

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Session document

6 February 2002

B5-0055/2002 }
B5-0062/2002 }
B5-0068/2002 }
B5-0085/2002 }
B5-0093/2002 }

RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- John Alexander Corrie, Vitaliano Gemelli and Hanja Maij-Weggen on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Michel-Ange Scarbonchi, Jean-Claude Fruteau and Margrietus J. van den Berg on behalf of the PSE Group
- Marieke Sanders-ten Holte, Bob van den Bos and Lone Dybkjær on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Didier Rod, Nelly Maes and Marie Anne Isler Béguin on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Cristiana Muscardini and Isabelle Caullery on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- Verts/ALE (B5-0055/2002),
- UEN (B5-0062/2002),
- PPE-DE (B5-0068/2002),
- PSE (B5-0085/2002),
- ELDR (B5-0093/2002),

on the elections in Madagascar

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PE 313.876}
PE 314.788}
PE 314.794}
PE 314.811}
PE 314.819} RC1

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European Parliament resolution on the elections in Madagascar

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the EU Presidency statement [14324/01] concerning Madagascar's Presidential Elections on 22 November 2001,
 - having regard to the statement by the President of the United Nations Security Council [SC/7281] about the elections in Madagascar on 28 January 2002,
 - having regard to the meeting of EU Foreign Ministers on 18 and 19 February 2002 in Brussels, Belgium,
 - having regard to the proposed second round of Presidential Elections in Madagascar on 24 February 2002,
- A. whereas on 25 January 2002, Madagascar's National Electoral Commission released results showing that Ravalomanana had won 46.44% of the vote and Ratsiraka 40.61%, with the remaining four candidates receiving low levels of support,
- B. whereas opposition parties have alleged that the election was rigged,
- C. whereas this presidential election dispute has led to weeks of massive protests and a general strike,
- D. whereas Madagascar's High Constitutional Court has defied huge opposition protests and ordered a run-off second round of voting on 24 February,
- E. whereas the 'High Court' has rejected all applications for the results obtained by the various candidates at each polling station to be compared, so that no common interpretation of the results has been possible,
- F. whereas the members of the 'High Court' were appointed entirely by the outgoing President, which cannot be regarded as a guarantee of impartiality,
- G. where a comparison of the official records would be the only democratic method of establishing the genuine result of this election,
- H. whereas the EU Presidency pledged to keep 'an interested and careful watch on the preparation and organisation of the presidential elections' in Madagascar with specific reference to human rights, democratic principles, the rule of law and good governance and the hope that the elections 'will pass off calmly, fairly and with the utmost transparency',
- I. whereas Ratsiraka's government did not allow international observers during the first round

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PE 313.876}
PE 314.788}
PE 314.794}
PE 314.811}
PE 314.819} RC1

of elections,

- J. having regard to the mediation proposals of the Organisation of African Unity and the International Organisation for the French-Speaking World,
- K. whereas Members of the United Nations Security Council have ‘expressed concern over the situation of unrest prevailing in Madagascar and the potential for undermining peace and stability in that country and the region as a whole’,
- L. noting the recent comments of the opposition candidate that he would consider standing in the second round if international observers were present and an international inquiry into the results of 16 December 2001 were to take place,
- M. whereas only the media are covering the whole territory, and they have displayed much bias,
- N. having regard to the economic damage caused by each day on which workers remain on strike in one of the poorest countries in the world, whose economy is currently in a critical condition,
 - 1. Expresses its extreme concern about the risks inherent in the current situation in Madagascar and calls on all parties to refrain from violence;
 - 2. Hopes that the electoral process will continue, on condition that both rounds of the elections are conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner and in the presence of international observers;
 - 3. Requests that the Spanish Presidency of the EU send an official Troika to hold talks with all sides ahead of 9 February 2002, the date on which campaigning is scheduled to begin if a second round of Presidential Elections takes place;
 - 4. Calls on the Commission, Council and Member States to send an international election-monitoring team to Madagascar if the Troika reports back that a second round will take place;
 - 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the African Union, the Government of Madagascar and the UN Secretary-General.