



Plenary sitting

B8-1255/2016

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))

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on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

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

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Syria and the ISIS offensive, and in particular those of 11 June 2015 on Syria: situation in Palmyra and the case of Mazen Darwish¹, 30 April 2015 on the situation of the Yamouk refugee camp in Syria² and 12 February 2015 on the humanitarian crisis in Iraq and Syria, in particular in the IS context³,
 - having regard to the relevant UN Security Council resolutions,
 - having regard to the Charter of the United Nations,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
 - having regard to the Geneva Conventions on refugees,
 - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the conflict in Syria has deteriorated into a bloody war following the interference of certain foreign powers which have promoted, armed and financed extremist groups;
- B. whereas Syria is now in the fifth year of a war that has exacted a death toll of 470 000, has left 860 000 people living under siege and has displaced half of the Syrian population, including nearly 4.8 million refugees; whereas the war in Syria has resulted in the largest and most complex humanitarian crisis of our time, and the situation is continuing to worsen; whereas Aleppo remains the epicentre of the Syrian crisis, but fighting also continues in Hama, Idlib, northwest Syria, the suburbs of Damascus and Deir ez-Zor;
- C. whereas the agreement of 26 September 2016 reached between Russia and the United States, the two co-chairs of the International Syria Support Group, on establishing a ceasefire in Syria did not lead to the necessary de-escalation on the ground; whereas Russia announced a unilateral pause in hostilities for several days to make humanitarian assistance for civilians in the besieged sector of Aleppo possible;
- D. whereas, in accordance with the Geneva Communiqué and UN Security Council resolutions, all parties have to be reminded again of the necessity that the conflict in Syria be resolved through a Syrian-led political process leading to a peace agreement that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people;

¹ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2015)0229.

² Texts adopted, P8_TA(2015)0187.

³ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2015)0040.

- E. whereas the European Union and the United States are applying economic and diplomatic sanctions that mainly affect the Syrian population;
- F. whereas the Syrian Government's efforts to achieve a just peace through dialogue have taken the form of the creation of the National Reconciliation Committee, the reform of the Constitution and the holding of free parliamentary elections last April;
1. Strongly condemns all crimes committed against the civilian population of Syria; condemns in the strongest possible terms the systematic violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law resulting from the terrorist acts perpetrated by the so-called Islamic State (ISIL) and other radical armed groups against the Syrian people, which may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity;
 2. Strongly condemns the violation by the US army of the ceasefire agreed by the Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and the US Secretary of State John Kerry, in which a US attack killed almost 100 Syrian soldiers defending the city of Deir ez-Zor which was surrounded by ISIL, an attack that John Kerry claimed to have been a 'mistake';
 3. Is gravely distressed by the continued deterioration of the devastating humanitarian situation in Syria, with over 13.5 million people now in need of humanitarian assistance, some 6.1 million internally displaced (in addition to the half a million Palestinian refugees who had settled in Syria) and several hundred thousand suffering in besieged areas;
 4. Demands that all parties to the conflict take all appropriate steps to protect civilians, in compliance with international law, including by ceasing attacks directed against civilian facilities such as medical centres, schools and water stations, by immediately demilitarising such facilities, by seeking to avoid establishing military positions in densely populated areas and by enabling the evacuation of the wounded and all civilians who wish to leave besieged areas;
 5. Reiterates its call on all parties to the conflict immediately to allow a humanitarian intervention under the auspices of the UN, to grant rapid, safe and unhindered access throughout Syria by the most direct routes that allow immediate humanitarian assistance to reach all people in need, especially in all besieged and hard-to-reach areas, and to comply immediately with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law as applicable;
 6. Rejects without reservation the idea that a long-term solution to the Syrian conflict can be found on the basis of military actions;
 7. Calls urgently for a sustainable and lasting ceasefire, which is essential to achieving a political solution to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic and to bringing to an end the systematic, widespread and gross violations and abuses of human rights and violations of humanitarian law;
 8. Emphasises that the humanitarian situation in Syria will continue to deteriorate further in the absence of a political solution to the crisis; strongly supports a peaceful political dialogue and the need for a Syrian-led process that meets the legitimate aspirations and will of the Syrian people, including the right to democracy, sovereignty and the

territorial integrity of Syria; deplores the protracted delay in all-Syrian political process and demands no further postponement of inclusive negotiations;

9. Strongly condemns all crimes committed against the civilian population of Syria which may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity; express concern about ISIL's use of human shields in the city of Aleppo; expresses deep concern at, and strongly condemns, the increased terrorist attacks, including chemical attacks and the repression of civilian protests against those terrorists groups, which has resulted in extensive casualties and destruction carried out by ISIL (also known as Da'esh), the Al Nusra Front (ANF), all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al Qaeda or ISIL and other terrorist groups;
10. Stresses that, in the context of an inclusive and credible dialogue, the Syrian people should determine the appropriate process and mechanisms to achieve justice, reconciliation, truth and accountability for gross violations and abuses of international law, as well as reparations and effective remedies for victims;
11. Stresses the fact that the conflict has been exacerbated by the arms trade and the supply of weapons; strongly condemns the role that the various Western interventions of recent years have played in fostering the radicalisation of individuals, especially in the Middle East and the Southern Neighbourhood countries; stresses that such policies are promoting, not countering, terrorism and should therefore be abandoned;
12. Strongly condemns the direct or non-direct support (in the form of finance, arms, training, etc.) that the US, the EU, Turkey and the monarchies of the Gulf region have been providing to the terrorist groups; calls in particular on the United States, the EU Member States and regional players, in particular Saudi Arabia and Turkey, to stop financing any militia and, in particular, to stop buying oil from oilfields controlled by ISIL and transported by truck through Turkey; believes that mechanisms are required to stop the financing of terrorism through offshore entities involving states and financial institutions, as well as to stop arms trafficking and the buying and selling of energy resources and raw materials benefiting terrorist groups;
13. Stresses that the fight against terrorism should not be a pretext for violence which affects the civilian population and that the violation of international humanitarian law, such as attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure and the hampering by extremist groups of humanitarian access to Syrian people in need, is unacceptable; reiterates that terrorism can only be eradicated by addressing its roots, i.e. poverty, exploitation and society's inability to answer peoples' needs; believes that full respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of states such as Syria, as well as respect for the multicultural nature of their societies, constitute the sole means of avoiding the spread of ISIL and further suffering among their populations;
14. Expresses deep concern at the growing number of refugees and internally displaced persons fleeing the violence in the Syrian Arab Republic; welcomes the efforts made by neighbouring countries to host Syrian refugees, and acknowledges the socioeconomic consequences of the presence of large-scale refugee populations in those countries; encourages other states outside the region, in particular the EU Member States, to also consider implementing similar measures and policies, with a view to providing Syrian refugees with protection and humanitarian assistance;

15. Notes the growing financial needs and the persistent funding gap in respect of humanitarian aid provided to countries in Syria's neighbourhood; calls on the EU Member States to fulfil their pledges and to provide much-needed support to the UN, its specialised agencies and other humanitarian actors in providing humanitarian assistance to the millions of Syrians displaced both internally and in host countries and communities;
16. Calls for EU embassies and consular offices to issue immediately humanitarian visas for asylum-seekers from Syria, and for enforcement of the international commitments made by the EU and its Member States regarding migration, namely through resettlement programmes at EU level; calls for full cooperation by all EU Member States participating in such programmes;
17. Urges the EU to put an immediate end to the economic and diplomatic sanctions against the Syrian Arab Republic, and to promote the inclusive and Syrian-led political process in order to achieve a just and peaceful solution to the conflict;
18. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the President of the European Council, the President of the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the presidents of the parliaments of the Member States, the Government and Parliament of the Syrian Arab Republic, the UN Secretary-General, the Secretary-General of the Union for the Mediterranean, and the League of Arab States.