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## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up the debate on statements by the Council and Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Erik Meijer and André Brie

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on proclaiming 11 July the European Commemorative Day for the victims of the Srebrenica genocide on 11 July 1995

**European Parliament resolution on proclaiming 11 July the European Commemorative Day for the victims of the Srebrenica genocide on 11 July 1995**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its resolution of 7 July 2005 on 'The Balkans: 10 years after Srebrenica',
  - having regard to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Union and Bosnia and Herzegovina signed on 16 June 2008 and the prospect of EU membership held out to all the countries of the western Balkans at the EU summit in Thessaloniki in 2003,
  - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas in July 1995 in the Bosnian town of Srebrenica, which was at the time an isolated and militarily indefensible enclave proclaimed a safe haven by the UN, thousands of people were massacred and nearly 25 000 women, children and elderly people were forcibly deported; whereas this was the biggest massacre and war crime to take place in Europe since the end of the Second World War,
- B. whereas this tragic event was a result of the dissolution of Yugoslavia, culminating in nationalistic atrocities, war and foreign interference in the western Balkans region; whereas the developments in the western Balkans at that time also reflected the failure of the EU, its Member States and the international community as a whole to bring about a policy aimed at preventing crises,
- C. whereas there cannot be peace without justice and it is therefore of the utmost importance to establish the truth, to bring all those responsible to justice, and to solve the problem of refugees and displaced persons,
- D. whereas in spite of the enormous efforts made to date to discover and exhume mass and individual graves and identify the bodies of the victims, the searches conducted until now do not permit a complete reconstruction of the events in and around Srebrenica,
- E. whereas General Radislav Krstić of the Bosnian Serb army is the first person found guilty by the ICTY of aiding and abetting the Srebrenica genocide, but the most prominent indicted person, Ratko Mladić, is still at large twelve years after the tragic events,
- F. whereas it is necessary to raise awareness of these tragic events all over Europe and to achieve public recognition of responsibilities in the western Balkans in order to rebuild mutual confidence and resume a lasting dialogue between the countries of the region,
1. Takes the view that the massacre that took place 10 years ago in Srebrenica is a constantly open wound in the history of Europe that should be duly remembered in order to prevent any recurrence;

2. Commemorates and honours the victims of the atrocities; expresses its condolences to and solidarity with the families of the victims, many of whom are living without final confirmation of the fate of their fathers, sons, husbands or brothers; recognises that this continuing pain is aggravated by the failure to bring those responsible for these acts to justice;
3. Calls on the Council and Commission to commemorate appropriately the anniversary of the Srebrenica-Potočari act of genocide by supporting the European Parliament's recognition of 11 July as the day of commemoration of the Srebrenica genocide all over the EU and in all the countries of the western Balkans;
4. Stresses that bringing to justice those responsible for the massacres in and around Srebrenica is an important step towards peace and stability in the region;
5. Underlines the need for a genuine reconciliation process to commence, as part of the European integration process; urges all countries to make further efforts to come to terms with a difficult and troubled past;
6. Concludes from the failure of the international community in Srebrenica that it is necessary to strengthen the role of the UN in crisis prevention and management;
7. Notes that, more than a decade after the signing of the Dayton Accords, crucial political problems remain unresolved; takes the view that a new political initiative is urgently needed in order to put a real end to the conflicts and the struggle for domination of one group over the others, by finding peaceful, viable and lasting solutions which can gain the support of each of the different groups within Bosnia and Herzegovina; takes the view that it is high time to end the foreign military presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
8. Expresses its serious concern at the economic and social situation; stresses that the solution to this crucial issue is the key to stable development in the region; calls on the governments and the EU to recognise that economic and social development is the top priority for the peoples of the region and to act accordingly; underlines the importance of enhancing regional and crossborder cooperation and reconciliation between the peoples of the western Balkan countries as well as with their neighbours;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States, the Government and Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its entities, and the governments and parliaments of the countries of the western Balkans.