



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Session document

9.12.2009

B7-0187/2009

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on statements by the Council and Commission

pursuant to Rule 110(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Véronique De Keyser Thijs Berman, Ana Gomes, Richard Howitt
on behalf of the S&D Group

RE\799009EN.doc

PE432.807v01-00

EN

United in diversity

EN

European Parliament resolution on violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 20 November 2008 on the EU response to the deteriorating situation in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo¹,
 - having regard to its resolution of 23 October 2008 on the Democratic Republic of Congo: clashes in the eastern border areas of the DRC²,
 - having regard to its resolution of 21 February 2008 on North Kivu³,
 - having regard to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly resolution of 22 November 2007 on the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in particular in the east, and its impact on the region,
 - having regard to its resolution of 15 November 2007 on the EU response to situations of fragility in developing countries⁴,
 - having regard to the Commission communication of 25 October 2007 entitled 'Towards an EU response to situations of fragility – engaging in difficult environments for sustainable development, stability and peace' (COM (2007)0643) and the Commission staff working document annexed thereto (SEC (2007)1417),
 - having regard to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/1 of 24 October 2005 on the 2005 World Summit Outcome, and in particular paragraphs 138 to 140 thereof on the responsibility to protect populations,
 - having regard to the Council declaration of 27 October 2009 on the Great Lakes region,
 - having regard to the Council declaration of 10 October 2008 on the situation in the eastern part of the DRC,
 - having regard to UN Security Council resolution 1856 (2008) on MONUC's mandate,
 - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the fighting between the Congolese army, the rebel troops of ousted General Laurent Nkunda, the fighters of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and troops of Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) continue to cause the

¹ *Texts adopted* of that date, P6_TA(2008)0563.

² *Texts adopted* of that date, P6_TA(2008)0526.

³ *Texts adopted* of that date, P6_TA(2008)0072.

⁴ *Texts adopted* of that date, P6_TA(2007)0540.

- civilian populations of the eastern provinces of the DRC unbearable hardship,
- B. whereas the conflict affecting the DRC has claimed the lives of 5 400 000 people since 1998 and is still causing, either directly or indirectly, as many as 45 000 deaths every month¹,
- C. whereas according to the UNHCR reports there are some 1 460 000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the DRC, with 980 000 in North Kivu²,
- D. whereas humanitarian organisations are currently responsible for 200 000 refugees in camps around Goma and estimate that there may be as many as 1 million civilians living in forests in order to escape the violence; whereas the situation in the refugee camps continues to deteriorate,
- E. whereas the UN Mission in the DRC (MONUC) has a mandate under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter to use all necessary means to deter any attempted use of force, by any foreign or Congolese armed group, that threatens the political process, and to ensure the protection of civilians under imminent threat of physical violence,
- F. whereas military operations since January 2009, including Operation Kimia II, have resulted in the disarmament of 1 243 FDLR combatants out of an estimated 6 000 although the FDLR continues to recruit and has the ability to launch deadly attacks on civilians³,
- G. whereas Congolese army soldiers have been implicated in the death of more than 500 civilians since the start of Operation Kimia II and whereas rapes, forced recruitments of civilians and child soldiers and serious human rights abuses in the eastern parts of the DRC, both by rebel troops, FDLR combatants and the Congolese army itself continue,
- H. whereas President Kabila has asked that a plan for the withdrawal of MONUC troops be presented to him by 30 June 2010,
- I. whereas the UNHCR has reported that a fresh wave of fighting has driven 21 800 mainly ethnic Munzayas from their homes in and around Dongo into the Republic of Congo⁴,
- J. whereas the Congolese army continues to have insufficient human, technical and financial resources to carry out its tasks in the eastern provinces of the DRC, coupled with a lack of discipline amongst its ranks, which continues to hamper its role in protecting the population and in re-establishing peace,
- K. whereas the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs(OCHA) has

¹ <http://www.theirc.org/special-reports/congo-forgotten-crisis>

² <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/txis/vtx/page?page=49e45c366>

³ <http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=2829#C1>

⁴ <http://www.unhcr.org/4af9522a9.html>

reported that a total of 108 attacks against humanitarian workers, including murders, abductions, and theft of vehicles and other assets have taken place in 2009 - a marked increase on 2008,

- L. whereas several humanitarian organisations have been forced to suspend their activities and aid workers in North Kivu are unable to reach at least 70% of those in need,
 - M. whereas, in order to achieve a significant improvement in health and a reduction in the mortality rate in the DRC as a whole and in its eastern provinces in particular, years of sustained commitment and a substantial financial investment will be required both from the Congolese Government and the international community despite the global financial crisis,
1. Calls for an immediate end to the violence and human rights abuses in eastern DRC; stresses the need for further efforts to put an end to the activity of foreign armed groups in the east of the DRC, in particular the FDLR; calls on the governments of the DRC and of other countries in the region to take the necessary steps to achieve this;
 2. Remains extremely concerned by the worsening humanitarian situation in eastern DRC, following atrocities carried out by the FDLR, the LRA and the Congolese army against the local populations, and by recent reports of deliberate killings by Congolese soldiers of at least 270 civilians in the towns of Nyabiondo and Pinga in North Kivu and recent fighting which has driven 21 800 people from their homes in and around Dongo in the west;
 3. Expresses particular concern about MONUC's involvement with the Congolese army in Operation Kimia II and recent reports implicating MONUC in atrocities; recognises, nevertheless, that its presence remains necessary and calls for every effort to be made to allow it to carry out its mandate in full to protect those under threat; calls on the Council, in this connection, to play a leading role in ensuring that the United Nations Security Council supports MONUC by strengthening its operational capacities and better defining its priorities, of which there are currently 41;
 4. Deplores in the strongest possible terms the massacres, crimes against humanity and acts of sexual violence against women and girls which are continuing in the eastern provinces; calls, in this context, on all the relevant authorities to take immediate action to bring the perpetrators to justice, and once again calls on the UN Security Council, as a matter of urgency, to take all the measures capable of genuinely preventing any further attacks on the civilian population of the eastern provinces of the DRC;
 5. Calls on all actors to step up the fight against impunity and uphold the rule of law, in particular in fighting the rape of women and girls and the recruitment of child soldiers; calls on the Government of the DRC to ensure that those responsible for breaching human rights and international humanitarian law are held to account and that it cooperates fully with the International Criminal Court;
 6. Stresses the need to tackle corruption and bring to justice the perpetrators of human rights abuses within the Congolese armed forces, and underlines MONUC's crucial role

in doing this through joint planning and implementation of operations and proper accountability mechanisms for abuses and the theft of soldiers' pay;

7. Underlines the importance of stringent vetting of commanders and soldiers in the Congolese army; welcomes, in this context the Council's recent decision on a joint action to provide advice and assistance for security sector reform (EUSEC RD Congo). Reiterates that training and payment of decent salaries are required in order to reform the Congolese army and improve discipline;
8. Expects the Congolese authorities to carry out their commitment to organise and ensure financing for the planned local elections; calls on the Council and the Commission to do all they can to support the electoral process, providing support to tackle governance problems, lack of transparency and violations of civil and political rights in cooperation with the Congolese authorities;
9. Encourages all governments in the Great Lakes region and the international community to initiate a dialogue with the aim of coordinating efforts in order to stop the violence in the eastern parts of the DRC, giving special attention to reconciliation, human security, better judicial accountability, and refugee and IDP return and integration;
10. Welcomes the progress made in the region by improved bilateral diplomatic relations between the DRC and Rwanda; calls on the DRC and Rwanda to fully implement the Nairobi and Goma peace agreements, as well as the Ihusi agreement of 23 March 2009;
11. Underlines the importance of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries in contributing to peace and economic development in the region; encourages, therefore, cross-border development projects with Rwanda as part of the framework for the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries;
12. Deplores the increasing acts of violence against aid workers, which are having grave repercussions for the humanitarian situation on the ground; urges the authorities of North Kivu to launch thorough investigations into each and every incident and calls for protection to be immediately stepped up;
13. Stresses the need for continued and increased funding in humanitarian aid to the eastern DRC, given the increasing number of internally displaced persons and deteriorating conditions; to this end, supports the appeal launched on 30 November 2009 by the UN, alongside 380 aid organisations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to raise \$7.1 billion for humanitarian work in 2010; urges all Member States to contribute their fair share;
14. Remains concerned by the illegal trade in minerals and other natural resources in eastern DRC by the rebel groups; calls on the Council and the Commission to insist in talks with the governments of the DRC and neighbouring countries on the implementation of effective systems of traceability and proof of origin of natural resources;

15. Strongly condemns the sentencing to death of a British and a Norwegian citizen, Tjostolv Moland and Joshua French, in Kinshasa on 3 December; requests that their sentence be revoked and that a fair trial be held;
16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the institutions of the African Union, the United Nations Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, the United Nations Security Council, the United Nations Human Rights Council and the governments and parliaments of the Great Lakes region.