Resolution on the situation in the Ivory Coast

2004/2611(RSP) - 18/11/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted by a resolution on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

The resolution had been tabled by the PES, EPP-ED, Greens/ALE, GUE/NGL, and ALDE groups.

It begins by noting that on November 2004, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire violated the ceasefire agreement by launching an air attack against rebels in Bouaké and Korhogo in the Zone of Confidence in the north. Following the position adopted by the African Heads of State who met in Abuja on 12 November 2004, Parliament welcomes the Security Council's resolution to impose an immediate embargo on arms which, unless the parties take action in accordance with the agreements, provides for a freeze on financial assets and restrictions on travel abroad of any person who continues to threaten the peace process and national reconciliation in the country, and which demands that the Ivoirian authorities stop all radio and television broadcasting inciting hatred, intolerance and violence. Members pay tribute to the memory of all the victims following the breaking of the ceasefire agreements, and express sympathy to the families of the victims - Ivoirian, African and French - of these acts of violence. It condemns the violence and acts of xenophobia and pillaging, and calls on the Ivoirian Government to put an end to these abuses and to the impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators and instigators of such acts.

All parties in the conflict are urged to:

- put an immediate end to military action and other hostile acts;
- stop targeting and attacking civilians including humanitarian aid workers, irrespective of their ethnicity, nationality or religion;
- desist from, and take action against, instances of incitement to hatred and violence;
- recommit to dialogue and negotiations;
- respect and implement commitments.

The EU Member States are asked to take an active part in supporting the peacekeeping mission conducted by the UN and France and Parliament regrets that the Licorne mission, carried out exclusively by French forces, has not included a European component. It regrets the fact that the current composition of the peacekeeping forces is not sufficiently multinational. Parliament calls on the Council, with regard to conflict prevention, to fight the underlying causes of the crisis, in particular the economic and social causes, and to support the deployment of African Union peacekeeping forces, in the context of the EDF 'peace facility'. It calls on the EU and the international community to step up funding for humanitarian aid in Côte d'Ivoire as soon as the conditions allow for increased, and desperately needed, operations.