



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Plenary sitting

15.7.2014

B8-0059/2014

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in Iraq
(2014/2716(RSP))

**Charles Tannock, Geoffrey Van Orden, Anna Elżbieta Fotyga,
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on behalf of the ECR Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Iraq
(2014/2716(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Iraq,
 - having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Iraq, of the other part, and to its resolution of 17 January 2013 on the EU-Iraq Partnership and Cooperation Agreement¹,
 - having regard to the Commission's Joint Strategy Paper for Iraq (2011-2013),
 - having regard to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) casualty figures in Iraq and its half-yearly report on human rights, published on 20 January 2014,
 - having regard to the recent statements by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on violence in Iraq,
 - having regard to the Council conclusions on Iraq of 23 June 2014,
 - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the current situation in Iraq is grave, as armed extremists fighting for the jihadist group ISIS (the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant) are intensifying their terror campaign, which has already seen the group take control of major cities such as Tikrit, Mosul and Tal Afar;
- B. whereas on 30 June 2014 it was reported that ISIS (also referred to as ISIL) had established a ‘caliphate’, or ‘Islamic state’, in the territories it controlled in Iraq and Syria;
- C. whereas it has been reported that 2 400 people were killed in the violence in June alone, with reports of indiscriminate killing, mass executions, torture and sexual violence;
- D. whereas the United Nations estimates that around one million people are currently displaced throughout northern and western Iraq; whereas the UN has also warned that the conflict could put women and girls at risk of gender-based violence and exploitation;
- E. whereas ISIS extremists have destroyed numerous Shia, Sunni and Christian shrines and places of worship in Nineveh province in northern Iraq, with images of their demolition being shared on social media;

¹ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2013)0022.

- F. whereas ISIS has already targeted the Baiji plant, one of Iraq's biggest oil refineries, though this has recently been secured again by government forces; whereas ISIS continues to control up to six oilfields in Syria, including Syria's largest oil facility, the al-Omar field, close to the border with Iraq;
- G. whereas hundreds of foreign fighters, including many from EU Member States, have reportedly joined the fighting alongside ISIS;
- H. whereas even before the ISIS attacks Iraq faced serious political, security and socio-economic challenges, with political fragmentation and violence, which were severely jeopardising the prospects for peace, prosperity and a genuine transition to democracy in the post-Saddam era;
- I. whereas there has been a failure by the incumbent sectarian government to build a more inclusive society in Iraq; whereas the international community has a role to play in working with the Government of Iraq to help build national unity;
- J. whereas the resurgence of Sunni extremist attacks on Shias and Christians made 2013 the bloodiest year in Iraq since 2007, with some 7 818 civilians killed and 17 981 injured;
- K. whereas, according to Human Rights Watch, even before the ISIS insurgency conditions were deteriorating in Iraq as sectarian tensions deepened, including daily attacks on civilians, with suicide and car bombings and assassinations becoming more frequent; whereas the Government of Iraq responded to peaceful protests with violence and to the worsening security situation with draconian counterterrorism measures;
- L. whereas national parliamentary elections took place in Iraq in April 2014; whereas on 1 July it was claimed that political infighting was delaying the process of forming the new Iraqi parliament;
- M. whereas, despite national and international pressure, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has rejected calls to forge a new, inclusive political direction to combat the insurgents and build national unity; whereas despite the crisis Prime Minister Maliki has dismissed the chief of the Iraqi army's ground forces and the head of the federal police following the collapse of the Iraqi army in the north of the country last month;
1. Strongly condemns the terrorist acts committed by ISIS and other armed groups against Iraqi citizens; further deplores attacks against civilian targets and condemns without reservation the use of executions, torture and sexual violence in the conflict;
 2. Expresses serious concern at the worsening humanitarian crisis caused by the recent fighting, and notes the massive displacement of civilians; calls on the Iraqi Government to do all it can to protect its civilians and ensure that all those displaced persons are given every assistance they need;
 3. Voices grave concern at the acts of violence committed by ISIS and the apparent ease with which the insurgents have taken control of parts of Iraq; further expresses fears about the implications of the recent fighting for the political and economic situation of

Iraq, in the wider region and internationally; underlines the grave geostrategic implications of the vulnerability of Iraqi oil fields;

4. Rejects without reservation the announcement by the ISIS leadership that it has established a caliphate in the areas it now controls, and rejects the notion of any unilateral changes to internationally recognised borders by force while also respecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of people in the ISIS-controlled territories;
5. Expresses deep concern at violence against minority religious groups in Iraq; further calls on Iraq's religious leaders and the Government of Iraq to work together to put an end to sectarian violence and distrust, in order to promote the freedom of religious belief and to bring the Iraqi people together;
6. Voices concern at reports of hundreds of foreign fighters, including citizens of EU Member States, having joined the ISIS insurgency; further calls for international cooperation in order to take appropriate legal action against any individuals suspected of being involved in acts of terrorism, including the introduction of new measures to prosecute those who plan and train for terrorism abroad; further recognises the security implications at both Member State and EU level of the failure to take appropriate action;
7. Calls upon religious, political and civic leaders in Iraq to set aside their differences to jointly combat the insurgent threat and restore security and the rule of law;
8. Underlines its unswerving commitment to respect for human rights as an essential tool in building a strong democracy and in combating terrorism and violence; further emphasises its firm conviction that excessive or draconian measures do not work as an effective deterrent against terrorism;
9. Reaffirms its continuing commitment of support for the people of Iraq in protecting and promoting human rights, and in helping them fulfil their ambitions of a democratic, prosperous, secure and inclusive country;
10. Restates its commitment to strengthening EU relations with Iraq and to working with the Iraqi Government in developing that cooperation through the implementation of the EU-Iraq Partnership and Cooperation Agreement;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Council, the Commission, the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Government and Council of Representatives of Iraq, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the United Nations Human Rights Council.