



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

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*Plenary sitting*

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16.9.2014

B8-0138/2014

## 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 and Syria, and the ISIS offensive, including the persecution of minorities  
(2014/2843(RSP))

**Victor Boştinaru, Richard Howitt, Ana Gomes, Kati Piri, Liisa Jaakonsaari, Gilles Pargneaux, Boris Zala, Goffredo Maria Bettini, Elena Valenciano Martínez-Orozco, Silvia Costa, Nicola Caputo, Andi Cristea, Demetris Papadakis, Miroslav Poche**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**B8-0138/2014**

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Iraq and Syria, and the ISIS offensive, including the persecution of minorities (2014/2843(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Iraq, in particular that of 17 July 2014 on the situation in Iraq<sup>1</sup>, and Syria,
  - having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Iraq, of the other, and to its resolution of 17 January 2013 on the EU-Iraq Partnership and Cooperation Agreement,
  - having regard to the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions on Iraq/Syria, in particular those of 30 August 2014,
  - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
  - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the security and humanitarian situation in Iraq and Syria has deteriorated dramatically as a result of the occupation of parts of their territory by the ‘Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant’ (ISIL); whereas the alienation of the Sunni minority by the government of Nouri al-Maliki in Iraq played an important role in galvanising support for ISIL among Iraqi Sunnis;
- B. whereas indiscriminate killings and massive human rights violations, in particular against ethnic and religious minorities, were perpetrated by ISIL on the territories under its control; whereas ISIL has carried out ethnic cleansing on a historic scale in northern Iraq, systematically targeting non-Arab and non-Sunni Muslim communities, killing or abducting thousands, and forcing more than 830 000 others to flee the areas it has captured since 10 June 2014; whereas the targeted groups include Yazidis, Assyrian Christians, Turkmen Shi’a, Shabak Shi’a, Kakai and Sabeian Manaeans, as well as many Arabs and Sunni Muslims who are believed to oppose ISIL;
- C. having regard to the conquest of the territories in Iraq and Syria, followed by the imposition of the harsh interpretation of Sharia law inspired by the extreme version of Wahhabism, including discrimination against women and children, destruction of Shiite, Sufi, Sunni and Christian places of worship and shrines, and other atrocities against the civilian population;
- D. whereas ISIL has proclaimed the establishment of the ‘Islamic caliphate’ in Iraq and Syria; whereas ISIL does not recognise the internationally accepted borders and has declared its intention to spread the ‘Islamic caliphate’ to other Muslim-majority

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<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted, P8\_TA(2014)0011.

countries;

- E. whereas ISIL and other extremist organisations operating in Iraq and Syria receive funds from wealthy donors, particularly in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates;
  - F. whereas individual EU Member States have decided to provide military support to Iraq, including the Kurdish regional authorities, in a bid to stem and reverse the rise of ISIL;
  - G. whereas US President Barak Obama has announced a strategy to fight ISIL, which includes a military component and coalition-building involving key regional actors such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Lebanon;
  - H. whereas the leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran has signalled readiness to cooperate with the US-led efforts to fight the ISIL;
  - I. whereas a new government led by the Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has been formed in Iraq, which represents a chance to address the legitimate concerns of Iraq's Sunni minority;
  - J. whereas hundreds of foreign fighters, including many from EU Member States, have reportedly joined the fighting alongside the ISIL; whereas the EU citizens in question have been identified as a security risk by the governments of the Member States;
  - K. whereas the EU has acknowledged the burden placed on the Kurdistan region and the Kurdistan Regional Government, which are hosting a large number of internally displaced persons (IDPs);
  - L. whereas the UN estimates that close to 4.67 million people, up to one million of whom are children, live in hard-to-reach areas in Iraq and Syria where the humanitarian situation is reportedly deteriorating;
1. Expresses its deep concern over the rapidly deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in Iraq and Syria resulting from the occupation of parts of their territories by ISIL; strongly condemns the attacks perpetrated by the ISIL against Iraqi and Syrian citizens, leading to summary executions, massive human rights violations, the imposition of a harsh interpretation of Sharia law, the destruction of places of worship and of the region's historic, cultural and artistic heritage, and other atrocities; warns that the extreme anti-Shia and anti-Christian views of the ISIL increase the risk of further sectarian killings on a massive scale, should the ISIL be allowed to hold on to the territory it has seized and to expand further;
  2. Strongly condemns attacks directed at civilian targets, including hospitals, schools and places of worship, and the use of executions and sexual violence by ISIL in Iraq and Syria; underlines that there should be no impunity for the perpetrators of these acts; is deeply concerned about the humanitarian crisis and the massive displacement of civilians;
  3. Calls on the international community to coordinate efforts to protect all civilian victims

of the conflict, regardless of their ethnicity and religion, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable groups, such as Yazidis, who were subjected to a brutal campaign by ISIL to destroy their community in Iraq;

4. Reiterates its categorical rejection of the announcement of the 'Islamic caliphate' by the ISIL leadership and the notion of any unilateral changes to internationally recognised borders by force;
5. Emphasises that the creation and expansion of the 'Islamic caliphate', as well as activities of other extremist groups in Iraq and Syria, is a direct threat to the security of European countries;
6. Welcomes the ongoing efforts by the USA to counter the ISIL threat in Iraq and Syria, including by using the necessary military means;
7. Welcomes the decision adopted by a coalition of 30 countries at the Paris summit on 15 September 2014 to commit to supporting the new Iraqi Government in its fight by any means necessary, including appropriate military assistance;
8. Supports the decision by individual EU Member States to provide military material to Iraq, including the Kurdish regional authorities; calls on the Council to establish mechanisms for monitoring, coordinating and registering the amount and destination of the weapons delivered from individual Member States to Iraq; appreciates the sacrifice and determination of the Kurdish military forces in their efforts to contain the threat posed by ISIL;
9. Underlines the necessity for coordinated action by countries in the region to counter the ISIL threat; calls on all regional actors to do everything in their power to stop all activities by official or private bodies intended to propagate and spread extreme Islamist ideologies, such as Wahhabism, in words and acts; calls on the international community, especially the EU, to facilitate a regional dialogue on the problems facing the Middle East and to include all significant parties, in particular Iran and Saudi Arabia;
10. Is concerned about the expansion of trade between Turkey and territories under ISIL control; calls on Turkey to clearly and unambiguously commit itself to countering the common security threat posed by ISIL;
11. Stresses that the ISIL is subject to the arms embargo and assets freeze imposed by United Nations Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011); underlines the importance of prompt and effective implementation of those measures; calls on the Council to consider a more effective use of other existing restrictive measures, in particular that of denying ISIL the benefits of illicit oil sales or sales of other resources on international markets; is deeply concerned about the assertions that some EU Member States are engaged in illicit oil trade with ISIL; asks the Commission whether it can confirm these assertions and, if so, calls on the Commission to specify which Member States these are and to ensure that the illicit oil trade is immediately brought to an end;

12. Welcomes the establishment of a new government in Iraq led by Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi and calls on it to use this opportunity to create a truly representative government with an inclusive agenda; stresses that such a government should properly represent the political, religious and ethnic diversity of Iraqi society, including its Sunni minority, in order to stop the bloodshed and the fragmentation of the country;
13. Emphasises the need to explore all possible ways to effectively counter the ISIL threat in Syria, with full respect for international law; stresses that in the long term only a lasting and inclusive political solution entailing a peaceful transition to a genuinely representative government in Syria would help to neutralise the threat of ISIL and other extremist organisations;
14. Calls on the Council to accelerate the implementation of the package of EU measures in support of Member States' efforts, as agreed by the Council since June 2013, in particular to prevent radicalisation and extremism, share information more effectively – including with relevant third countries –, dissuade, detect and disrupt suspicious travel, notably via the instalment of an EU passenger name record system, and investigate and prosecute foreign fighters;
15. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to adopt specific actions to address the situation of women in Iraq and Syria, to guarantee their freedom and respect for their most fundamental rights, as well as to adopt measures to prevent exploitation, abuse and violence against women and children, in particular early marriage of girls; is particularly concerned at the increase in of all forms of violence against Yazidi women, who are imprisoned, raped, sexually abused and sold by the members of ISIL;
16. Expresses concern at the increasing number of cases of recruitment of children and young people in Iraq and Syria; encourages the Commission to engage with partners – including international organisations – to prepare a comprehensive programme to address the need to protect children and women affected by armed conflict;
17. 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 Regional Government of Kurdistan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the United Nations Human Rights Council.