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*Plenary sitting*

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7.7.2015

B8-0717/2015

## 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))

**Charles Tannock, Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Ryszard Czarnecki, Anna  
Elżbieta Fotyga, Tomasz Piotr Poręba, Ruža Tomašić, Zdzisław  
Krasnodębski, Raffaele Fitto**  
on behalf of the ECR Group

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

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its resolution of 7 July 2005 on Srebrenica<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to its resolution of 15 January 2009 on Srebrenica<sup>2</sup>,
  - 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 to the prospect of EU membership held out to all countries of the Western Balkans at the EU summit in Thessaloniki in 2003,
  - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, on 11 July 1995, the landlocked Bosnian town of Srebrenica, which had been declared a safe area by UN Security Council resolution 819 of 16 April 1993, was captured by Bosnian Serb forces led by General Ratko Mladić, acting under the authority of the then President of the Republika Srpska, Radovan Karadžić;
- B. whereas, during several days of carnage following the fall of Srebrenica, more than 8 000 Muslim men and boys were summarily and systematically executed and buried in mass graves by Bosnian Serb forces commanded by General Mladić (the Army of Republika Srpska) and by paramilitary units, including Serbian irregular police units which had entered Bosnian territory from Serbia while this area should have been under the protection of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), represented on the ground by a 400-strong contingent of peacekeepers; whereas nearly 25 000 women, children and elderly people were forcibly deported and many women were raped, which makes the event the biggest war massacre that Europe has seen 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), took place in a UN-proclaimed safe haven, and therefore stands as a symbol of the failure of the international community to prevent the massacre and to swiftly intervene in order to protect the civilian population;
- D. whereas multiple violations of the Geneva Conventions were perpetrated by Bosnian Serb forces against the civilian population of Srebrenica, including deportations of thousands of women, children and elderly people and the rape of a large number of women;
- E. whereas, in spite of the enormous exertions made to discover and exhume mass and individual graves and identify the victims, the searches conducted did not allow a full

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 157 E, 6.7.2006, p. 468.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 46 E, 24.2.2010, p. 111.

reconstruction of the massacre in Srebrenica and its surroundings;

- F. whereas there cannot be real peace without justice, and whereas full and unrestricted cooperation with the ICTY remains a basic requirement for further continuation of the Western Balkan countries' process of integration into the EU;
  - G. whereas General Radislav Krstić of the Bosnian army was the first person to be found guilty by the ICTY of aiding and abetting the Srebrenica genocide, whereas Ratko Mladić was arrested on 26 May 2011 and the verdict of his trial is expected in late 2015, and whereas the proceedings against Radovan Karadžić are still ongoing;
  - H. whereas the institution of a day of remembrance is the best way of paying tribute to the victims of the genocide and sending a clear message to future generations;
1. Strongly condemns the Srebrenica massacre; warmly honours all the victims of the atrocities and expresses its sincere condolences to the families of the victims, many of whom are living without final confirmation of the fate of their fathers, sons, husbands or brothers; welcomes the arrest of main leaders of the Srebrenica massacre, but regrets that a certain number of perpetrators have not been brought to justice; expresses, therefore, its full support for the valuable and difficult work of the ICTY, which has already given its final verdict for 147 of those accused and is still working on ongoing proceedings for a further 14;
  2. Calls on the Member States and on the countries of the Western Balkans to properly remember the twentieth anniversary of the Srebrenica-Potočari act of genocide by supporting the establishment of the 11 July as the day of commemoration of the Srebrenica genocide across the EU; encourages the Member States to support NGO initiatives in order to ensure that the commemorations are on an appropriate scale; welcomes the seriousness and earnestness of the memorial day in the United Kingdom led by a proper collaboration between national authorities and the NGO 'Remembering Srebrenica';
  3. Welcomes the Serbian authorities' recognition of the massacre and their official public apology through the adoption of a special resolution in 2010; underlines that Serbia has brought those responsible for the massacre to justice, which was a crucial step towards peace and stability in the region; calls on the remaining authorities in the region to legally recognise the genocide in order to reinforce regional reconciliation, which is one of the key prerequisites for Western Balkan countries to move forward on their EU path;
  4. Emphasises the important role of religious communities, the media and the education system in the reconciliation process, and therefore invites the Western Balkan countries to strengthen development programmes that bring communities together in order to overcome the tensions of the past and begin a peaceful and sincere coexistence in the interests of enduring peace, stability and economic growth;
  5. Deeply regrets that Bosnian Serb leader Milorad Dodik sought Russia's veto to undermine the adoption of a UN Srebrenica resolution drafted by the United Kingdom, which would have reflected on the UN's failure to prevent genocide and to commemorate the victims of the genocide and those who suffered on all sides in the

war; urges the Bosnian Serb authorities to avoid any further escalation of tensions and to officially recognise the Srebrenica massacre as an act of genocide, given that this atrocity – the worst since the Second World War – has already been labelled as such by the International Court of Justice and the ICTY;

6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the 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.