



Plenary sitting

B8-0655/2017

22.11.2017

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 Yemen
(2017/2849(RSP))

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on behalf of the PPE Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Yemen
(2017/2849(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Yemen, in particular its resolution of 15 June 2017 on the humanitarian situation in Yemen¹,
- having regard to the statements by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 8 October 2016 on the attack in Yemen, of 19 October 2016 on the ceasefire in Yemen, and of 21 November 2017 on the situation in Yemen,
- having regard to the Council conclusions of 3 April 2017 on Yemen,
- having regard to the statements by the spokesperson of the European External Action Service (EEAS) of 19 June 2017 on Yemen and of 23 August 2017 following the strikes on civilian areas in the neighbourhood of Ahrab in Sana'a,
- having regard to the Security Council resolutions on Yemen,
- having regard to the statement by the President of the UN Security Council of 15 June 2017 on Yemen,
- having regard to the Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights of 5 September 2017 entitled 'Situation of human rights in Yemen, including violations and abuses since September 2014',
- having regard to the statement by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen of 26 October 2017 suggesting initiatives to end violence in Yemen,
- having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the various rounds of UN-brokered negotiations have not yet led to a meaningful progress towards a political solution in Yemen; whereas it is in the interest of all parties involved in the conflict to facilitate the peace talks and take significant steps to restore confidence and move towards a long-lasting peace;
- B. whereas finding a political solution to the conflict in Yemen should be a priority; whereas the support of the international community must be focused on ensuring a unity of purpose in support of the UN peace initiatives;
- C. whereas the humanitarian situation in Yemen is catastrophic; whereas on 16 July 2017 the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) announced that 20.7 million people are in need of assistance;

¹ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2017)0273.

- D. whereas the destruction of infrastructure and breakdown of public services have fuelled the outbreak of cholera; whereas on 2 November 2017, OCHA announced that nearly 895 000 suspected cases of cholera with nearly 2 200 associated deaths had been reported since 27 April; whereas more than half of the suspected cases involve children;
- E. whereas vulnerable groups, women and children are particularly affected by the on-going hostilities and the humanitarian crisis; whereas the number of civilian casualties continues to increase;
- F. whereas, since the start of the conflict, the European Union (EU) has allocated EUR 171.7 million in humanitarian aid; whereas EU humanitarian aid gives priority to health, nutrition, food security, protection, shelter, and water and sanitation;
- G. whereas a stable, secure Yemen with a properly functioning government is critical to international efforts to combat extremism and violence in the region and beyond, as well as to peace and stability within Yemen itself;
- H. whereas the ongoing conflict in Yemen carries grave risks for the stability of the region as a result of the power vacuum it has created; whereas criminal and terrorist organisations such as Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), and so-called ISIS/Daesh have been able to benefit from the deterioration of the political and security situation in Yemen;
1. Stresses that only a political, inclusive and negotiated solution to the conflict can restore peace and preserve the unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Yemen; calls on all international and regional actors to engage constructively with Yemeni parties to enable a de-escalation of the conflict and a negotiated settlement;
 2. Supports the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen to achieve a resumption of negotiations; urges all parties to the conflict to react in a flexible and constructive manner and without attaching preconditions to their efforts, and to fully and immediately implement all the provisions of relevant Security Council resolutions;
 3. Calls on all parties to the conflict to urgently agree on a cessation of hostilities to be monitored by the UN as a first step towards the resumption of peace talks under UN leadership; urges all parties to engage, in good faith and without preconditions, in a new round of UN-led peace negotiations as soon as possible;
 4. Expresses grave concern at the alarming deterioration of the situation in Yemen and the devastating humanitarian impact of the conflict on civilians; underlines that the humanitarian situation in Yemen will further deteriorate in the absence of a political solution;
 5. Deplores the closure of Yemen's seaports, airports and land crossings by Saudi Arabia and its coalition partners, which has led to a further deterioration of the situation in the country;

6. Condemns the missile attack on 4 November by the Houthis and their allies, who are supported by Iran, aimed at Riyadh's King Khaled International Airport;
7. Deeply regrets the loss of life caused by the conflict and the suffering of those caught up in the fighting, and expresses its condolences to the families of the victims; reaffirms its commitment to continuing to support Yemen and the Yemeni people;
8. Condemns all terror attacks in the strongest terms; welcomes the offensive by Yemeni Government forces, reportedly numbering 2 000 troops, backed by the United Arab Emirates and United States special operations forces, against AQAP in the Shabwa governorate; underlines the need for all parties to the conflict to take resolute action against terrorist groups, whose activities represent an additional threat to a negotiated settlement and pose significant risks to the security of the region and beyond;
9. Calls on all sides to comply with international humanitarian law and international human rights law, to ensure the protection of civilians and to refrain from directly targeting civilian infrastructure, in particular medical facilities and water systems;
10. Stresses that the UN Security Council, with a view both to addressing the humanitarian emergency, and to building confidence between the sides in a way which will be conducive to political negotiations, is encouraging rapid agreement on the deployment of additional UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism monitors, increasing the capacity of all of Yemeni ports, and increased access to Sana'a Airport;
11. Welcomes the fact that the EU and its Member States are ready to step up humanitarian assistance to the population across the country to respond to the rising needs and to mobilise their development assistance to fund projects in crucial sectors;
12. Welcomes the commitments made at the High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen and stresses the need for coordinated humanitarian action under UN leadership to ease the suffering of the people of Yemen; calls for the immediate mobilisation of the funds pledged to Yemen and for full funding of the United Nations 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan for Yemen;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Government of Yemen.