



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Plenary sitting

2.5.2012

B7-0227/2012

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 110(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on maritime piracy
(2011/2962(RSP))

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United in diversity

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B7-0227/2012

**European Parliament resolution on maritime piracy
(2011/2962(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to UN Security Council Resolution 1816 of 2 June 2008,
 - having regards to the EU NAVFOR – Operation ATALANTA launched in December 2008,
 - having regard to the International Chamber of Commerce International Maritime Bureau (IMB) report for the period of 1 January – 30 June 2011 about ‘Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships’,
 - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Somalia is one of the poorest countries in the world and suffered from several hunger catastrophes in the past, where more than 12 million people in the region of the Horn of Africa were recently affected by famine which was the worst in the past 60 years;
- B. whereas the causes of this extreme poverty and famine are various, including civil war, political instability, the lack of security throughout the region, degradation of soils, large-scale acquisition of farmland by foreign investors, the rise in farm prices, speculation in basic commodities, climate change, illegal dumping of toxic waste on the coast of Somalia and excessively intensive and illegal fishing off the coast of Somalia by European and Asian factory ships;
- C. whereas the Government of Somalia was forced to lay off its coastguard because of lack of financial resources due to the international debt crisis and the imposition of structural adjustment programmes by the IMF and the World Bank; whereas this created a vacuum exploited for illegal fishing in the territorial waters of Somalia, which is one of the main reasons why Somali fishermen have lost their means of subsistence;
- D. whereas the EUNAVFOR ATALANTA operation was launched on 8 December 2008 and became fully operational in February 2009, with a mandate to contribute to the protection of vessels of the World Food Programme (WFP) delivering food aid to displaced persons in Somalia, to protect vulnerable vessels sailing in the Gulf of Aden and off the Somali coast and to prevent and repress acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast; whereas attacks in Somalia’s territorial waters have increased many times over since the ATALANTA operation started;
- E. whereas the EU NAVFOR ATALANTA operates in a mission area covering an area from the south of the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the Western part of the Indian Ocean including the Seychelles; whereas the Council decided on 23 March 2012 to prolong the mandate until 2014 and to extend the force’s area of operations, which includes now also Somali coastal territory as well as its territorial and internal waters;

- F. whereas the Council agreed on 25 January 2010 to set up an EU military mission to train Somali security forces, whereas the European Union military mission to contribute to the training of Somali security forces – EUTM Somalia – mission was launched 7 April 2010 in order to support the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and to work in close cooperation with the African Union Mission Somalia (AMISOM);
- G. whereas the AMISOM is mostly funded by the African Peace Facility, which is financed from the resources from the long-term development section of the ninth European Development Fund (EDF); whereas the EU contribution to AMISOM through the Peace Facility amounts to EUR 142.5 million;
- H. whereas, according to the IMB report for the period of 1 January – 30 June 2011 about ‘Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships’, attacks have increased from 5 in 2008 to 125 in June 2011 in Somalia which includes the area of waters off Somalia, off Oman, off Yemen, off Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean, off Kenya, off Tanzania, off Mozambique, off Madagascar, off Seychelles, off west India, off west Maldives;
1. States that there can be no military solution to the crisis in Somalia and the piracy at the waters of Horn of Africa/ Somalia;
 2. Calls on the Council and Commission to revise their political strategy on Somalia and put an end to Operation ATALANTA/EUNAVFOR, as this cannot be considered a success, given the increasing number of attacks and more violent attacks, is of the opinion that the decided extend of the force’s area of operations might/will harm the civilian population of Somalia and doubts the effectiveness in combating piracy;
 3. Expresses its disagreement and rejection of the military approach of the EU in form of the security sector reform and the training mission – EUTM Somalia and rejects any possible European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) mission in Somalia or the region;
 4. Calls on all neighbouring countries and all foreign powers to refrain from intervening in Somalia;
 5. Calls on the Commission and the Council to support the UN efforts for reconciliation process between the parties involved in the civil war in Somalia; urges to ensure technical and financial support for a reconciliation and peace process and mediation between all civil war parties;
 6. Calls on the local authorities and all civil war parties to allow humanitarian aid organisations access to deprived people in accordance with international humanitarian aid law;
 7. Stresses that resources for development aid, such as the EDF, must not be used for any military purpose; strongly objects to the use of the EDF in the training of military forces in the security sector reform in Somalia; considers that the EDF must strictly remain an instrument to finance the fight to eradicate poverty and hunger in developing countries;
 8. Strongly objects the support of one party in a civil war, urges the EU to follow a pure civilian and peaceful approach of conflict resolution and take up their neutral role of a

conciliator/mediator, in order to achieve a sustainable peace in Somalia and the region;

9. Urges the Commission and the Council to focus on the situation in the country as a whole and, most importantly, on the need to address the humanitarian situation on the ground and to eradicate the real causes of the disastrous situation causing suffering to millions of Somalis, namely i.a. extreme poverty, illegal fishing and overfishing in the waters off Somalia;
10. Calls for urgent measures to honour binding international commitments and to attain the MDGs, and particularly MDG No 1, to enforce the right to adequate food and calls for cancellation of the debt of Somalia and all poor and worst affected countries;
11. Calls on the European Union to increase the proportion of official development aid assigned to food sovereignty and food security of Somalia, through investment in small sustainable farms and pastoralism, for a guarantee of access to land for small farmers, thereby strengthening the local market, and for acceptable daily nutrition for people in the Horn of Africa, furthermore to help to regenerate the waters off Somalia and the Horn of Africa in order to guarantee the means of subsistence for fisherman and their families;
12. Urges the EU and its member states to put tackling poverty and human suffering in the Horn of Africa and in developing countries above profits and earnings from food price speculation;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the African Union institutions, the Pan African Parliament, the ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly and the governments of the EU Member States.