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*Plenary sitting*

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## 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 Memorandum of understanding between the EU and the League of Arab States to cooperate on counter-terrorism  
(2015/2573(RSP))

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on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

**European Parliament resolution on the Memorandum of understanding between the EU and the League of Arab States to cooperate on counter-terrorism (2015/2573(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the European External Action Service and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, signed in Brussels on 19 January 2015,
  - having regard to the European Union (EU)-League of Arab States (LAS) Declaration adopted at the EU-LAS Ministerial Meeting held in Athens on 11 June 2014,
  - having regard to the conclusions of the meeting of the Council of the League of Arab States at Ministerial Level in its extraordinary session held in Cairo on 15 January 2015, and in particular to its declaration entitled ‘Safeguarding the Arab National Security and Counter-Terrorism’,
  - having regard to the conclusions of the EU Foreign Affairs Council on counter-terrorism of 9 February 2015,
  - having regard to the OECD guidelines on terrorism prevention,
  - having regard to the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 2170 and 2178,
  - having regard to the EU-LAS Joint Work Programme adopted in November 2012 and updated in 2014,
  - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
  - having regard to the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR),
  - having regard to the Charter of the United Nations,
  - having regard to the Arab Charter on Human Rights,
  - having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
  - having regard to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT),
  - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas respect for fundamental rights and civil liberties is an essential element in successful counter-terrorism policies; whereas cooperation between states and international actors on security issues must take place in full respect of human rights

and international law;

- B. whereas the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (EU-LAS MoU) to cooperate on counter-terrorism;
  - C. whereas the aim of the EU-LAS MoU is to strengthen cooperation between the parties and to discuss political and security matters in the areas of early warning and crisis response, combating terrorism, transnational organised crime and countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
  - D. whereas both sides have agreed on exchanging experience, information and practices through different mechanisms, such as the establishment of institutional communication channels, the development of consultative meetings and enhanced consultation, and the establishment of joint working groups, workshops and/or conferences;
  - E. whereas the recent rise in racism, including Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, is extremely worrying and does not fuel a constructive debate of inclusiveness, but instead serves only to feed further polarisation;
  - F. whereas the League of Arab States (LAS) has reiterated its firm condemnation of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, the al-Nusra Front, and all al-Qaeda affiliates and other terrorist organisations and groups that kill innocent civilians, destroy archaeological and religious sites, disrupt stability and civil peace and undermine state institutions; whereas LAS has also reaffirmed that terrorism and terrorist acts committed by these groups must not be associated with a specific religion, nationality or culture;
  - G. whereas LAS will discuss the issue of safeguarding Arab national security and counter-terrorism in its 143rd Regular Session, to be held in Cairo on 9 and 10 March 2015;
1. Warns against the temptation to revert to the previous short-sighted and ineffective practices of collusion with some authoritarian regimes which are members of the League of Arab States in the name of security, stability and the fight against violent extremism; express its concern at the reinforcement of cooperation with highly repressive states that commit widespread human right violations in their countries, including application of the death penalty for a wide variety of crimes, torture, physical punishment, arbitrary executions and detentions, massive military trials, crackdown on social protests or occupation of other territories;
  2. Rejects the false dichotomy of security versus freedom; takes the view that individual freedom and respect for fundamental rights are a cornerstone of and a precondition for security within any society;
  3. Is highly critical of the role that the various Western interventions of recent years have played in fostering the radicalisation of individuals, especially in the Middle East and in southern neighbourhood countries; stresses that such policies are promoting, not countering, terrorism and therefore should be abandoned;
  4. Calls on EU and LAS member states to halt their political, economic or military support

of regimes or terrorist groups which engage in or condone terrorist activity; emphasises, in particular, the need for the EU, its Member States and its partner countries of the League of Arab States to base their strategy for combating international terrorism, as with all other forms of crime, on the rule of law and respect for fundamental rights; underlines, furthermore, the fact that the Union's external actions to combat international terrorism should, in the first place, be aimed at prevention, and at a policy which opposes all kinds of military intervention, thoroughly rethinking the EU's position in international negotiations, and highlights the need to promote political dialogue, tolerance and understanding among different cultures and religions;

5. Reiterates its call on both contracting parties to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the existing counter-terrorism and security measures, in particular as regards their respect for human rights and civil liberties, as enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the Arab Charter on Human Rights;
6. Emphasises the importance of testing the necessity and proportionality of any measure that limits fundamental rights; reiterates its firm demand for democratic and judicial oversight and accountability mechanisms as regards counter-terrorism policies, stressing that measures which, in retrospect, were not necessary, effective and proportionate for combating terrorism need to be repealed; stresses also that violations of fundamental rights need to be investigated and redressed and new forms of democratic scrutiny need to be developed;
7. Is convinced that, in order to prevent violent radicalisation, the primary goal of any society should be to work towards inclusiveness and the mutual understanding of cultural and religious differences, thus fostering enduring tolerance;
8. Underlines the fact that discrimination reinforces radicalisation and violence patterns; stresses that equality and non-discrimination standards must be complemented by specific policy strategies to address all forms of racism, including Islamophobia and anti-Semitism;
9. Expresses support for measures which empower ethnic and religious minorities to contribute to improving the social and economic status of their respective communities in the medium to long term;
10. Recalls that any security measure, including those on counter-terrorism, should be conceived with a view to guaranteeing individual freedom, must be fully compliant with the rule of law and subject to fundamental rights obligations, including those related to privacy and data protection, and must always enable judicial redress;
11. Is concerned about the focus on military 'solutions' in the EU's counter-terrorism policies, resulting in numerous military assistance programmes for authoritarian regimes aimed at strengthening their military capacities and thereby supporting their repressive policies;
12. Considers that the EU should drastically revise its external policy, in particular its strategy towards the southern Mediterranean, as part of the ongoing European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) review, in the light of its failure; calls for the EU to

establish a new framework of relations with these countries and regions based on non-intervention in their internal affairs and respect for their sovereignty, and aimed at supporting the development of neighbouring regions and promoting employment and education, rather than on 'association agreements' serving mainly to establish free trade areas that benefit corporate interests on the European side;

13. Opposes the current atmosphere of creating paranoiac fear in order to rush through further counter-terrorism measures before assessing their legal necessity or having conducted an assessment of the current body of counter-terrorism measures;
14. Considers that combating the trafficking of weapons should be a priority for the EU in fighting serious and organised international crime; believes, in particular, that cooperation needs to be strengthened further as regards information exchange mechanisms and the traceability and destruction of prohibited weapons;
15. Strongly criticises the intensive arms trade of some EU Member States with various highly repressive LAS member states such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt or Morocco; calls, in this respect, on the Council to verify whether there have been breaches in the EU Code of Conduct on arms export and to adopt stringent measures so that this code is fully respected by all the Member States; calls for the suspension and ban of exports of tear gas and crowd control material to LAS countries until investigations have been made as regards their improper utilisation and until the perpetrators of such improper utilisation are held accountable;
16. Reiterates that EU and LAS member states should address the root causes of violent extremism by tackling it in a manner that is compatible with human rights and international law, instead of encouraging or supporting repressive regimes or groups in these countries;
17. Denounces the Khartoum Process, as well as any other cooperation on migration with countries violating human rights; denounces the instrumentalisation of migration policies on the pretext of fighting against terrorism;
18. Is convinced that, in the security field, the EU should limit itself to cooperation programmes focusing on deradicalisation and countering violent extremism, where deemed appropriate, but refrain from imposing its economic or political ideas on sovereign states through its external dimension policies;
19. Calls on the authorities of EU and LAS member states to respect the prohibition of torture as it is most notably enshrined in the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which most of them have signed and ratified; reiterates that forced confessions under torture are not valid and condemns this practice by EU and LAS member states; firmly opposes the use of drones in extrajudicial killings of terror suspects, and demands a ban on the use of drones for this purpose;
20. Demands increased transparency and accountability in foreign policy decisions related to counter-terrorism; calls, therefore, on the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to regularly and

exhaustively brief Parliament, in particular on the implementation of this MoU;

21. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the European External Action Service, the Commission and the Council, the member states of the European Union and of the League of Arab States and the members of the UN General Assembly.