



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

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*Plenary sitting*

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13.4.2015

B8-0344/2015

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission

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

on the commemoration of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide  
(2015/2590(RSP))

**Tamás Meszerics, Rebecca Harms, Heidi Hautala, Ulrike Lunacek,  
Michèle Rivasi, Peter Eriksson, Bart Staes, Ernest Urtasun, Barbara  
Lochbihler, Indrek Tarand, Tatjana Ždanoka, Davor Škrlec, Bodil  
Ceballos, Helga Trüpel**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**European Parliament resolution on the commemoration of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide  
(2015/2590(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its resolution of 28 September 2005 on the opening of negotiations with Turkey<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to its resolution of 15 November 2000 on Turkey's progress towards accession<sup>2</sup>,
  - having regard to its resolution of 18 June 1987 on a political solution to the Armenian question<sup>3</sup>,
  - having regard to the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,
  - having regard to the UN Human Rights Council resolution of 23 March 2015 on the prevention of genocide,
  - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas one of the main motivations for the European unification movement and one of the founding values of the European Union is the will to prevent the recurrence of wars and crimes against humanity in Europe;
- B. whereas the EU has played a fundamental role in the establishment of the International Criminal Court and promotes the signing and ratification of the Rome Statute in its relations with third countries with a view to punishing and preventing war crimes and crimes against humanity in compliance with international law;
- C. whereas 2015 marks the centennial of the Armenian Genocide perpetrated in the Ottoman Empire;
- D. whereas this genocide had profound long-term effects on refugee populations, especially on the European continent;
- E. whereas the denial of genocide is perceived and recognised as the final stage of genocide, paving the way for future genocides;
- F. whereas the absence of unequivocal and timely condemnation of the Armenian Genocide contributed substantially to the failure to prevent subsequent crimes against

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 227 E, 21.9.2006, p. 163.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 223, 8.8.2001, p. 182.

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 190, 20.7.1987, p. 119.

humanity;

- G. whereas it is of the utmost importance to prevent or act rapidly to put an end to such crimes in order to stop the escalation of conflicts and humanitarian crises;
1. Participates in the commemoration of the centennial of the Armenian Genocide in a spirit of European solidarity and justice and pays tribute to the memory of the innocent victims of all genocides and crimes against humanity; calls on the Commission and the Council to join in the commemoration of the centennial;
  2. Condemns all occurrences of crimes against humanity and genocide and strongly deplores any attempts at their denial;
  3. Stresses that the timely prevention and effective punishment of genocides and crimes against humanity should be among the main priorities of the international community, as it is for the European Union;
  4. Supports all efforts to prevent genocides, restore the rights of people subjected to genocide and establish international justice;
  5. Welcomes the recognition of the Armenian Genocide by an increasing number of EU Member States, and urges those EU Member States that have not yet done so and EU institutions to recognise it and to actively promote its recognition by the international community, and calls for concrete efforts to stop any acts of denial;
  6. Takes the view that the 100-year commemoration of the Armenian Genocide in 2015 represents an important opportunity for Turkey to come to terms with its past; calls in this regard on the Turkish authorities to open all archives that will provide historians, academics and researchers with the opportunity to shed light on those tragic events and to start a genuinely transparent public debate with a view to recognising the Genocide; welcomes the steps taken recently by some Turkish intellectuals and NGOs, and reiterates its call on Turkey to normalise relations and establish diplomatic relations with Armenia; likewise supports civil society initiatives between Turkey and Armenia working towards the normalisation of relations;
  7. Welcomes the significant progress made by the international community, notably in the UN framework, in developing relevant mechanisms and practices to prevent and punish the crime of genocide; expresses its full support for this process and reiterates its call for the universal ratification of the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;
  8. Supports the recommendation of the UN Human Rights Council that the General Assembly designate 9 December as the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of Genocide in order to raise awareness of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and its role in combating and preventing the crime of genocide;
  9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the EU Member States, the Vice-President of the

Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, the President and Parliament of Armenia and the President and Parliament of Turkey.