



Plenary sitting

7.7.2015

B8-0720/2015

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))

Miloslav Ransdorf, Kateřina Konečná, Barbara Spinelli
on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

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

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas in July 1995 in the Bosnian town of Srebrenica, which had been proclaimed a safe haven by the UN, around 8 000 Bosnian Muslims were massacred and thousands of women, children and elderly people were forcibly deported; whereas this was the biggest massacre and war crime to take place in Europe since the end of the Second World War; whereas 11 July 2015 marks the 20th anniversary of the massacre;
- B. whereas this tragic event was the culmination of a series of nationalistic atrocities and war activities perpetrated between Bosnian Serbs and Muslims in the period 1992-1995;
- C. whereas the break-up of Yugoslavia resulted in bloody war and foreign interference in the Western Balkans region; whereas the developments in the Western Balkans at that time also reflected the failure of the EU, its Member States and the international community as a whole to bring about a policy aimed at preventing crises;
- D. whereas the tragic events of Srebrenica left deep emotional scars on survivors and created enduring obstacles to political reconciliation among ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region; 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;
- 1. Commemorates and honours the victims of the atrocities; expresses its condolences to and solidarity with the families of the victims, many of whom are living without final confirmation of the fate of their fathers, sons, husbands or brothers;
- 2. Notes that the massacre that took place 20 years ago in Srebrenica remains an open wound in the history of the region; urges all countries and communities to make further efforts on the path of reconciliation and cooperation; underlines the importance of education programmes that promote understanding of the causes of such atrocities and raise awareness of the need to promote human rights and interethnic tolerance;
- 3. Concludes that the international forces under UN mandate played a tragic role, having failed to prevent the war crimes that were committed in Srebrenica; concludes that it is necessary to develop better mechanisms for crisis prevention;
- 4. Calls for further investigation into the responsibility of military commanders of all sides concerned in the conflict between Bosnian Serbs and Muslims during the period 1992-1995 in Srebrenica;
- 5. Stresses that bringing to justice those responsible for crimes committed in the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina is an important step towards reconciliation in the region; notes the efforts undertaken so far and deplores the incomplete nature of the investigations

into crimes committed by all sides involved, including the case of Naser Oric;

6. Notes that, two decades after the signing of the Dayton Accords, crucial political problems remain unresolved; takes the view that a new political initiative is urgently needed for Bosnia and Herzegovina and that it is necessary to move away from an ethnocentric approach to resolving the problems and to mitigate differences between ethnic groups by finding peaceful, viable and lasting solutions which can gain the support of each of the different groups within Bosnia and Herzegovina; takes the view that it is high time to end the foreign military presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina; calls on the political elites in the country to assume greater accountability for their actions;
7. Expresses its serious concern at the economic and social situation; stresses that resolving this crucial issue is the key to stable development in the region; calls on the governments of the countries of the region and on the EU to recognise that economic and social development is the top priority for the region's peoples and to act accordingly; underlines the importance of enhancing regional and cross-border cooperation;
8. 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.