

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

15 September 1999

B5-0070/99 }
B5-0084/99 }
B5-0094/99 }
B5-0099/99 }
B5-0101/99 }RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members:

Vanhecke and Grossetête, on behalf of the PPE Group
Sauquillo, on behalf of the PSE Group
Ducarme, Nicholson, van den Bos and Ries, on behalf of the ELDR Group
Miranda, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
Muscardini, on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following:

- the UEN Group (B5-0070/99)
- the GUE/NGL Group (B5-0084/99)
- the PPE Group (B5-0094/99)
- the ELDR Group (B5-0099/99)
- the V/ALE Group (B5-0101/99)

on the Lusaka ceasefire agreement for the Great Lakes Region

The European Parliament,

recalling its previous resolutions on the situation in the Great Lakes Region and in the Democratic Republic of Congo in particular,

recalling the EU Presidency Declaration of 3 September,

recalling the EU Declaration of last June on the arms trade to and within the Great Lakes Region,

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PE 279.964/
PE 279.975/
PE 279.980/
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Or. en/fr

- A. whereas an armed conflict has been raging in the DRC over the past year, with the active military involvement of several neighbouring countries, posing a serious threat to the stability of the region and causing further death and destruction as well as a new exodus of refugees,
- B. whereas a ceasefire agreement has been signed in Lusaka by the six countries of the region (the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola, Rwanda and Uganda) and the various rebel factions, all of which are involved in the conflict,
- C. whereas the Lusaka ceasefire agreement includes a pledge from neighbouring countries to withdraw their forces as well as a promise from all sides to engage in a national dialogue on Congo's future with the participation of representatives of civil society and to secure Congo's borders in order to guarantee the safety of neighbouring countries,
- D. whereas the obstacles to the implementation of the Lusaka agreement are enormous, given the grave instability and ethnic tensions that persist in the region and the continuing presence of refugees across the region which has resulted in a tremendous humanitarian crisis,
- E. whereas respect for human rights and democratic institutions must be an essential part of the reconciliation process in the region,
1. Supports the peace process initiated by the signing of the Lusaka agreement and commends the successful diplomatic efforts of Zambia, South Africa and Tanzania that led to the signing of this agreement; calls on all parties to proceed immediately with implementation of the agreement, to abide strictly by the agreement and to refrain from any action putting it at risk;
 2. Calls on all parties to proceed immediately with implementation of the agreement, to abide strictly by the agreement and to refrain from any action putting it at risk;
 3. Calls in particular on all Congolese signatories of the agreement to engage immediately in national dialogue on Congo's future, together with representatives of civil society; for this purpose calls on the DRC authorities to release without delay all political prisoners and to allow activities of political parties in order to prepare the elections;
 4. Calls on all those involved in the fighting to end all acts of violence against civilians and to respect the fundamental rights of human beings;
 5. Considers that the Lusaka agreement is crucial for the restoration of peace and stability in the DRC and the Central Africa region, as well as for the return of refugees and displaced people and their reintegration into their countries of origin and for the security of neighbouring countries;

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6. Emphasises the responsibility of the European Union for providing support for the enforcement of the Lusaka agreements and calls on the EU to provide political and operational support for its implementation and to contribute in particular to the peacekeeping operations to be carried out by the UN and the OAU;
7. Calls on the Council and the Member States to respect their commitments to controlling arms exports to the region, their illicit circulation and the illicit trafficking which finances them;
8. Calls on the EU to step up its humanitarian aid to the region to help cope with the continuing presence of refugees and to assist the repatriation process;
9. Calls on its President to forward this resolution to the signatories of the Lusaka Agreement, the Council, the Commission, the Member States, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the OAU and the governments of South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia.