

Resolution on Kenya

2008/2503(RSP) - 17/01/2008 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

Following the debate in plenary, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on Kenya condemning the tragic loss of life and critical humanitarian situation since elections were held in Kenya on 27 December 2007. It pointed out that the political violence that followed the elections led to the displacement of 250 000 people and affected between 400 000 and 500 000 Kenyans, specifically from the cities of Eldoret, Kericho and Kisumu, according to the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Parliament calls urgently on the relevant authorities and stakeholders to do their utmost to bring peace to Kenya and to ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law.

It endorses the conclusions presented by the EU EOM in its preliminary statement, which considered that the tallying process in the presidential election lacked credibility, with doubts as to the accuracy of the results. Parliament regrets that, despite the broadly successful parliamentary elections, the results of the presidential elections cannot be considered credible owing to widespread reports of electoral irregularities. It deplores the fact that Mwai Kibaki, appointed his cabinet unilaterally, which severely undermined mediation efforts, and calls on Kibaki, to respect his country's democratic commitments and agree to an independent examination of the presidential vote. The Kenyan authorities are urged to facilitate such an investigation in order to redress the situation and make the perpetrators of the electoral irregularities accountable for their actions. They were also urged to guarantee in all circumstances the physical and psychological integrity of all human rights defenders in the country.

Parliament calls on the Presidency of the EU and the Commission to monitor closely the mediation mission led by Kofi Annan and, if required, to ensure an immediate continuation of those mediation efforts by a high-level European Union delegation, possibly in the context of a joint EU-AU initiative. The Commission is asked to offer to the Kenyan authorities all necessary technical and financial assistance in the process of an independent examination of the presidential elections, as well as in the steps deemed necessary to redress the situation. Parliament regrets the disbursement of European Development Fund budget aid to the Kibaki government directly after the elections, which could be misconceived as demonstrating political bias, and asks for all further budgetary support to the government of Kenya to be frozen until a political resolution to the present crisis has been achieved.

It goes on to call for concrete measures to establish a truly impartial Election Commission which will be better able to conduct free and fair elections in the future. It also calls for fresh presidential elections should it prove impossible to organise a credible and fair recount of the votes cast in the presidential election by an independent body. Members regret the failure to take advantage of the opportunity provided by the 2007 presidential elections to consolidate and further develop the electoral and wider democratic process. The leadership of the political parties must take responsibility for preventing further violence in the country, demonstrate a commitment to the rule of law and guarantee respect for human rights.

Parliament is deeply preoccupied by the social repercussions of the current economic crisis, its detrimental effect on the country's socio-economic development and the economic consequences for neighbouring countries, which depend to a large extent on Kenya's infrastructures and whose humanitarian situation is being undermined by the crisis. It asks the Kenyan Government and the Commission to arrange rapid humanitarian assistance to the internally displaced people and to provide all necessary humanitarian relief workers.

Lastly, it calls on the relevant authorities to ensure free and independent press coverage and to reinstate live broadcasting with immediate effect.