

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

3 July 2002

B5-0405/2002 }
B5-0423/2002 }

RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

- Teresa Almeida Garrett, Charles Tannock, Anne-Karin Glase and Konrad K. Schwaiger, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- José María Mendiluce Pereiro, Carlos Lage, Joan Colom i Naval, Rosa M. Díez González and Margrietus J. van den Berg, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Bob van den Bos, on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Marie Anne Isler Béguin and Nelly Maes, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Joaquim Miranda, Yasmine Boudjenah, Hans Modrow and Luisa Morgantini, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- José Ribeiro e Castro and Luís Queiró, on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PPE-DE, PSE, ELDR, Verts/ALE, GUE/NGL (B5-0405/2002),
- UEN (B5-0423/2002),

on Angola

European Parliament resolution on Angola

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Angola,
- having regard to its resolution on the situation in southern Africa (the section referring to Angola) adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 March 2002,
- having regard to the most recent statements on Angola made by the Council and Commission, and in particular the new common position of 25 June,
- having regard to the calls for humanitarian aid made to the international community both by the Angolan Government and by all Angolan political forces, civil society, by the Joint Committee for Peace (COEIPA) and by international NGOs in Angola
- having regard to the mission of 21 to 25 June by its Committee on Development and Cooperation, in particular to Huambo, to the 'Médecins Sans Frontières' feeding centre in Bailundo and to the Chileta I reception centre for Unita partisans,

Humanitarian situation

- A. whereas the international community and the European Union, in particular, must regard aid to Angola as a priority, in order to combat the current serious humanitarian situation, and whereas the end of hostilities has revealed the scale of the humanitarian disaster, particularly in the guerrilla areas, to which humanitarian organisations did not have access,
- B. whereas this emergency situation comes on top of a precarious situation attributable to 30 years of war, which have resulted in one-third of the population (4-5 million people) being displaced and 500 000 Angolans being forced to flee to in neighbouring countries,
- C. having regard to the large number of children in all these different situations – for example, 162 000 children out of a total of 256 000 family members in Unita reception centres alone – constituting the group which is most vulnerable to disease, night cold and malnutrition and the one with the highest mortality rate,
- D. whereas the speed and scale of the process of gathering together Unita partisans and their families has outstripped all the forecasts made by Unita leaders, the Government, observers and humanitarian organisations,
- E. whereas success in distributing humanitarian aid may be a determining factor in consolidating stability,
- F. whereas a movement to return has begun among those Angolans who are still refugees in neighbouring countries,

Consolidation of peace

- G. having regard to the consolidation of peace on the basis of the Lusaka Protocol of 20 November 1994 and the memorandum signed by the military leaders of the Angolan armed forces and Unita in Luanda on 4 April 2002,
- H. whereas all the representatives of the Government, the Angolan armed forces and Unita, as well as most domestic and external observers, emphasise the irreversible nature of the peace concluded on 4 April, as confirmed on the spot by the absence of any military incidents over the last four months and by the presence of all Unita personnel in reception centres,
- I. whereas the permanent consolidation of peace and democracy in Angola, after so many years of armed conflict, may transform that country into a fundamental factor for stability in central and southern Africa,
- J. whereas a very limited number of arms has been handed in, by comparison with the number of Unita fighters gathering at the reception centres,
- K. whereas the consolidation of peace in Angola also depends on the total consolidation and normalisation of democratic, free and pluralist institutions, respect for human rights, the proper functioning of the State and social justice,

Democratic consolidation

- L. whereas peace, reconciliation and democracy in Angola must involve all Angolans in their entirety in a process of dialogue embracing all the political parties (especially those with parliamentary assent), civil society, the traditional authorities, the Catholic Church and other religious faiths,
- M. whereas the organisation of democratic voting requires freedom of movement throughout the country, a prior census and the localisation of those displaced by the war,
- N. whereas peace will enable institutional life to return to normal, the country's transition to full democracy to be strengthened and completed, and whereas fair elections presuppose equitable access to the means of expression,
- O. whereas democracy has need of independent political parties, and whereas it is for Unita alone to decide who its legitimate leaders are,
- P. having regard to the Angolan law on the financing of the political parties represented in Parliament,
- Q. having regard to the importance of an independent judicial system, up to and including the highest level thereof, for the proper functioning of democracy,
- R. having regard to the debates held in the Angolan Parliament on the drafting of a new constitution,

Economic consolidation and social reorganisation

- S. whereas the European Union disbursed € 790 million (60% of which was for humanitarian aid) over the period from 1985 to 2000, and whereas the Commission reached a decision on 29 May on a financial package of € 125 m, including € 10 m for emergency humanitarian measures, € 32 m for food security and € 83 m for demining and reconstruction,
 - T. whereas, according to the indicators available, 50% of the inhabitants of Angola live in great poverty (on less than one US dollar per day), and whereas it is currently estimated that between 1 and 2 million Angolans depend entirely on international aid for survival,
 - U. having regard to the importance of moving as speedily as possible from the humanitarian emergency to measures promoting Angola's development,
 - V. whereas 80 000 Unita partisans who are currently in reception centres, and who must be demobilised by 20 July, will not be integrated into the Angolan armed forces, and whereas it is essential to make the best possible use of their skills, because the social reintegration of these men, trained in fighting, is essential for the country's internal security,
 - W. whereas the definitive return of people displaced by the war may entail massive new population movements, whereas this process will necessarily be slow, testing and complex, and whereas it must take place on the basis of completely free personal choice,
 - X. whereas the war has resulted in the destruction of infrastructure (roads, bridges, railways, etc.), schools and health centres,
 - Y. having regard to the importance of the Angolan people's expectations,
 - Z. whereas oil production in Angola is estimated to be 1 million barrels per day, whereas the country is the world's fourth-largest diamond producer and whereas normalisation of its production system and the strengthening and diversification of its fabric of undertakings should enable it to exploit the vast riches that it harbours,
1. Gives priority to the situation of Angola both because of the humanitarian dimension of the problem and of the political importance of the peace restored after so many years of devastating conflict; urges the Commission and Council to act in accordance with this acknowledgement and calls on the Member States to accept that a democratic and peaceful Angola constitutes an important factor for stability and development in Africa and in the world;
 2. Calls on all the relevant national and international authorities and organisations, once they have digested the initial surprise at the speed of pacification in Angola and the human dimension of the new problems identified, to supply without further ado the humanitarian aid which is essential if lives which are at risk are to be saved;
 3. Calls on the World Food Programme to accelerate and step up the distribution of food, and to extend this at least until the next harvest;
 4. Urges the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to play its full part in protecting

refugees, in particular when they return to their villages of origin;

5. Urges the Commission and the international community, before the end of the dry season, to supply the seeds and ploughing implements which are essential for the resumption of farming to all those who wish to work the land, irrespective of their previous partisan allegiance, so as to enable the population to reduce its dependence on humanitarian food aid;
6. Calls on the Commission, the Council and the United Nations to step up demining programmes so as to make freedom of movement and the resumption of farming in the areas affected by the fighting safer;
7. Calls on the Commission to step up programmes to promote education, training and health;
8. Supports the request from the Angolan Government for a donor conference to be held on humanitarian aid and the reconstruction of Angola;
9. Calls on the Angolan Government and its industrial and trade partners to set up transparent, responsible mechanisms for managing Angola's natural resources, in particular oil production and diamonds, so that the revenue therefrom is used to combat poverty and to finance global, sustainable, fair and lasting development;
10. Congratulates the President of the Republic, the Government and the armed forces, the Unita military personnel and High Command on the important steps taken with the Memorandum of Understanding and subsequently; hopes that the climate of good will continues in such a positive manner in the subsequent political phase with a spirit of openness, mutual respect, good faith and a sense of responsibility, all of which are essential;
11. Welcomes the fact that all sides are stressing that the cease-fire is definitive and irreversible;
12. Is concerned that arms are continuing to circulate throughout the country, and in particular among the civil population;
13. Calls on the Commission, in its aid programmes for Angola, to provide for participation by civil society and religious groups in the process of national reconciliation and for training programmes in citizenship as part of the process of consolidating democracy; calls on the Commission rapidly to increase the strength of its delegation in Luanda in due proportion to the amount and nature of the aid, so as to ensure the efficient monitoring of its use, in all its diversity and complexity;
14. Calls on the Commission to provide all the requisite help with civil registration, a population census and the establishment of reliable electoral rolls;
15. Declares its willingness to contribute to the strengthening of all the factors of confidence, inclusivity and normalisation in Angolan society and in the functioning of the State; supports the idea that the confidence of the international community and its willingness to help will grow in direct proportion to the transparency apparent in the use of resources, pluralism and the rigour of the accompanying measures and internal debate, the guarantees of the safety of persons and goods, respect for the law and the proper functioning of the institutions in accordance with the principles of the rule of law;

16. Notes with satisfaction the progress already made with drawing up the new constitution;
17. Welcomes the plans for decentralisation, and stresses the importance of the pluralism of ideas, expression and organisation;
18. Welcomes the undertaking given to hold parliamentary, municipal and presidential elections, which should be free and pluralist, at the earliest possible date;
19. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and the Angolan Government.