

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0101/02

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Nelly Maes, Paul Lannoye, Didier Rod, Caroline Lucas, Inger Schörling and Marie Isler Béguin,  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group  
to the Council

Subject: UN report on the 'illegal exploitation of natural resources and other forms of wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo'

On Tuesday, 3 December, the European Parliament Committee on Development and Cooperation discussed the above Panel of Experts report which points out individuals, companies and structures involved in the illegal exploitation of resources in Congo. The Panel of Experts has been mandated by the President of the Security Council. Approval of the final report is pending. The report not only presents detailed information about 'politically and economically powerful groups involved in the exploitation activities, which are often highly criminalised', it also provides, as has been requested by the Security Council in a statement by its President on 19 December 2001, an evaluation of possible actions that could be taken to help bring an end 'to plundering of the natural resources' of Congo and 'their potential impact on the humanitarian and economic situation' in that country.

Proposed actions encompass:

- companies on which the Panel recommends the placing of financial restrictions,
- persons for whom the Panel recommends a travel ban and financial restrictions,
- business enterprises considered by the Panel to be in violation of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

What is the Council's reaction concerning the findings of this report? Will the Council follow the recommendations of the report?

Are there any attempts to coordinate the position of the members and non-members of the Security Council on this dossier?

Can the Council report on the activities of individual Member States concerning persons or companies mentioned in the report, which are under their jurisdiction?

Tabled: 10.12.2002

Forwarded: 12.12.2002

Deadline for reply: 16.01.2003