political instrumentalisation of this institution by Mr Gbagbo has prevented its effective functioning and threatened the electoral process as a whole;
 5. Takes note of the declarations of various actors of the international community expressing support for the electoral process in Côte d'Ivoire and acknowledging Mr Ouattara as legitimate winner of the poll;
 6. Is deeply concerned by the confusing political situation prevailing in the country, as well as by the reported acts of violence involving, in some instances, the Ivorian security forces; calls on all parties concerned to exercise utmost restraint in order to avoid further escalation of the situation;

7. Welcomes all efforts of mediation and calls on all political forces in Côte d'Ivoire to actively support a peaceful transition and thus avoid a division of the country;
8. Strongly condemns the acts of intimidation directed against the European Union's observers in Côte d'Ivoire that forced the mission to withdraw for security reasons;
9. Commends the HR/VP's commitment towards the electoral process in Côte d'Ivoire and welcomes her readiness to consider the adoption of targeted sanctions against those who obstruct the peaceful transition;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the EU Council and Commission, the HR/VP Catherine Ashton, the UN Security Council and the UN Secretary General, the ONUCI, the institutions of the African Union, ECOWAS, the ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly and the governments of EU Member States.