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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 110(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in Tunisia

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on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

European Parliament resolution on the situation in Tunisia

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the statement by the President of Parliament of 17 January 2011 on the situation in Tunisia,
 - having regard to the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement between the European Union and Tunisia, which entered into force on 1 March 1998,
 - having regard to the Commission Communication on the European Neighbourhood Policy of 12 May 2004 and the EU-Tunisia Action Plan, which entered into force on 4 July 2005,
 - having regard to its report of 14 May 2010 on EU policies in favour of human rights defenders,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on the human rights situation in Tunisia,
 - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas this is a rising by the Tunisian people, who are exasperated by the absence of freedom, social justice and democracy and by the signs of corruption on an unrivalled scale benefiting a political and family clan,
- B. whereas, according to the EU-Tunisia Action Plan under the European Neighbourhood Policy, Tunisia has given an undertaking to the EU to strengthen democracy and political pluralism, by increasing participation in political life and respecting all the human rights and fundamental freedoms,
- C. whereas the Tunisian authorities have not kept any of their undertakings as regards democracy and human rights, or as regards social justice; whereas the EU has reminded the Tunisian Government too seldom and very feebly of its commitments under the EU–Tunisia framework agreement; whereas negotiations have begun for the European Union to grant advanced status to Tunisia, in spite of regular condemnations by Tunisian and international NGOs of serious breaches of human rights and fundamental freedoms by the former Tunisian regime and the considerable and continuing decline in the democratic and social situation in Tunisia for a number of years, particularly since the last presidential election,
- D. whereas the self-immolation by fire of a young jobless graduate, Mr Mohamed Bouazizi, was the factor that sparked off the Tunisian revolution,
- E. whereas the repressive response by the government to popular demonstrations, which led to bloody clashes on 8 and 9 January, caused dozens of deaths, particularly in the city of Kasserine, and resulted in the declaration of a state of emergency on 14 January, has not prevented further demonstrations by progressive forces for the establishment of a

constitutional state,

- F. whereas the number of deaths ranges from 78, according to the government version, to more than a hundred, according to the NGOs and the UN, and whereas the number of wounded is still unknown,
 - G. whereas several prisoners of conscience have been released by the transitional government,
 - H. whereas the mobilisation has not diminished and is continuing to call for the resignation of the transitional government, notably because the interim President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and several ministers appointed to the main portfolios were until recently members of the RDC party,
 - I. whereas the various structural adjustment policies imposed by the IMF and international organisations for decades are playing a considerable part in the social and economic problems which have led to the present popular uprising,
 - J. whereas France has until quite recently supported the dictatorial regime of Ben Ali, even offering its help in repression of the popular mobilisation,
 - K. whereas the European Union, and particularly some Member States which have for decades supported the regime of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, have a particular responsibility in view of the current crisis,
1. Welcomes the determination of the Tunisian people to recover its freedom and put an end to the regime set up by the former president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali; expresses its solidarity with all Tunisian progressives who have opposed this regime since its inception; underlines the fact that the current revolt in Tunisia is a source of hope for all the countries of the Maghreb and beyond;
 2. Voices its wish to see a genuine constitutional state established in Tunisia;
 3. Looks forward therefore to the holding of free, genuine and transparent legislative and presidential elections within a reasonable period;
 4. Condemns the state-sponsored violence and the abuse and hijacking of power and institutions for the benefit of an oligarchy, as practised by the regime of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali;
 5. Draws attention to the need, if the Tunisian people so requests, to grant some financial support needed not only for the reforms under way but also to meet the economic and social requirements of the people of Tunisia;
 6. Calls for an independent and impartial committee of inquiry to be set up to investigate committed breaches of human rights, including the cases of extrajudicial execution and arbitrary arrest, identify those responsible and where appropriate bring them to justice, with compensation for the victims and/or their families; calls also for light to be shed on the responsibility of other countries in support for and complicity with the regime of Zine

El Abidine Ben Ali;

7. Notes with satisfaction the announcement of creation of three committees, on the conduct of events, corruption and the reform of institutions and the law, which must be composed of independent figures from civil society recognised by all; underlines the fact that they must be able to act with complete independence;
8. Calls for the international community to take all the steps required to identify and freeze the assets deriving from corruption in Tunisia;
9. Calls for the immediate release of all the demonstrators arrested as the events unfolded and the release of all prisoners of conscience, and calls for any proceedings against political opponents that may still be continuing to be halted without delay;
10. Supports the Tunisian people in its call for the restoration of freedom of association by putting an end to the requirement of prior authorisation for political parties, associations and trade unions and by ceasing to interfere in their activity;
11. Draws attention to the progress made with the restoration of press freedom and freedom of speech;
12. Likewise lends its support to the people's determination to put an effective end to the links between the apparatus of the State and the RCD, which means ending the provision of civil servants for that party's benefit and the restoration of property belonging to the State and allocated to the RCD;
13. Supports the Tunisian people in its determination to have a new transitional government that has the confidence of the people, which necessarily means the exclusion, particularly from the main ministries, of the figures most involved in the previous regime;
14. Calls for the immediate repeal of laws that destroy freedom, particularly the law on control of the press and the amendment to Article 61a of the Tunisian Penal Code;
15. Supports the Tunisian people in its legitimate call for unemployment and poverty to be reduced and the economic and social aspirations of the people to be met;
16. Condemns the support that the European Union and particularly some Member States have provided for decades to the regime of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali;
17. More particularly condemns France for its economic and political interference in Tunisia; draws attention to the connivance and complicity of the major Western powers and the European Union from which the former Tunisian regime benefited on the pretext of 'safeguarding against Islamism'; points out that the current movement is profoundly popular and above all secular, social and democratic;
18. Therefore firmly opposes any attempt at external interference in the affairs of Tunisia and any attempt to destabilise the democratic process currently under way;
19. Calls on the European Union to develop a real partnership of mutual interest for development in all its dimensions, for forms of cooperation encouraging employment,

education and training, instead of ‘association agreements’ based mainly on establishing free-trade areas designed for the interests of multinationals and private capital by exploiting a labour force without real social rights;

20. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the Government and Parliament of Tunisia.