EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004 **** 2009

Session document

29.6.2005 B6-0409/2005

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Council pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure by Doris Pack, Elmar Brok and Anna Ibrisagic on behalf of the PPE-DE Group on ten years after Srebrenica

RE\572850EN.doc PE 360.590v01-00

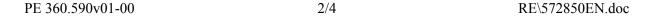
EN EN

B6-0409/2005

European Parliament resolution on ten years after Srebrenica

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as on the western Balkans and regional integration there,
- having regard to the Stabilisation and Association Process in the Western Balkans as well as the assistance and reconstruction programme (CARDS), as the main aid arm of the EU's efforts to promote democratisation, justice, reconciliation and peace in the region,
- having regard to UN Security Council Resolutions 827 of 25 May 1993, 1244 of 10
 June 1999, 1551 of 9 July 2004 and 1575 of 22 November 22 2004,
- having regard to the Dayton/Paris Agreement (General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina),
- having regard to the Conclusions of the EU's Thessaloniki Summit of 21 June 2003 and to the joint declaration of the EU-Western Balkans adopted at that summit (Thessaloniki Agenda),
- having regard to Resolution 1453 (2005) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe,
- having regard to the Presidency Conclusions of the EU Summit of 16-17 June 2005 and to the Declaration on Kosovo,
- having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Bosnian Serb troops led by Ratko Mladic attacked the UN 'safe area' of Srebrenica on 6 July 1995, easily overcoming the Dutch peacekeeping forces; condemning how the Bosnian Serbs threatened to kill their Dutch prisoners in order to bring the NATO air strikes to a halt, in clear violation of the Geneva Convention; whereas on 11 July 1995 Srebrenica fell to the Bosnian Serbs,
- B. whereas the Bosnian Serbs perpetrated multiple violations of the Geneva Convention against Srebrenica's Muslim civilians; recognises that these violations included the deportation of thousands of women and children, the rape of a large number of women, and the execution of some 8,000 people, mostly men and boys,
- C. considering the Srebrenica massacre to be Europe's worst episode of mass murder since World War II and the symbol of the brutality of Bosnia's 1992-1995 war; condemning all war crimes committed during the wars in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo,





- D. whereas full and unrestricted cooperation with the ICTY remains a requirement for further continuation of the process of integration into the European Union for the countries of the western Balkans.
- E. noting the work of the EU-led stabilisation force, which succeeded the NATO-led stabilisation force in November 2004, emphasises the EU's commitment to peace and stability in the region,
- F. having regard to the role of the EU in the western Balkans since the Dayton agreement and its support for reconciliation and stabilisation; offers the long-term goal of the EU perspective, because the future of the western Balkans lies in the EU,
- G. whereas the EU budgetary allocations for relations with the western Balkans have been constantly and significantly reduced every year since 2002; believes that the region must be allocated adequate funding to take into account the gradual shift from physical reconstruction to institution-building and pre-accession assistance, as well as the region's strategic importance to the EU,
- H. whereas Bosnia-Herzegovina has moved its negotiating table from Dayton to Brussels, and the project of an EU future enjoys great popular support in Bosnia-Herzegovina,
- I. whereas the Dayton agreement should be updated to reflect the dynamism of today's EU presence in Bosnia-Herzegovina, aiming to rebuild a truly interethnic country based on peaceful and lasting relationships,
- 1. Expresses its most profound condemnation of the Srebrenica massacre, offering all its solidarity to the families of the victims and to survivors, and states that it will do everything in its power to prevent such immense tragedies from happening again; calls for all war criminals to be arrested, placed in custody and tried;
- 2. Recalls that the UN peacekeeping force failed to protect the assigned areas and that its efforts were dramatically inadequate; therefore calls on the UN and the relevant international institutions to address thoroughly the reasons for failure and reform the peacekeeping organ to make it be truly prepared for future missions;
- 3. Calls on the Council and Commission to pay adequate remembrance to the tenth anniversary of the Srebrenica-Potocari genocide, stressing that this still unbearable shame in Europe should be considered forever the last massacre carried out in the name of ethnic ideology;
- 4. Deeply shocked at the July 1995 video clip recently released in the Hague, which clearly shows the 'Scorpions Unit', a Serb paramilitary group associated with the national army and police, brutally executing six Muslim civilians in the proximity of Srebrenica;

- 5. Supports the call made by Lord Ashdown, the EU High Representative for Bosnia-Herzegovina, on the Bosnian Serb ministers to specify the number of troops and identify all individuals from outside Bosnia involved in the video clip;
- 6. Welcomes the reaction of Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica to the release of the video clip, resulting in the arrest of the former members of the Serb paramilitary group called 'Scorpions Unit' identified in the video, and strongly hopes that the resumed US aid will encourage the Serbian authorities to do all their best to arrest all remaining fugitives, notably Karadzic, Mladic and Tolimir the men most responsible for the Srebrenica Massacre;
- 7. Supports the decision of President Boris Tadic to go to mourn at the Potocari memorial on the tenth anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre;
- 8. Calls on the authorities in Podgorica and Banja Luka to cooperate more closely with Belgrade as well as with NATO and EUFOR in Bosnia-Herzegovina in order to locate and bring to justice Radovan Karadzic; therefore calls on the Serbian government to collaborate in an efficient way with the ICTY and further improve its national law enforcement;
- 9. Urges building on and sustaining recent progress, and calls on the authorities of the Republika Srpska to energetically pursue all fugitives; considers the apparent popular support enjoyed by these criminals in some parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina to be an insult to the memory of the victims and a major obstacle to reconciliation;
- 10. Expresses its sincere preoccupation in regard to Serbian public opinion, which does not recognise that the national army committed war crimes against Muslim civilians; strongly encourages the Serbian government to take action to confront the nation with its past and curb the hero-worship of indicted war criminals; recognises the airing of the recent Srebrenica video on the evening news by Serbian television channels to be a first step in this direction, but emphasises that much more needs to be done to trump the historical distortions that are held as truth by the population;
- 11. Stresses the importance of policies of reconciliation, and emphasises the important role of the religious authorities, the media and the educational system in this difficult process, so that civilians of all ethnicities may overcome the tensions of the past and begin a peaceful and sincere coexistence for enduring stability and economic growth;
- 12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission, the Member States, the Government and Parliament of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the Governments and Parliaments of the countries of the Western Balkans.

