



Plenary sitting

7.7.2015

B8-0719/2015

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))

Gianni Pittella, Tanja Fajon, Knut Fleckenstein, Richard Howitt, Afzal Khan, Martina Werner, Jakob von Weizsäcker, Neena Gill, Daniele Viotti, Ulrike Rodust, Enrico Gasbarra, Hugues Bayet, Evelyne Gebhardt, Jude Kirton-Darling, Marlene Mizzi, Brando Benifei, Jeppe Kofod, Constanze Krehl, Flavio Zanonato, Tibor Szanyi, Theresa Griffin, Kati Piri, Liisa Jaakonsaari, Agnes Jongerius, Costas Mavrides, Roberto Gualtieri, Jutta Steinruck, Maria Grapini, Tonino Picula, Ana Gomes, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Arne Lietz, Elena Valenciano, Anneliese Dodds, Miltiadis Kyrkos, Vincent Peillon, Francisco Assis, Julie Ward, José Blanco López, Miriam Dalli, Doru-Claudian Frunzulică, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Krystyna Łybacka, Marc Tarabella, Nicola Caputo, Luigi Morgano, Miroslav Poche, Eric Andrieu, Goffredo Maria Bettini, Zigmantas Balčytis, Elena Gentile, Péter Niedermüller, Demetris Papadakis, Pavel Poc, Damiano Zoffoli, Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto, Christel Schaldemose, Biljana Borzan
on behalf of the S&D Group

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

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolutions of 7 July 2005¹ and of 15 January 2009² on Srebrenica,
 - having regard to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), of the other part, which was signed in Luxembourg on 16 June 2008 and entered into force on 1 June 2015,
 - having regard to the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, of the European Convention of Human Rights and of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, recognising the right of everyone to life, liberty and security of person and to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,
 - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas 11 July 2015 marks the 20th anniversary of the act of genocide and ethnic cleansing that took place in and around Srebrenica during the Bosnian War;
- B. whereas these crimes, perpetrated by units of the Army of Republika Srpska under the command of General Ratko Mladić and directed by the then President of Republika Srpska, Radovan Karadžić, provide a fresh reminder of the dangers of extreme forms of nationalism and intolerance in society, further exacerbated in the framework of war;
- C. whereas the tragic events of Srebrenica left deep emotional scars on survivors and created enduring obstacles to political reconciliation among ethnic groups in BiH;
- D. whereas the massacre of Srebrenica, 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 impotence of the international community to intervene in the conflict and effectively protect the innocent civilian population;
- E. whereas the EU is built on peaceful coexistence and sincere cooperation between its members; whereas one of the main motivations for the European unification movement is the will to prevent the recurrence of wars and crimes against humanity in Europe;
1. Commemorates and honours all the victims of the Srebrenica-Potočari atrocities; expresses its sincere solidarity with the families of the victims;
 2. Strongly declares that such a horrendous crime must never happen again;

¹ OJ C 157 E, 6.7.2006, p. 468.

² OJ C 46 E, 24.2.2010, p. 111.

3. Stresses that the prevention and effective punishment of genocides and crimes against humanity should count among the main priorities of the EU and the international community;
4. Underlines the immense importance of reconciliation for the future of the region and of good neighbourly relations for the European integration process of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its neighbouring countries; reiterates the importance of the work done by the ICTY in this regard; emphasises the need for political representatives in Bosnia and Herzegovina to acknowledge the past in order to work successfully together towards a better future for all citizens of the country; highlights the important role which neighbouring countries, religious authorities, civil society, art, culture, the media and educational systems can play in this difficult process;
5. Urges the development of educational and cultural programmes that promote an understanding of the causes of such atrocities and raise awareness about the need to nurture peace and to promote human rights and interreligious tolerance;
6. Believes that regional cooperation and the European integration process are the best way to promote reconciliation and to overcome hatred and divisions; calls on the Council and the Commission, on the eve of the anniversary of this act of genocide, to reiterate the EU's commitment to the European perspective of BiH and all Western Balkan countries, and consistently to facilitate increased regional cooperation and provide support for the accession process;
7. 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 Western Balkan countries.