

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1930/03
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to the Commission

Subject: Population movements in the oil-rich areas of Sudan

The bloody civil war in Sudan has claimed two million lives. Four million people have fled their homes. European Coalition on Oil in Sudan (ECOS), a network of 70 European organisations, predominantly church-based and other Christian bodies, notes that tens of thousands of Sudanese nationals have been forced to flee from Reweng County in the West Upper Nile region as a result of conflicts over oil extraction, and with the knowledge of the oil companies. A large proportion of the revenue which oil brings into Sudan goes on military expenditure. Only 2% of the Sudanese budget is spent on health care, while 48% goes for military and police purposes, e.g. the purchase of Russian Mig 29 fighters, Mi 24 helicopter gunships and T 72 tanks.

What measures is the EU taking through the Commission to influence the Sudanese government and the oil companies to halt this deliberate movement of population from the oil-rich areas? What is the EU doing to persuade countries not to sell expensive high-technology weaponry to the warring parties in Sudan?