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4 July 2001

B5-0485/2001 }
B5-0492/2001 }
B5-0502/2001 }
B5-0510/2001 }
B5-0517/2001 }
RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 50(5) of the Rules of Procedure by

- Johan Van Hecke, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Margrietus J. van den Berg, Francisca Sauquillo Pérez del Arco and Marie-Arlette Carlotti, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Bob van den Bos and Lone Dybkjær, on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Nelly Maes, Didier Rod, Marie Anne Isler Béguin, Caroline Lucas, Inger Schörling and Patricia McKenna, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Luigi Vinci and Fodé Sylla, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- Verts/ALE (B5-0485/2001),
- PSE (B5-0492/2001),
- PSE (B5-0502/2001),
- ELDR (B5-0510/2001),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0517/2001),

on the illegal exploitation of natural resources in the Democratic Republic of
Congo

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PE 307.307}
PE 307.314}
PE 307.324}
PE 307.332}
PE 307.339} RC1

European Parliament resolution on the illegal exploitation of natural resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Congo and the Great Lakes region,
 - having regard to the report of the panel of experts on the illegal exploitation of natural resources and other forms of wealth in the Democratic Republic of Congo of 12 April 2001,
 - whereas the UN report did not include the exploitation and looting of natural resources and other forms of wealth by foreign armies in government controlled territories,
 - whereas this report concludes that the main reasons for the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo are now access to five vital mineral resources – colombo tantalite (coltan), cobalt, diamonds, copper and gold and the control of and trade in these minerals,
 - whereas aeronautical, computer, telecommunications and armaments industries support the mining of coltan because of its high resistance to high and low temperature,
 - whereas the UN report considers that these activities go beyond what can be qualified as ‘illegal exploitation’ and amount to ‘systematic looting’,
- A. whereas the overwhelming majority of the Congolese people are living in abject poverty although the country has vast natural resources,
- B. whereas since independence the vast majority of the population has not benefited from the exploitation of these natural resources,
- C. whereas rebel groups and foreign armies are involved, according to this report, in large scale looting of the Democratic Republic of Congo’s natural resources,
- D. whereas plundering, looting, racketeering and criminal cartels are commonplace,
- E. whereas the revenue from this looting is used to fund the war effort and is resulting in the personal enrichment of senior echelons of the military and politicians in several African countries,
- F. whereas some western companies have benefited from the looting by importing these natural resources and using them in their activities without verifying the original sources,
- G. whereas, according to the UN report, two Member States of the European Union are among the three most important final destinations of this looting,
- H. whereas there is a clear link between this exploitation and the continued conflict, as this looting helps finance armies and fuels the war,

RC\444971EN.doc

PE 307.307}
PE 307.314}
PE 307.324}
PE 307.332}
PE 307.339} RC1

- I. whereas the cessation of this illegal exploitation will help bring about an end to hostilities,
 - J. whereas the illegal exploitation has had devastating effects on the Congolese people and on the country's flora, fauna and natural parks,
 - K. whereas it is essential for the development and rebuilding of the Democratic Republic of Congo that the country can exploit its mineral resources itself in a sustainable, transparent and properly administered manner,
 - L. whereas all nations and organisations involved in the so-called 'Kimberley Process' to curb the illegal trade in diamonds must redouble efforts to stop such trading,
 - M. whereas the only viable solution to the three year old civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo remains the full implementation of the 1999 Lusaka Agreement,
 - N. whereas the Lusaka Agreement is also the basis for inter-Congolese dialogue with a view to establishing peace, democracy and the rule of law,
1. Reaffirms its commitment to the sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of Congo, including sovereignty over its natural resources, and the integrity of its territory;
 2. Strongly condemns the systematic and large scale looting of the natural resources and wealth of the Democratic Republic of Congo;
 3. Urges all states, companies and persons involved to stop this looting forthwith;
 4. Calls on the World Bank and the IMF to stop shoring up the budgets of the parties to the conflict until the end of hostilities;
 5. Calls on the governments named in the report to give full consideration to the panel's findings; calls on the governments named in the report and other nations that have troops in the Democratic Republic of Congo to conduct their own inquiries and take immediate steps to end illegal exploitation of the natural resources by their nationals or others under their control;
 6. Calls on the Council to take into consideration the recommendations made by the panel of experts, in particular the sanctions to be applied to the parties to the conflict and firms involved in the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of Congo;
 7. Welcomes the decision of the UN Security Council to extend the panel's mandate and stresses the importance of an addendum to the UN report that should provide an update of relevant data, an analysis of further information, a response to the reactions on the report, and an assessment of whether progress has been made;
 8. Strongly condemns the murder of the six staff of the ICRC and urges all parties to the conflict to ensure full and secure access to vulnerable populations;
 9. Supports the UN's deployment of MONUC observers and liaison officers;

RC\444971EN.doc

PE 307.307}
 PE 307.314}
 PE 307.324}
 PE 307.332}
 PE 307.339} RC1

10. Urges all countries involved in the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo to withdraw their troops from the territory of the Democratic Republic of Congo, in accordance with the Lusaka Agreement;
11. Welcomes the announcement of the start of the inter-Congolese dialogue provided for in the Lusaka Agreement;
12. Considers that the participation of civil society and non-armed political forces in the inter-Congolese dialogue is an important factor in establishing a lasting peace, participatory democracy and sustainable development in the process of construction of the country;
13. Urges the Kabila government to embark upon the reconciliation and democratisation process without delay, in order to enable the European Union to fully resume structural aid to the Congo;
14. Requests the Council and the Commission to take all appropriate measures to tackle the humanitarian crisis;
15. Supports the Belgian Presidency initiative to give the Democratic Republic of Congo a priority status on its agenda and urges the European Council to encourage the inter-Congolese dialogue in order to create effective governance and the re-establishment of the rule of law;
16. Calls on the European Union to respond favourably to any request from the Congolese authorities seeking to ensure nuclear safety (extraction, exploitation, reprocessing) in the territory of the Democratic Republic of Congo;
17. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the United Nations Organisation, the OAU, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the governments named in the UN report, the World Bank, the IMF and the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly.