

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



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Session document

12 December 2001

B5-0773/2001 }
B5-0781/2001 }
B5-0785/2001 }
B5-0795/2001 }
B5-0808/2001 }
RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Johan Van Hecke and Bernd Posselt on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Margrietus J. van den Berg and Francisca Sauquillo Pérez del Arco on behalf of the PSE Group
- Bob van den Bos and Lone Dybkjær on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Nelly Maes and Didier Rod on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Fodé Sylla on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Niall Andrews on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PSE (B5-0773/2001),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0781/2001),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0785/2001),
- ELDR (B5-0795/2001),
- PPE-DE (B5-0808/2001),

on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

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European Parliament resolution on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC),
 - having regard to the resolution adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on the situation in Central Africa,
 - having regard to the Council statement calling for the withdrawal of foreign armed forces and for the disarming and demobilisation of the combatants,
- A. deeply shocked by the UN 2002 Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the DRC which reveals horrendous figures since nearly 3 million children, women and men have been killed as a result of foreign occupation, more than 2 million people have been displaced within the borders of their own country and 16 million people are threatened with death as a result of malnutrition, the absence of medical care and the abuses of the armed factions who plunder the local populations,
- B. whereas, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the situation in Congo-Kinshasa has contributed to a tragic 22% increase in malnutrition rates worldwide over the last ten years,
- C. reaffirming the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the DRC and of all States in the region,
- D. reaffirming also the sovereignty of the DRC over its natural resources and having regard to UN Security Council resolution 1376, adopted on 9 November 2001, which called for all States to withdraw their forces from the DRC and reiterated condemnation of all illegal exploitation of natural resources in that country,
- E. whereas the illegal exploitation of these resources has already been described as ‘systematic looting’ in a recent United Nations report,
- F. whereas the second UN report on the illegal exploitation of the DRC's natural resources shows that the underlying reasons for the conflict have proved to be access to, control over and trade in the resources of the country,
- G. whereas some of these products are being brought into EU Member States,
- H. whereas the hostilities are fuelled by this illegal exploitation,
- I. whereas the history which the former European powers shared with Africa and the values which the European Union has vigorously defended since the end of the Second World War

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transform the duty of memory into a duty of assistance,

- J. welcoming the progress that has been made in some areas of implementation of the Lusaka Cease-fire Agreement, which constitutes the consensual basis for peace in the DRC, but noting the many problems still facing the peace process,
 - K. welcoming in particular the advanced state of deployment of the MONUC in accordance with UNSC Resolution 1341, but recalling the responsibilities of all parties to cooperate in the full deployment of the UN force,
 - L. concerned however about certain obstructions to foreign troop disengagement and reaffirming that the primary responsibility for implementing the Lusaka Cease-fire Agreement lies with the parties,
 - M. deploring the fact that the meeting of the inter-Congolese dialogue held on 15 October in Addis Ababa could not build on the success of the pre-dialogue held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 20 to 24 August 2001, which had given a new impetus to national reconciliation by reflecting the participants' shared desire to put an end to the war, preserve the country's independence and unity and establish democracy,
1. Urges governments, organisations and, in particular, health-related companies to take part in the UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal 2002, launched on 26 November 2001 in New York by the Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Mr Koffi Annan;
 2. Expresses its grave concern with regard to the humanitarian situation in the DRC and calls on the international community, and the EU in particular, to increase without delay its support for humanitarian activities;
 3. Considers that what has turned into an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe should be monitored and investigated at international level;
 4. Calls on the media and the international press to break the silence on this humanitarian tragedy;
 5. Insists on the need to restore the DRC's local economies, to secure access of the civilian population to food, medical and health care centres and urges the international community to provide the necessary assistance;
 6. Reaffirms its support for the 1999 Lusaka agreement, which provides a consensus on the basis of which peace can be restored in the DRC and the region as a whole; urges all parties concerned to comply with UNSC Resolution 1304 to the letter;
 7. Calls on the Spanish Presidency to organise at the beginning of 2002 a meeting between all the parties to prepare for the implementation of the Lusaka agreement;
 8. Welcomes the fact that Namibia has withdrawn its troops from DRC territory and insists that all foreign invading nations do the same in conformity with UN resolution 1304;
 9. Calls on the Council to consider the recommendations for sanctions against countries which

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are pillaging the resources of the DRC;

10. Calls on the World Bank and the IMF to cease to fund the budgets of the offending countries;
11. Calls on all the parties to refrain from any offensive action during the process of disengagement and withdrawal of foreign forces, and expresses concern at recent reports of military operations in the Kivus;
12. Reiterates its condemnation of all illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the DRC, in particular diamonds and coltan, demands that such exploitation cease and stresses that the natural resources of the DRC should not be exploited to finance the conflict in that country;
13. Welcomes the positive spirit in which all participants in the inter-Congolese pre-dialogue meeting approached the discussions in Gaborone and, while deploring the lack of progress in Addis Ababa, strongly urges all Congolese parties to continue working in the same spirit of compromise and conciliation at the next meeting of the inter-Congolese dialogue scheduled to resume at the end of January 2002 in Sun City, South Africa;
14. Welcomes the deployment of UN troops to help monitor the cease-fire and urges the rapid launch of the next phase of the UN operation, involving the deployment of more troops to begin the programme of voluntary disarmament;
15. Calls on the Council and Commission to step up efforts to implement the Lusaka agreement and continue to support mediation efforts, and urges them to take the necessary political and economic measures without delay to ensure that the agreement can be properly implemented;
16. Calls on the Member States to honour their commitments concerning the monitoring of arms exports and the prevention of illicit sales of arms and of the trafficking activities through which the necessary funding for the continuation of the war is obtained;
17. Demands that the international economic community enforce an ethical code of conduct;
18. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the Commission, the United Nations Secretary-General, the African Union, and the Governments of Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, Uganda, Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia.