



Plenary sitting

B8-1277/2016

22.11.2016

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 EU-Turkey relations
(2016/2993(RSP))

Guy Verhofstadt, Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, Petras Auštrevičius, Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Marielle de Sarnez, Martina Dlabajová, José Inácio Faria, María Teresa Giménez Barbat, Nathalie Griesbeck, Ivan Jakovčić, Petr Ježek, Louis Michel, Urmas Paet, Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz, Frédérique Ries, Marietje Schaake, Hannu Takkula, Pavel Telička, Ramon Tremosa i Balcells, Hilde Vautmans, Cecilia Wikström
on behalf of the ALDE Group

**European Parliament resolution on EU-Turkey relations
(2016/2993(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions, in particular those of 27 October 2016 on the situation of journalists in Turkey¹ and of 14 April 2016 on the 2015 report on Turkey²,
 - having regard to the EU Negotiating Framework for Turkey of 3 October 2005, in particular paragraphs 4 and 5 thereof,
 - having regard to the annual progress report on Turkey for 2016, published by the Commission on 9 November 2016 (SWD(2016)0366),
 - having regard to the outcome of the EU Foreign Affairs Council of 14 November 2016,
 - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the European Union and the European Parliament have strongly condemned the failed military coup in Turkey and recognised the legitimate responsibility of the Turkish authorities to prosecute those responsible and involved in this attempt;
- B. whereas the Turkish Government's repressive measures against opposition parties, including the arrest of opposition leaders and members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, journalists and others are disproportionate and against Turkish domestic legislation, in breach of the commitments of a member state of the Council of Europe and against the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- C. whereas President Erdogan and the Turkish Government have made repeated statements on the reintroduction of the death penalty and there are serious concerns about the conditions for those detained and arrested following the coup, the wide-scale dismissal of state officials, and the severe restrictions of freedom of expression and restrictions on the press and media in Turkey;
- D. whereas paragraph 5 of the negotiating framework for accession negotiations with Turkey stipulates that the Commission, in the case of a serious and persistent breach of the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, can recommend the suspension of negotiations and propose the conditions for their resumption;
1. Strongly condemns the disproportionate repressive measures under way in Turkey since the failed military take-over in July; calls on the Commission and the Member States to initiate an immediate suspension of the ongoing negotiations with Turkey; underlines that work on visa liberalisation will only resume once Turkey adequately fulfils the conditions set out in the visa liberalisation agenda;

¹ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2016)0423.

² Texts adopted, P8_TA(2016)0133.

2. Instructs the Commission to set out clear benchmarks for the resumption of accession negotiations, alongside the stipulations in the Copenhagen criteria and in line with Turkey's obligations as a member of the Council of Europe; underlines that a clear rejection of capital punishment should be included in the conditions for resumption of accession talks, alongside a full return to democratic and pluralistic political life;
3. Points out that the suspension of the negotiations should be accompanied by a freeze of the Pre-accession Assistance funding provided to Turkey, taking effect from the start of the new budgetary year on 1 January 2017; underlines that a part of the IPA funding should be channelled to increased support for the refugees and migrants in Turkey;
4. Encourages the Commission, the Council of Europe and the Venice Commission to offer additional judicial assistance to the Turkish authorities, in order to safeguard sound legal proceedings and adequate and safe detention conditions for those arrested for involvement in the military take-over attempts of 15 July 2016;
5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Government and Parliament of Turkey, the Member States and the European External Action Service.