

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

*Session document*

4 June 2003

B5-0285/2003 }  
B5-0286/2003 }  
B5-0292/2003 }  
B5-0295/2003 }  
B5-0296/2003 }

RC1

## JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 37(4) of the Rules of Procedure by

- John Alexander Corrie and Charles Tannock on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Margrietus J. van den Berg on behalf of the PSE Group
- Marieke Sanders-ten Holte on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Nelly Maes, Caroline Lucas, Didier Rod and Paul A.A.J.G. Lannoye on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Luisa Morgantini on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- Verts/ALE (B5-0285/2003),
- PPE-DE (B5-0286/2003),
- PSE (B5-0292/2003),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0295/2003),
- ELDR (B5-0296/2003),

on Nigeria

RC\500411EN.doc

PE 332.958}  
PE 332.959}  
PE 332.965}  
PE 332.968}  
PE 332.969} RC1

## European Parliament resolution on Nigeria

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the European Union election observation mission report,
  - having regard to the Presidency declaration on behalf of the European Union,
  - A. whereas after the establishment of civilian rule in 1999, these elections were an important test for the state of democracy in Africa's most populous country,
  - B. whereas the organisation of several elections simultaneously at different levels represented a real challenge,
  - C. whereas the late opening of registration on the electoral rolls led to many problems and objections, aggravated by the late distribution of voting cards,
  - D. whereas these deficiencies facilitated fraud and protests, leading to incidents,
  - E. whereas coverage of the election campaign by the mass media did not comply with the fairness criteria laid down by the electoral law,
  - F. whereas the lack of autonomous sources of funding means that the independence of the Independent National Electoral Commission is not adequately guaranteed,
  - G. whereas the Independent National Electoral Commission did not issue appropriate subordinate legislation, as envisaged by law, and did not distribute the practical instructions for polling station officials, particularly as regards procedures, as efficiently as it should have done,
  - H. whereas it was possible to remedy some of the deficiencies between the ballots of 12 April and 19 April,
  - I. whereas in six states and, to a lesser degree, in five others the EU observation mission detected massive electoral fraud on 19 April,
  - J. whereas in these states the electoral fraud robs the results of all credibility,
  - K. whereas only candidates and political parties can file election petitions and there is no effective way for other interested parties to protest against electoral fraud,
  - L. whereas in the past electoral fraud has been used by the army in Nigeria as a pretext for seizing power,
1. Regrets that President Obasanjo was invested without any steps having been taken to

RC\500411EN.doc

PE 332.958}  
PE 332.959}  
PE 332.965}  
PE 332.968}  
PE 332.969} RC1

invalidate the controversial votes and re-establish confidence in the electoral process;

2. Endorses the conclusions of the European Union observer mission;
3. Stresses that the European Union needs to speak with one voice in its election monitoring role: otherwise it would cause more harm than good to the process of democratisation of African countries;
4. Calls on the Nigerian Government and the Independent National Electoral Commission to ensure that the EU observer mission's recommendations, which are intended to restore public confidence in the democratic process, particularly in the states where there was fraud on a massive scale, are implemented;
5. Calls for inquiries to be carried out without delay to establish responsibility for the fraud and calls for judicial procedures against those responsible for the massive electoral fraud to be commensurate with the importance given to the democratic process;
6. Calls for legislative measures to be taken to guarantee the real independence of the Independent National Electoral Commission;
7. Calls for measures to be taken to guarantee the impartiality of the mass media;
8. Recommends that the means be put in place to seriously enhance female participation in politics and the legislature, at both the federal state and national level;
9. Calls for measures to be taken to give all citizens the vote and to ensure that voting takes place lawfully, particularly through a proper system of voter identification;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Assembly and the Nigerian Government.