Resolution on the coup in Guinea

2009/2509(RSP) - 15/01/2009 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Following a debate which took place during the sitting of the same date, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the coup in Guinea. The resolution had been tabled for consideration in plenary by the EPP-ED, PES, ALDE, UEN, Greens/ALE and GUE/NGL groups. It condemns the seizure of power by a group of officers on 23 December 2008, the day after the death of President Lansana Conté, and calls for the holding of free and transparent parliamentary and presidential elections complying with international norms, within the next few months and with AU and ECOWAS cooperation and EU support under the authority of a civilian transitional government. Parliament notes that Lansana Conté, then an officer, had himself taken power by force in 1984 at the moment of the death of his predecessor, President Sékou Touré, remaining in power for 24 years.

Members considers that there is no justification for the military assuming the role of government in any nation, and that it is for the people of Guinea and their representatives to decide on the political, economic and social future of the country. The two-year timetable proposed by the junta for elections is far too long.

Parliament calls for an inter-Guinean national dialogue with the participation of all political parties, trade unions and civil society organisations, to pave the way for a democratic transition. It calls on the junta to respect the right to freedom of opinion, expression and association, including the right to peaceful assembly, as expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Members condemn the arrests and detention without charge of military personnel and civilians, and call for those arrested to be freed forthwith if no significant charges can be substantiated against them.

Parliament notes that Guinea is classified by Transparency International as one of the most corrupt countries in Africa. According to the World Bank one Guinean in two lives on the equivalent of one US dollar a day, and income per inhabitant has been constantly falling ever since independence, despite Guinea's significant hydraulic and mining resources. Members note the political undertakings of the new Guinean leaders concerning, in particular, a concerted effort to tackle corruption and the introduction of a transparent and democratic system in Guinea, and calls for these undertakings to be acted on.

The resolution welcomes the decisions by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and by the African Union (AU), to suspend Guinea as long as it has no democratically elected parliament or government. They call for the opening of a political dialogue between the EU and the transitional authorities now in power in Guinea, in the framework of Articles 8 and 96 of the Cotonou Agreement.

The Commission must be prepared to freeze all aid other than humanitarian and food aid, and to consider targeted sanctions against the members of the authorities which have seized power should there not be a democratic transition.