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B7-0160/2009

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up the debate on statements by the Council and Commission  
pursuant to Rule 110(2) of the Rules of Procedure  
on a political solution to the problem of piracy off the Somalian coast

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**B7-0160/2009**

**European Parliament resolution on a political solution to the problem of piracy off the Somalian coast**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Somalia,
  - having regard to the previous statements made by the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union, Javier Solana,
  - having regard to the recent EU Council conclusions on Somalia,
  - having regard to the Djibouti Peace Process Agreement that outlines the Transitional Federal Charter,
  - having regard to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1872 (2009) on Somalia,
  - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the recent renewed fighting between the insurgents of the Union of Islamic Courts and Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) troops has led to increased instability and loss of life in Somalia,
- B. whereas the international community respects the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia,
- C. whereas Somalia has not had a functioning government since the overthrow of the Said Barre regime in 1991, and whereas since then the political situation has been one of anarchy, marked by inter-clan fighting and banditry,
- D. whereas the worsening security situation in the Somali capital Mogadishu has prevented national and international NGOs from coping with an unfolding humanitarian catastrophe and from responding to emergencies,
- E. concerned at the prolonged civil war in Somalia and its implications for the peace and reconciliation process in that country and for the security and stability of the Horn of Africa as a whole,
- F. whereas on 8 December 2008 the Council decided to launch, as part of the comprehensive action conducted by the EU in the Horn of Africa, the EU's first ever naval operation, EU NAVFOR Atalanta, to suppress, deter and prevent acts of piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia and to contribute to the protection of merchant vessels, in particular World Food Programme (WFP) vessels delivering food aid to displaced persons in Somalia,

- G. whereas on 27 July 2009 the Council decided to step up the EU's involvement in promoting peace and development in Somalia in close cooperation with all relevant actors, in particular the UN and the African Union (AU), and to this end examined ways the EU might contribute to international efforts, including in the security field,
- H. whereas on 17 November 2009 the Council approved a Crisis Management Concept on a possible ESDP mission to contribute to the training of 2000 security force personnel of the Somali TFG,
- I. whereas this long-term assistance from international partners can only be effective if the security situation is stabilised,
- J. whereas insurgents of the Union of Islamic Courts have ruled out all political contact and reconciliation for peace on the basis of the Djibouti Peace Agreement, which provides a framework for reaching a lasting political solution in Somalia,
1. Strongly condemns the serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law committed by all parties to the conflict in Somalia; calls for an immediate end to hostilities and calls on all armed groups urgently to lay down their weapons and join in a genuine broad-based dialogue with the TFG; calls on all the warring factions to refrain from indiscriminate attacks on civilians, and calls for an independent panel to investigate war crimes and human rights violations;
  2. Reaffirms its support for the TFG under the leadership of President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and the President's commitments to honour the principles laid down in the Djibouti Peace Agreement, including the spirit of reconciliation and the search for an inclusive political process; condemns the armed attacks against the TFG and against the UN and NGOs;
  3. Points out that the international community and all parties to the present conflict have a responsibility to protect civilians, to allow delivery of aid and to respect humanitarian space and the safety of humanitarian workers; urges, therefore, that the right conditions be created immediately for an adequate response to the humanitarian catastrophe in Somalia;
  4. Notes with great satisfaction that EU NAVFOR Atalanta continues to contribute successfully to maritime security off the coast of Somalia by protecting WFP-chartered vessels delivering aid to Somalia, vessels supplying critical shipments to the AU peace support operation in Somalia and other vulnerable vessels; calls on the Council to extend the operation for another year following the end of the current mandate on 12 December 2009; expresses its support for a possible extension of the operational zone southward depending on pirate activity, but underlines that such an extension should not affect the essential goal of the mission, namely the protection of WFP convoys and other vulnerable vessels, such as the merchant fleet and fishing vessels;
  5. Underlines that fighting piracy successfully will only be possible by addressing the root causes of the phenomenon, which are to be found on land, namely poverty and a failed state, and which can only be eradicated by achieving peace, development and state-

building in Somalia;

6. Takes the view that, until such time as a political solution has been found to the problem of Somalia's trustworthiness as a member of the international community the security strategy implemented by means of the Atalanta operation must continue to take precedence and even be strengthened in terms of the resources employed and the widening of the operational area of the forces deployed;
7. Calls, therefore, on the Council to examine the possibility of setting up a new small-scale ESDP operation in parallel to operation Atalanta to contribute to the training of TFG security forces, thereby establishing consistency with existing initiatives, notably that by France in Djibouti and that by Uganda under the training programme set up by AMISOM; in that connection, welcomes the approval of the Crisis Management Concept for a possible new ESDP operation for Somalia, but insists that the adoption of the concept should in no way prejudice the decision on the activation of a mission, which can only be taken after a more detailed examination of the situation on the ground, making sure that salaries are paid, equipment is provided and that the trained security forces are integrated into state and command structures, so that, once they have returned, they will not turn against the government that they are supposed to be protecting;
8. Deplores the overly complacent attitude displayed by some Member States towards the Somali pirates' demands and the fact that, even if they are subsequently not implemented, the coercive measures promised may prove counterproductive by encouraging further cases of piracy in the area;
9. Expresses its continued support for AMISOM, given its pivotal role in the peace process; insists that further EU involvement with the AU and AMISOM should be preceded by steps to identify the most urgent needs and the scope for possible additional EU support in order for AMISOM to develop capabilities commensurate with its mandate;
10. Calls for additional EU support for the security sector, on the basis of a properly coordinated strategy, notably with the AU, the UN and other relevant EU partners, in particular the US; insists that this strategy should support a Somali national security strategy, committed to the rule of law, respect for human rights and gender and linking security and development;
11. Calls on the international community, and the EU in particular, to increase the provision of humanitarian assistance to internally-displaced persons and people in need;
12. Urges strict and renewed application and monitoring of the arms embargo against Somalia imposed by the UN in 1992, to which scant respect is paid; calls for violators of the Somalia arms embargo to be held accountable;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Secretaries-General of the African Union, the UN and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the President of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, the Government of Ethiopia and the Pan-African Parliament.