



Plenary sitting

7.7.2015

B8-0716/2015

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the President

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

on the Srebrenica commemoration
(2015/2747(RSP))

Igor Šoltes, Terry Reintke, Ulrike Lunacek, Davor Škrlec
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**European Parliament resolution on the Srebrenica commemoration
(2015/2747(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 15 January 2009 on Srebrenica¹,
 - having regard to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, of the other part, signed in Luxembourg on 16 June 2008 and ratified by all EU Member States,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the Foreign Affairs Council on Bosnia and Herzegovina of 16 March 2015,
 - having regard to UN Security Council resolutions 827 (1993), 1551 (2004) and 1575 (2004),
 - having regard to the Report of 15 November 1999 of the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/35 on the fall of Srebrenica,
 - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, on 11 July 1995, the eastern Bosnian town of Srebrenica, which was proclaimed a protected zone by UN Security Council resolution 819 (1993), fell to the Serbian forces led by General Ratko Mladić and under the direction of the then President of the Republika Srpska, Radovan Karadžić;
- B. whereas during several days of carnage after the fall of Srebrenica, more than 8 000 Muslim men and boys, who had sought refuge in this area under the protection of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), were summarily executed by Bosnian Serb forces commanded by General Mladić and by paramilitary units, including Serbian irregular police units which had entered Bosnian territory from Serbia and also so-called volunteers from EU Member States; whereas nearly 30 000 women, children and elderly people were forcibly expelled in a massive-scale ethnic cleansing campaign, making this event the biggest war crime to take place in Europe since the end of the Second World War;
- C. whereas this tragedy, declared an act of genocide by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ), took place in a UN-proclaimed safe haven, and therefore stands as a symbol of the impotence of the international community to intervene in the conflict and protect the innocent civilian population;
- D. whereas in 1999 the UN Secretary-General in his report on the fall of Srebrenica declared that the UN failed to implement its mandate, especially with regard to the

¹ OJ C 46 E, 24.2.2010, p. 111.

protection of the so-called ‘safe areas’ and thus shares responsibility;

- E. having regard to the multiple violations of the Geneva Convention perpetrated by Bosnian Serb troops against Srebrenica’s Muslim civilians, including deportations of thousands of women, children and elderly people and the rape of a large number of women;
 - F. whereas, in spite of the efforts made to discover and exhume mass and individual graves, the bodies of nearly 1 200 men and boys from Srebrenica have not yet been located and identified;
 - G. whereas, on 30 January 2015, the ICTY upheld the sentences of five high-ranking Bosnian Serb army officers convicted for their involvement in the 1995 Srebrenica genocide and thus confirmed the first final judgment for genocide; whereas some of the convicted officers reported directly to former Bosnian Serb army leader Ratko Mladić, who is currently on trial at the ICTY for crimes including genocide;
 - H. whereas the shortcomings of EU decision-making mechanisms and the lack of a genuine common foreign and security policy also played a negative role in the way events unfolded;
1. Commemorates and honours all the victims of the Srebrenica genocide and atrocities committed during the wars in the former Yugoslavia; expresses its condolences to and solidarity with the families of the victims;
 2. Stresses that the timely prevention and effective punishment of genocides and crimes against humanity should count among the EU’s main priorities;
 3. Calls on the Council, the Commission and the Member States to do everything in their power to prevent such acts of monstrous barbarism from happening in Europe ever again and to investigate whether EU citizens facilitated or committed acts of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina between 1992 and 1995;
 4. Calls on the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina to adopt a resolution on the Srebrenica genocide; welcomes the United Kingdom’s initiative regarding a UN resolution on the matter;
 5. Expresses its support for civil society organisations such as the Association of Mothers of Srebrenica and Žepa Enclaves for their pivotal role in raising awareness and building a broader basis for reconciliation among all citizens of the country; calls on all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina to use the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide as an opportunity to enhance reconciliation and cooperation, which are key prerequisites for all the countries of the region to move forward on their European path; calls on the Commission and the VP/HR to recognise the importance of policies of reconciliation, and emphasises the important role of the religious authorities, the media and the educational systems in this difficult process;
 6. Recalls that the UN peacekeeping force UNPROFOR failed to protect the designated safe areas; recalls that some EU Member States contributed a large number of

UNPROFOR troops and therefore had and have to accept a large share of the burden of responsibility;

7. Calls on the Council and the Commission, on the eve of the anniversary of the Srebrenica-Potočari act of genocide, to reiterate the EU's commitment to the European perspective of all Western Balkan countries and its support for the accession process, not least by facilitating increased regional cooperation;
8. Notes that the Dayton Agreement has been an important instrument for bringing peace to the region, but stresses that it has become a challenge in consolidating a viable political system in Bosnia and Herzegovina; points out that all citizens must assume responsibility in order to reach a new constitutional settlement and create a viable state for all; recalls that diplomats from the European Union and its Member States assisted in drafting the Dayton Constitution and that the EU and its Member States therefore share a special responsibility for reforming the country;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission, the governments of the Member States, the Government and Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its entities, and the governments and parliaments of the countries of the Western Balkans.