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*Plenary sitting*

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**B8-1251/2016**

21.11.2016

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

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

on the situation in Syria  
(2016/2933(RSP))

**Fabio Massimo Castaldo, Ignazio Corrao, Isabella Adinolfi, Rolandas Paksas**  
on behalf of the EFDD Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Syria  
(2016/2933(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Syria, including that of 6 October 2016<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to the resolution of the UN Human Rights Council adopted on 21 October 2016,
  - having regard to the statements on Syria by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini,
  - having regard to the report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic,
  - having regard to the relevant UN Security Council resolutions,
  - having regard to the Council conclusions on Syria including those of 14 November 2016,
  - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the death toll from Syria’s five-year civil war has reached over 400 000; whereas massive and recurrent violations of human rights and international humanitarian law have been committed by all sides in the conflict; whereas the perpetrators of these crimes remain unpunished;
- B. whereas the UN Security Council has failed to adopt two draft resolutions on Syria, despite calls for urgent action to prevent an impending humanitarian catastrophe in Aleppo;
- C. whereas the complex and untidy nature of the Syrian battlefield with multiple localised conflicts happening across the country, characterised by a variety of actors, makes the idea of any ceasefire extremely difficult to achieve;
- D. whereas the Council decided on 14 November 2016 to add 17 ministers and the Governor of the Central Bank of Syria to the list of those targeted by EU restrictive measures against the Syrian regime for being responsible for the violent repression against the civilian population in Syria, benefiting from or supporting the regime, and/or being associated with such persons;
- E. whereas Russia has announced on several occasions unilateral ceasefires to allow rebels to leave eastern Aleppo; whereas rebels, including Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, have reacted to the ceasefire offer by launching a large-scale offensive against the government-

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<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted, P8\_TA(2016)0382

controlled western part of Aleppo;

1. Is deeply worried by the increasing number of civilian casualties and the destruction of schools and hospitals caused by aerial bombings in Aleppo; recalls, in this regard, that the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria has described the situation in eastern Aleppo as deteriorating to ‘new heights of horror’;
2. Reminds all parties of their responsibilities under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as well as the relevant decisions of the UN Security Council regarding the situation in Syria;
3. Welcomes the UN Secretary-General’s decision to establish an internal UN committee of inquiry into the incident involving the bombing of a UN/Syrian Arab Red Crescent relief operation for Urum al-Kubra in Syria;
4. Calls on the Syrian Government to grant access to independent international monitors, such as the UN-mandated Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, for all persons deprived of their liberty, and to allow them to carry out unannounced inspection visits to all detention facilities to investigate and monitor the conditions in which detainees are held;
5. Denounces the presence of foreign combatants on Syrian soil, in particular of groups such as Hezbollah and Iraqi militias, as they represent a major obstacle to a peaceful resolution to the conflict and a threat to regional stability;
6. Condemns the increasing numbers of terrorist attacks, in Aleppo and in the whole country, being carried out by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da’esh), Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, and all the other individuals and groups associated with them; stresses that all those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law must be held accountable;
7. Calls on regional actors to act in a constructive way, refraining from fuelling the conflict and making sure that material and financial support does not reach groups associated with ISIL/Da’esh, Jabhat Fateh al-Sham or Hezbollah;
8. Welcomes the progress made by the ‘Euphrates Anger’ operation launched early this month by Kurdish and Arab fighters to retake the ISIL/Da’esh stronghold of Raqqa; expresses deep concern over numerous reports documenting the killing of hundreds of civilians in airstrikes against ISIL/Da’esh targets in that city;
9. Strongly denounces the use of blockades and starvation against civilians as a method of combat; calls on the actors on the ground to allow rapid, safe and sustained humanitarian access to UN humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners, including across conflict lines;
10. Shares the UN’s concerns regarding starvation risks in eastern Aleppo, as food supplies have not been replenished in the city since mid-July; urges the EU to work with regional and international partners in order to achieve the conditions enabling an immediate and lasting ceasefire so as to allow food deliveries and humanitarian aid to reach eastern Aleppo, where roughly 250 000 residents have been living under siege for months;

11. Expresses its full support for the efforts of the UN Special Envoy, Staffan de Mistura, and calls on the parties to the Syrian conflict to cooperate constructively and in good faith with him in order to tackle the urgent situation in Aleppo;
12. Underlines that the only sustainable solution to the current crisis in Syria is through an inclusive and Syrian-led political process that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people;
13. Calls for the EU to fully play its role through an effective and coherent foreign policy for Syria that is not limited to humanitarian actions alone; supports the approach of the VP/HR, namely to reach out to key actors in the region concerning preparations for post-conflict reconciliation and reconstruction;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the UN/Arab League Special Envoy to Syria, and all the parties involved in the conflict in Syria.