Resolution on the situation in Haiti

2021/2694(RSP) - 20/05/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 639 votes to 23, with 31 abstentions, a resolution on the situation in Haiti.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled by the EPP, S&D, Renew, Greens/EFA, ECR and the Left groups.

Over recent years, Haiti has been plagued by several waves of large-scale mobilisations against high living costs, authoritarianism and corruption. The ongoing political crisis is linked to and commensurate with the deterioration of all social, economic, security and human rights indicators. In addition, between August 2020 and February 2021, around four million people in Haiti were facing acute food insecurity which was exacerbated by the COVID-pandemic.

The resolution stressed that a failure to hold elections in October 2020 also triggered rule by decree, with reports of failed coup attempts signifying growing political and social instability in Haiti. The political opposition and civil society groups claim that President Moïse's mandate came to an end on 6 February 2021. However, Jovenel Moïse refuses to step down, as he considers that his mandate began in February 2017. Resulting in this, thousands of Haitian people have been protesting since 14 January 2021 against the one-year extension of President Moïse's term of office. These protests are being suppressed by force.

Parliament urged the Haitian authorities to organise free, fair, transparent and credible legislative, local and presidential elections, and to guarantee sustainable security during these electoral processes. As long as the conditions of transparency, fairness and democracy have not been met, the EU should not provide any financial and technical support for the electoral processes. It stressed the importance of an independent and more accessible judiciary.

The resolution stressed the need for an immediate and coordinated response by the Haitian authorities to prevent violence, to address its root causes and to end impunity for those responsible. Reform of the justice system and the fight against corruption must remain a priority.

For their part, the Haitian authorities are called on to:

- ensure better governance at all levels of the state and society, including the fight against corruption and clientelism;

- clear up the suspicions of fraud and mismanagement of the international funds received following the earthquake of 2010 and to punish the perpetrators;

- implement measures that ensure the registration and protection of children, both physically and psychologically, and to enforce compulsory schooling.

- make the arrangements that are needed to receive the COVID-19 vaccines.

While welcoming the allocation of EUR 17 million by the EU in order to support the most vulnerable in Haiti and other countries in the Caribbean, Parliament called on the EU to continue to provide funding to Haiti in order to address the severe food insecurity and malnutrition that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.