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Plenary sitting

16.9.2014

B8-0132/2014

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 Libya
(2014/2844(RSP))

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on behalf of the ECR Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Libya
(2014/2844(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Libya,
 - having regard to the Libyan parliamentary elections in June 2014,
 - having regard to United Nations Security Council resolution 2174, calling for an immediate ceasefire in Libya, inclusive political dialogue and the transfer of weapons,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the special meeting of the European Council on 30 August 2014,
 - having regard to the meeting of the Special Envoys for Libya of the Arab League, the European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Malta, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States with the United Nations on 24 July to discuss recent developments in Libya,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the 3rd European Union / League of Arab States ministerial meeting in Athens on 11 June 2014,
 - having regard to the comments of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Bernardino Leon, most recently on 11 September 2014,
 - having regard to the United Nations report of 4 September 2014 detailing serious human rights abuses in Tripoli and Benghazi,
 - having regard to the cooperation priorities for the Southern Neighbourhood for the coming years as set out in the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) as it relates to Libya,
 - having regard to its recommendation of 20 January 2011 to the Council on the negotiations on the EU-Libya Framework Agreement,
 - having regard to its resolution of 23 October 2013 on migratory flows in the Mediterranean¹,
 - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas in 2011 the 42-year autocratic rule of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi was brought to an end following a six-month uprising and civil war; whereas in October of that year the main opposition group, the National Transitional Council (NTC), declared the

¹ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2013)0448.

country to be officially 'liberated' and pledged to turn Libya into a pluralist, democratic state; whereas in August 2012 the NTC handed over power to Libya's newly elected parliament, the General National Congress;

- B. whereas the aspirations of the Libyan people, born of the 2011 revolution, have been replaced by a power vacuum, violence and political instability; whereas this has led to numerous militias governing their own territory, with successive governments in Tripoli struggling to exert their authority; whereas Libya's political leadership has failed to bring under control many of the militia groups which overthrew Muammar Gaddafi in the 2011 uprising;
- C. whereas the parliamentary elections in June 2014 have so far failed to stabilise the situation in Libya, heal underlying divisions between political and armed groups or set the country on a more peaceful, inclusive, democratic path;
- D. whereas the Libyan capital Tripoli witnessed six consecutive weeks of violence from mid-July 2014 amid fighting between rival factions; whereas rivalry and violence between other militias have been witnessed in other towns and cities across Libya;
- E. whereas in August senior government officials and the elected parliament were forced to move from Tripoli to the eastern city of Tobruk for security reasons; whereas on 1 September 2014 militia were reported to have captured most of the Libyan government ministries in Tripoli;
- F. whereas Qatar and the United Arab Emirates are now backing rival sides in Libya's escalating domestic unrest;
- G. whereas civilian casualties, including women, children and foreign nationals, have been caught up in the fighting; whereas those committing acts of violence appear to disregard the likely impact of their actions on innocent civilians;
- H. whereas the recent fighting has led to a general deterioration of living conditions in Libya, with food, fuel, water and electricity in short supply; whereas the departure of foreign medical staff and shortages of medical supplies have made the plight of civilians more critical;
- I. whereas recent fighting makes the threat of a spread of terrorist groups more likely; whereas, if unchecked, this could exacerbate an already volatile situation in the wider region;
- J. whereas since December 2013 a number of foreign nationals have been killed or kidnapped as the security situation has deteriorated; whereas in August 2014 several EU Member State governments joined the United States in strongly condemning the ongoing violence in Libya;
- K. whereas dozens of civilians have reportedly been abducted in Tripoli and Benghazi solely on account of their actual or suspected tribal, family or religious affiliations;
- L. whereas so far in 2014 the Italian Navy has rescued 60 000 migrants in boats heading

towards Europe from North Africa; whereas these boats are believed to have come mainly from Libya; whereas, according to the United Nations Refugee Agency, almost 2 000 would-be migrants have drowned, including most recently more than 200 people who perished when their boat sank near Tajoura, east of Tripoli; whereas a further 500 migrants are feared dead after their boat was reportedly rammed by another vessel near Malta;

- M. whereas on 13 August 2014, parliamentarians in Libya adopted a resolution calling for the United Nations to intervene to protect civilians amidst ongoing fighting in the country; whereas on 27 August 2014 the UN Security Council passed a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in Libya and sanctions against those involved in the surge in violence there between rival militias;
 - N. whereas there is an urgent need to restore credibility to the political process in Libya; whereas widespread scepticism among ordinary Libyans has led to an erosion of credibility and low participation in recent elections; whereas the threat to the democratic process, which began following the toppling of Colonel Gaddafi, is mounting as a result of recent violence;
 - O. whereas at least 100 000 Libyans are estimated to have been internally displaced by the fighting, including Tawerghans who had already been in their displacement camps since 2011; whereas a further 150 000 people, including many migrant workers, have left the country;
 - P. whereas the European Union has provided more than EUR 80.5 million in humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs, treat the injured, assist refugees and prevent human rights abuses in Libya since 2011;
1. Believes that the Libyan people are at a crossroads, and that with international support and national reconciliation they can be helped towards inclusive, constructive political engagement based on shared aspirations and principles, and an end to violence;
 2. Fears that without such national unity Libya faces a longer period of chaos, political and social fragmentation, violence and economic stagnation; fears that the recent violence could be a precursor to a full-blown civil war in Libya;
 3. Expresses concern that there appears to be little or no high-level international mediation aimed at resolving the crisis, either from Western powers or from regional bodies such as the Arab League and the African Union;
 4. Urgently appeals to all sides of the conflict to cease all armed hostilities and engage in an inclusive political dialogue to build a State based on respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law;
 5. Warns of the grave consequences for Libya of continued fighting, political polarisation and sectarianism at a time when all individuals, communities and groups need to work together in the interests of national unity, democratic renewal and the safety of the Libyan people;

6. Condemns the recent fighting in areas such as Tripoli and Benghazi, including the indiscriminate shelling of residential property and public facilities; further condemns the use of aircraft in such military operations;
7. Expresses grave concern at reports of warplanes from the United Arab Emirates carrying out airstrikes against targets in Tripoli, and warns that such actions signal a dramatic escalation in the recent violence, which threatens to draw other regional actors into the fighting; expresses concern that Qatar has supported Islamist militia, including those represented in the alternative, unofficial parliament in Tripoli;
8. Calls on the interim Libyan government and House of Representatives to build an inclusive government aimed at stopping the violence and protecting the rights and security of Libyan people; rejects as illegitimate an alternative parliament which appears to have been established in Tripoli;
9. Calls on the Constitution Drafting Assembly to conclude as a matter of urgency its work on producing a constitution for Libya that enjoys the widest possible support among its citizens; further argues that such a constitution must lead to a sustainable, democratic future for Libya built around the principles of the rule of law and human rights, and which will contribute to long-term political stability in the country;
10. Expresses deep concern at the plight of refugees fleeing from Libyan shores for Europe in unsafe boats; deeply regrets the hundreds who have died making the crossing and fears that many more may die in future such crossings;
11. Calls for the EU to continue to offer humanitarian, financial and political assistance in crisis areas in North Africa and the Middle East in order to tackle the root causes of migration and humanitarian pressures;
12. Recognises the importance of Libyan stability to the wider region and to the European Union, including in terms of its role as a route for flows of migrants into the EU;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the EEAS, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission, the parliaments and governments of the Member States, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the African Union, the Arab League and the Libyan Council of Representatives.