

# MEPs want EU to step up its peace-building efforts in Syria

Plenary sessions [18-05-2017 - 13:06]

**Only a political process led by the different Syrian groups and supported by the UN could end a war in Syria and the EU should take a more active role.**

- Syrian-led peace efforts with support from UN
- More active EU
- Set up Syria war crime tribunal

MEPs endorsed the EU strategy for Syria and advocated for a united and independent country in a resolution voted on Thursday. They are convinced that only a political process led by Syrian groups, under UN supervision and based on a new constitution, can lead to free and fair elections. This is the only way to end a war, which already cost 400.000 lives and left 13.5 mln. people in urgent need of food, water and shelter.

The EU, as the largest donor, needs to involve itself more in the Syrian peace process: facilitate the political transition, bring parties closer together, support the Syrian population and prepare for reconstruction, MEPs say. They also hint at some early confidence-building measures, such as unhindered humanitarian access throughout Syria, the end of all city sieges or the release of hostages.

MEPs condemn the atrocities, human rights and international law violations by all parties in the conflict, and in particular the forces of the Assad regime, supported by Russia and Iran, as well as by ISIS/Da'esh and Jabhat Fateh al-Sham. They urge that a Syria war crime tribunal be set up, pending a successful referral of these crimes to the International Criminal Court.

## Quick facts

*In March 2017, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini presented a [joint communication](#) on an EU strategy for Syria, which outlines how the EU can play a more visible and effective role in contributing to the lasting political solution in Syria.*

## Further information

- Steps of the procedure: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2017/2654\(RSP\)&l=en](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2017/2654(RSP)&l=en)
- Adopted text (2017/2654(RSP)) will soon be available here (18.05.2017): <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/texts-adopted.html>
- Video recording of debate (click on 16.05.2017): <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/en/plenary/search-by-date>
- EP Research study note on mapping the future of Syria (March 2017): [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2017/599362/EPRS\\_BRI\(2017\)599362\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2017/599362/EPRS_BRI(2017)599362_EN.pdf)
- Commission communication on EU strategy for Syria (March 2017): <https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/celex3a52017jc00113aen3atxt.pdf>
- Audiovisual material for professionals: <http://audiovisual.europarl.europa.eu/eu-syria>

# Press release

## Political groups

- News pages of the EPP group: <http://bit.ly/1WuQLqB>
- News pages of the S&D group: <http://bit.ly/1WWG6F4>
- News pages of the ECR group: <http://bit.ly/1Y0YFrj>
- News pages of the ALDE group: <http://bit.ly/2ikk6qK>
- Press release by the GUE/NGL group: <http://bit.ly/2pSQ0dK>
- News pages of the Greens/EFA group: <http://bit.ly/2m6JiBA>
- News pages of the EFDD group: <http://bit.ly/1TUnDFU>
- News pages of the ENF group: <http://bit.ly/2cxzxcR>

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