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*Plenary sitting*

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10.12.2014

B8-0357/2014

## **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 recognition of Palestinian statehood  
(2014/2964(RSP))

**Gianni Pittella, Victor Boștinăru, Nikos Androulakis, Maria Arena, Francisco Assis, Brando Benifei, Nicola Caputo, Miriam Dalli, Tanja Fajon, Ana Gomes, Jude Kirton-Darling, Mary Honeyball, Liisa Jaakonsaari, Afzal Khan, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Javi López, David Martin, Costas Mavrides, Sorin Moisă, Norbert Neuser, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Gilles Pargneaux, Kati Piri, Isabelle Thomas, Marita Ulvskog, Elena Valenciano, Boris Zala, Richard Howitt**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

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*United in diversity*

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**B8-0357/2014**

**European Parliament resolution on recognition of Palestinian statehood  
(2014/2964(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Middle East peace process, in particular those of 29 September 2011 on the situation in Palestine<sup>1</sup> and of 22 November 2012 on the situation in Gaza<sup>2</sup>,
- having regard to the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of 22 July 2014 and 17 November 2014,
- having regard to the remarks by High Representative Federica Mogherini after the meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council of 17 November 2014,
- having regard to the statements of High Representative Federica Mogherini on the attack in the Har Nof synagogue of 18 November 2014 and on the terrorist attack in Jerusalem of 5 November 2014, and to the statement by the Spokesperson of the EU High Representative on the latest developments in the Middle East of 10 November 2014,
- having regard to the remarks by High Representative Federica Mogherini following her meeting with Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, of 7 November 2014,
- having regard to the statement of High Representative Federica Mogherini on the latest Israeli announcement on settlements of 5 November 2014,
- having regard to the statement of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon following his telephone conversations with Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, and Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine, of 20 November 2014,
- having regard to the announcement of the Swedish government concerning the official recognition of the State of Palestine of 30 October 2014,
- having regard to the motions approved by the House of Commons of the United Kingdom on 13 October 2014, by the Irish Senate on 22 October 2014, by the Spanish Parliament on 18 November 2014, and by the French National Assembly on 2 December 2014, urging their respective governments to recognise the State of Palestine,
- having regard to the decision of the United Nations General Assembly of 29 November 2012 to grant non-member observer state status to Palestine,
- having regard to the decision of the Knesset of 8 December 2014 to hold extraordinary

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C56E, 26.2.2013, p. 104

<sup>2</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2012)0454.

- elections in Israel on 17 March 2015,
- having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
  - A. whereas finding a just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians, and between Arabs and Israelis in a broader context, has been a key concern for the international community, including the European Union, for more than half a century;
  - B. whereas the initiative by US Secretary of State John Kerry, which did not deliver tangible results despite all the efforts, and the war in the Gaza Strip have been followed by another period of deadlock in the peace process;
  - C. whereas in the vacuum created by the lack of progress in the peace process tensions between Israelis and Palestinians are mounting again, leading to the loss of innocent civilian lives; whereas five people were killed and several others injured in the terror attack at the Har Nof synagogue on 18 November 2014; whereas this attack followed other acts of terror and violence in the past weeks;
  - D. whereas, in November 2012, the United Nations General Assembly granted ‘non-member observer state’ status to Palestine;
  - E. whereas, on 30 October 2014, the Swedish Government announced its official recognition of the State of Palestine; whereas Sweden is the first EU Member State to have recognised the Palestinian State; whether eight other Member States – Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia – had already recognised the Palestinian State before they joined the European Union;
  - F. whereas on 13 October 2014 the UK House of Commons approved a motion expressing its position that ‘the Government should recognise the state of Palestine alongside the state of Israel, as a contribution to securing a negotiated two-state solution’;
  - G. whereas on 22 October 2014 the Irish Senate approved a motion in which it ‘calls on the Government to formally recognise the State of Palestine and do everything it can at the international level to help secure a viable two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict’;
  - H. whereas on 18 November 2014 the Spanish Parliament approved a motion in which it urges the government to recognise Palestine as a state, which should be a consequence of a process negotiated between the parties that guarantees peace and security for both, respect of the rights of citizens, and regional stability;
  - I. whereas on 2 December 2014 the French National Assembly approved a motion in which it invites the government to recognise the State of Palestine with the aim of resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict definitively, in the spirit of the two-state solution;
  - J. whereas similar initiatives have been launched in several other European countries, including Belgium, Denmark, Portugal and Slovenia;

- K. whereas the recognition of the State of Palestine falls within the competence of the Member States;
- L. whereas in its resolution of 29 September 2011 the European Parliament supported and called on EU Member States to be united in addressing the legitimate demand of the Palestinians to be represented as a state at the United Nations;
- M. whereas in its resolution of 22 November 2012 the European Parliament supported Palestine's bid to become a non-member observer state in the United Nations, and called on the EU Member States and the international community to reach an agreement in this direction;
- N. whereas the European Union has failed to play a significant political role as a facilitator in the peace process between Israelis and Palestinians in the past years; whereas at the Foreign Affairs Council meeting of 17 November 2014 the foreign ministers of the Member States decided to support new initiatives to relaunch a peace process by building on the possibility of creating a regional framework in cooperation with the US, UN Security Council members and key Arab countries such as Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia;
- O. whereas in its conclusions of 17 November 2014 the Foreign Affairs Council confirmed that the future development of the EU's relations with both the Israeli and the Palestinian partners will also depend on their engagement towards a lasting peace based on the two-state solution;
1. Urges all EU Member States to recognise the State of Palestine, an act which lies within their national competence, and expresses its full support for the efforts of High Representative / Vice-President Federica Mogherini to facilitate a common EU approach in this regard;
  2. Urges Israel also to recognise the State of Palestine on condition that such recognition is followed by final status agreement between Israelis and Palestinians;
  3. Expresses its deep concern over the mounting tensions between Israelis and Palestinians; condemns in the strongest terms all acts of terrorism or violence against innocent Israeli and Palestinian citizens – including the attack at the Har Nof synagogue which killed five people on 18 November 2014 and the recurrent violent clashes in the Haram-al-Sharif / Temple Mount area – and extends its condolences to the families of the victims; warns about the risks of a further escalation of violence involving holy sites, which could transform the Israeli-Palestinian conflict into a religious conflict; calls for a de-escalation of the situation and stresses once more that non-violent means are the only way to achieve a just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians; emphasises that any violent action can only fuel extremism on both sides;
  4. Welcomes the recent visit of High Representative / Vice-President Federica Mogherini to Israel and Palestine, as well as her commitment to engage proactively in a positive process aimed at breaking the vicious circle of the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians and creating the political conditions for genuine progress in the peace process; supports the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of 17 November 2014 and

the statements made by the High Representative;

5. Stresses that recognition of the State of Palestine by the Member States will contribute to the resumption of peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians, on the basis of a credible and serious engagement of both sides and leading to concrete and tangible results within a defined timeframe;
6. Stresses again that the right of the State of Israel to exist within secure borders, as well as the right of Palestinians to self-determination and to have their own state, are unquestionable; continues to support, in this spirit, the two-state solution on the basis of the 1967 borders, with Jerusalem as the capital of both states and with the State of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian state – composed of the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank – living side by side in peace and security; stresses that the two-state solution is based on mutual recognition by the two states and the recognition of both states by the international community at large; recalls the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative in this regard;
7. Calls on both parties to refrain from any action which may undermine the viability and prospects of the two-state solution, with special regard to Israeli settlement construction and extension activities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the continued expropriation of Palestinian land and demolition of Palestinian property by Israel;
8. Believes that the European Union should assume its responsibility to become a genuine political player and facilitator in the Middle East peace process, including through a comprehensive European strategy and plan for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which could be presented at an international peace conference with the participation of both sides and all key regional and international actors;
9. Calls for continued EU support and assistance for Palestinian institutional capacity building; stresses again, in this context, the importance of consolidating the authority of the Palestinian consensus government and its administration in the Gaza Strip, as well as of putting an end to the Israeli blockade of the area, while meeting the legitimate security concerns of Israel, without delay; is convinced that the reactivation and possible extension of the scope and mandate of the EUBAM Rafah and EUPOL COPPS missions could considerably contribute to these efforts;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Quartet Envoy to the Middle East, the Knesset and the Government of Israel, the President of the Palestinian Authority, the Prime Minister of the Palestinian National Consensus Government and the Palestinian Legislative Council.