



Plenary sitting

B9-0100/2019

17.9.2019

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission
pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the importance of European remembrance for the future of Europe
(2019/2819(RSP))

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on behalf of the Renew Group

European Parliament resolution on the importance of European remembrance for the future of Europe (2019/2819(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the universal principles of human rights and the fundamental principles of the European Union as a community based on common values,
- having regard to the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted on 10 December 1948,
- having regard to Resolution 1481 (2006) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe of 26 January 2006 on the need for international condemnation of crimes of totalitarian communist regimes,
- having regard to Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law¹,
- having regard to the Prague Declaration on European Conscience and Communism adopted on 3 June 2008,
- having regard to its declaration on the proclamation of 23 August as the European Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Stalinism and Nazism adopted on 23 September 2008,
- having regard to its resolution of 2 April 2009 on European conscience and totalitarianism²,
- having regard to the joint statement of 23 August 2018 of the government representatives of European Union countries to commemorate the victims of communism,
- having regard to its many resolutions on democracy and respect for fundamental rights and freedoms, including that of 12 May 2005 on the sixtieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe on 8 May 1945³, that of 23 October 2008 on the commemoration of the Holodomor, the Ukraine artificial famine (1932-1933)⁴, and that of 15 January 2009 on Srebrenica⁵,
- having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

¹ OJ L 328, 6.12.2008, p. 55.

² OJ C 137 E, 27.5.2010, p. 25.

³ OJ C 92 E, 20.4.2006, p. 392.

⁴ OJ C 15 E, 21.1.2010, p. 78.

⁵ OJ C 46 E, 24.2.2010, p. 111.

- A. whereas 80 years ago on 23 August 1939, the communist Soviet Union and Nazi Germany signed a Treaty of Non-Aggression, known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, and its secret protocols, dividing Europe and the territories of independent states between the two totalitarian regimes and grouping them into spheres of interest, which paved the way for the outbreak of the Second World War;
 - B. whereas the memories of Europe's tragic past must be kept alive, in order to honour the victims, condemn the perpetrators and lay the ground for a reconciliation based on truth and remembrance; whereas this year marks the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War, which brought about human suffering on a previously unknown scale and the occupation of countries in Europe for many decades to come;
 - C. whereas European integration has, from the start, been a response to the suffering inflicted by two world wars and by the Nazi tyranny that led to the Holocaust, and to the expansion of totalitarian and undemocratic communist regimes in central and eastern Europe, and a way to overcome deep divisions and hostility in Europe by cooperation and integration and to end war and secure democracy in Europe;
 - D. whereas the process of European integration has been successful and has led to a European Union that now encompasses the countries of central and eastern Europe that lived under communist regimes from the end of the Second World War until the early 1990s, and whereas the earlier accessions of Greece, Spain and Portugal helped secure democracy in the south of Europe;
 - E. whereas the European Union was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012 for over six decades' contribution to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe;
 - F. whereas extremist and xenophobic political forces in Europe increasingly resort to distortion of historical facts, and employ symbolism and rhetoric that echoes aspects of totalitarian propaganda, including racism, anti-Semitism and hatred towards sexual and other minorities;
 - G. whereas the history of European integration as an antithesis to totalitarian oppression and destruction is shared by all EU citizens and all Member States, irrespective of geography, and should serve as a basis for EU solidarity and a shared sense of purpose;
1. Expresses its deepest respect for all victims of totalitarian and undemocratic regimes in Europe and pays tribute to those who fought against tyranny and oppression;
 2. Renews its commitment to a peaceful and prosperous Europe founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights;
 3. Stresses the importance of keeping the memories of the past alive, because there can be no reconciliation without remembrance, and reiterates its united stand against all totalitarian rule from whatever ideological background;
 4. Recalls that the last act of genocide in Europe took place in Srebrenica as late as July 1995 and that constant vigilance is needed to fight undemocratic, xenophobic,

authoritarian or totalitarian ideas and tendencies;

5. Stresses that in order to strengthen European awareness of crimes committed by totalitarian and undemocratic regimes, the documentation and testimonial accounts of Europe's troubled past must be supported, as there can be no reconciliation without remembrance;
6. Calls on all EU Member States to commemorate 23 August as the European Day of Remembrance for the victims of totalitarian regimes at both EU and governmental level, and to raise the younger generation's awareness of these issues by including the history and analysis of the consequences of totalitarian regimes in the curricula and textbooks of all schools in the EU;
7. Recalls that the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and its secret protocols remain a symbol of how aggressive power politics and the logic of spheres of influence bring about destruction and oppression; emphasises that the European project of peaceful cooperation and shared sovereignty is the best guarantee against the return of power politics and divisions to the European continent, and calls on the Commission and the Member States to uphold this principle also in the EU's external and neighbourhood policies;
8. Condemns manifestations and propagation of totalitarian ideologies, such as Nazism and Stalinism, in the EU;
9. Is concerned by the rise of extremist movements and xenophobic language reminiscent of Europe's totalitarian past, including in the form of hatred and discrimination against the LGBTI community, Roma and other ethnic and religious minorities, and refugees, and calls on the Commission and the Member States to combat all forms of extremism and contain the spread of hate speech online;
10. Declares that European integration as a model of peace and reconciliation has been a free choice by the peoples of Europe to commit to a shared future, and that the European Union has a particular responsibility to promote and safeguard democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law, not only within but also outside the European Union;
11. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to make further efforts to strengthen the teaching of European history and to stress the historical achievement of European integration and the stark contrast between the tragic past and the peaceful and democratic societal order in today's European Union;
12. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to strive for a shared understanding and teaching of European integration as an antidote to totalitarian destruction, both Nazi and Stalinist, to foster a common sense of history and identity among EU citizens, and to overcome any lingering divisions between older and newer Member States;
13. Reiterates its consistent support for strengthened international justice, through the International Criminal Court and other specialised courts; calls on the Commission to provide effective support for projects of historic memory and remembrance in the Member States and for the activities of the Platform of European Memory and

Conscience, and to allocate adequate financial resources under the ‘Europe for Citizens’ programme to support commemoration and remembrance of the victims of totalitarianism;

14. Stresses that all European countries should face their tragic past and historic legacy; points out that the citizens of Russia remain the greatest victims of the past communist regime and that democratic development will be hampered as long as the Stalinist regime is whitewashed or glorified;
15. Stresses that Europe’s tragic past should continue to serve as a moral and political inspiration to face the challenges of today’s world, including the fight for a fairer world, action against climate change, migration and refugees, creating open and tolerant societies and communities embracing ethnic, religious and sexual minorities, and making European values work for everyone;
16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the governments and parliaments of the candidate countries, the governments and parliaments of the countries associated with the European Union, and the governments and parliaments of the member states of the Council of Europe.