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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 Egypt

Willy Meyer, Marisa Matias, Jean-Luc Mélenchon, Patrick Le Hyaric, Marie-Christine Vergiat, Eva-Britt Svensson, Ilda Figueiredo
on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

European Parliament resolution on Egypt

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the statements by the President of European Parliament of 26th and 28th January 2011 and 4th February on the situation in Egypt,
 - having regard to the EU-Egypt Action Plan on 2007, and the EU-Egypt Association agreement, which entered into force on 1st June 2004,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on the human rights situation in Egypt,
 - having regard to its previous resolution on the European Neighbourhood Policy and on the Union for the Mediterranean,
 - having regard to its report of 14th May 2010 on EU policies in favour of human rights defenders,
 - having regard to its recent resolution on Tunisia of 3rd February 2011,
 - having regard to the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by Egypt in 1982,
 - having regard to the Council Conclusions on Egypt of the 31st January 2011, and the European Council Declaration on Egypt and the region of the 4th February 2011,
 - having regard to the statements of the EU High Representative on the situation in Egypt and on journalists and human right defenders in Egypt of 27th, 28th, 31st January, 3rd and 4th February,
 - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the brutal assassination of a 28 years old man by the police sparked off the need in the Egyptian people to fight by means of civic protests against impunity and injustice,
- B. whereas since 25th January there have been demonstrations in Tahrir Square, and whereas 1st February one million Egyptians gathered in the ‘One Million March’ to demand Mubarak’s resignation,
- C. whereas Navi Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights ‘has urged the authorities to listen to the demands of the Egyptian people for fundamental reforms to improve human rights and democracy’,
- D. whereas the mobilisations in Tunisia gave an impulse to the rising of the Egyptian people, who are exasperated by the absence of freedom, social justice and democracy and by the signs of corruption on an unrivalled scale,

- E. whereas the population is clearly rejecting a system that has deprived people of fundamental rights, and has committed a range of serious abuses, including widespread acts of torture,
- F. whereas journalists, film directors and bloggers have been arrested, injured and even killed, or stabbed, as it happened to Greek journalist Petros Papaconstantinou,
- G. whereas internet and phone connections were cut off for 5 days,
- H. whereas according to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights the repressive response by the government to popular demonstrations led to approximately 300 people been killed so far, more than 3,000 injured and hundreds arrested,
- I. whereas the mobilisation has not diminished and are continuing demanding the resignation of the Hosni Mubarak,
- J. whereas parliamentary elections in November and December 2010 were characterised by fraud, corruption and repression,
- K. whereas Egypt is the most populous Arab country with more than 80 million people,
- L. whereas, according to the EU-Egypt Action Plan under the European Neighbourhood Policy, Egypt 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, and whereas the Egyptian authorities have not kept any of their undertakings as regards democracy and human rights, or as regards social justice;
- M. whereas the various structural adjustment policies (deregulation of food prices, privatisations and austerity measures) imposed by the IMF and international organisations for decades are playing a considerable part in the social and economic problems such as unemployment and poverty (40% of the Egyptians live below the poverty line),
- N. whereas the European Union, and particularly some governments of the Member States and the United States which have for decades supported the regime of Hosni Mubarak have a particular responsibility in view of the current crisis, whereas Israel asked the USA and several countries in the EU to support Mubarak the first days of the mobilisations,
 - 1. Expresses its solidarity with all Egyptians who have opposed Mubarak's regime, which following the same authoritarian policy of Anwar el-Sadat, has been undemocratically in power for 30 years, also by maintaining a state of emergency completely unjustified, turning it back to the people and condemning them to misery, social injustice and institutionalisation of corruption and autocracy;
 - 2. Welcomes and supports the Egyptian struggle for fundamental reforms in their country's political, economic and social system, for the end to the corrupt regime and for attaining true democracy, human rights and social justice; voices its wish to see a genuine constitutional state established in Egypt;
 - 3. Denounces that Egypt's emergency law has been in force for almost 30 years, allowing

the governmental authorities, among other activities, to arrest alleged ‘terrorists and drug dealers’, and allowing repression against opposition;

4. Supports the demands of the Egyptian people in the streets for the immediate resignation of Hosni Mubarak and the election of a democratic government that has the confidence of the people, which necessarily means the exclusion, particularly from the main ministries, of the figures involved in the previous regime;
5. 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 their families; calls also for light to be shed on the responsibility of other countries in support for and complicity with the regime Hosni Mubarak;
6. Calls for the immediate release of all the demonstrators arrested as the events unfolded and the release of all political prisoners, and calls for any proceedings against political opponents that may still be continuing to be halted without delay;
7. Condemns the support that the European Union and particularly some governments of the Member States have provided for decades to the regime of Hosni Mubarak and his predecessor; denounces economic and political interference in Egypt; draws attention to the connivance and complicity of United States and the European Union from which the former Egyptian regime benefited on the pretext of ‘safeguarding against Islamism’; points out that the current movement is profoundly popular, social and democratic;
8. Therefore firmly opposes any attempt at external interference in the affairs of Egypt and any attempt to destabilise the democratic process currently under way;
9. 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;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean and the Government and Parliament of Egypt.