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Plenary sitting

7.3.2011

B7-0174/2011

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 Southern Neighbourhood, and Libya in particular, including humanitarian aspects

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on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

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European Parliament resolution on the Southern Neighbourhood, and Libya in particular, including humanitarian aspects

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the UN Security Council resolution 1970/2011 adopted on 26 February 2011,
 - having regard to the United Nations General Assembly resolution of 1 March 2011 unanimously suspending Libya's membership in the UN Human Rights Council,
 - having regard to the UN Human Rights Council resolution S-15/2 adopted on 25 February 2011,
 - having regard to the Council decision of 28 February 2011 imposing an arms embargo and targeted sanctions on Libya,
 - having regard to its recommendation to the Council of 20 January 2011, spelling out critical conditions concerning the negotiations on the EU-Libya Framework Agreement,
 - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas after decades of repression, violations of human rights and democratic freedoms, corruption and worsening of the social situation of the majority of the population people in many Arab countries insists on a profound political, economical and social change and went on the streets against the oppressive regimes,
- B. whereas the European Union and particularly some governments of the Member States and the United States have for decades supported these regimes and bear a particular responsibility in view of the current crisis,
- C. whereas the regimes in Tunisia and Egypt have fallen, but the other regimes continue to violently repress the people and their legitimate political protests; whereas the Libyan regime resists the demands from the Libyan people and the international community to immediately step down and stop the bloodshed; whereas according to various sources the Libyan regime is launching air attacks against civilians and wielding mercenaries to shoot indiscriminately,
- D. whereas the UN Security Council imposed sanctions on the Libyan Arab Jamarihiya regime, by adopting UNSCR 1970/2011,
- E. whereas according to the UNHCR nearly 150,000 people have fled from Libya into Tunisia and Egypt in recent days and thousands more refugees and foreigner workers face dramatic conditions when trying to leave Libya,
1. Expresses its solidarity with the people in the Northern Africa and Middle East, applauds

their courage and determination and strongly supports their legitimate democratic aspirations; strongly condemns the use of violence against demonstrators, in particular by the Gaddafi regime and deplors the large number of persons killed and wounded since protests started;

2. Expresses its firm support to the struggle of the Libyan people for freedom, democratic, economic and social reforms and the end to the authoritarian regime; calls on the EU to help relieve the population and to meet its basic humanitarian needs, including medical assistance;
3. Expresses deep concern at the situation in Libya and strongly condemns the brutal repression of demonstrations, including indiscriminate armed attacks against civilians, which has resulted in the death of hundreds of civilians and a high number of injured people; denounces the incitement to hostility against civilian population expressed at the highest level of the regime by Muammar al-Gaddafi and his son Saif al-Islam;
4. Underlines the right of the people to determine their future without external interference;
5. Expresses deep concern over the humanitarian crisis faced by thousands of people fleeing from the conflict areas, adding to the hardship already faced by over 1 million African refugees, asylum seekers and migrants stranded in Libya; encourages the Council, Commission and the HR/VP to assist UNHCR and other relevant agencies, such as IOM, WFP, ICRC, to order to provide protection and emergency assistance to all those in need;
6. Condemns the support that the European Union and particularly some governments of the Member States have provided for decades to these regimes; draws attention to the connivance and complicity of United States and the European Union from which these regimes benefited on the pretext of safeguarding against Islamism;
7. Rejects any foreign military intervention to solve the crisis in Libya;
8. Endorses the UN Security Council resolution 1970 which condemns the gross and systematic human rights violations in Libya and decides to refer the situation to the International Criminal Court while imposing an arms embargo on the country and a travel ban and assets freeze on the family of Muammar al-Gaddafi;
9. Supports the decision of the UNHRC to dispatch an independent international commission of inquiry to Libya to investigate violations of international human rights law;
10. Strongly criticises the intensive arms trade of EU Member States with Libya, Egypt and other repressive regimes; reminds that according to independent sources in 2009 light weapons amounting to 79 million euro were delivered by Italy to the Libyan government and that these weapons have been daily used by the Libyan police and army to repress the peaceful demonstrations of the Libyan population; draws attention to the fact that Belgium, Bulgaria, Portugal, France, Germany and the UK also sold weapons to Libya, from small and light weapons to aircrafts, electronic jamming equipment and crowd control technologies;
11. Calls in this respect on the Council to verify whether there have been breaches in the EU

Code of Conduct on arms export and to adopt stringent measures so that this code is fully respected by all the Member States;

12. Welcomes the decision of the Council of 28 February 2011 to ban the supply to Libya of arms, ammunitions and related material;
13. Reiterates its criticism of the conduct of the negotiations with Libya on a framework agreement; notes the recent decision to suspend them;
14. Condemns the bilateral agreement between Italy and Libya on Friendship, Partnership and Cooperation; stresses that this agreement is in breach of international conventions with regard, in particular, to the respect for asylum seeking procedures and urges Italy to immediately suspend it;
15. Calls on the Member States to build in the EU a network of open reception centres for people currently fleeing from North Africa, also using the appropriate EU funds; those centres should offer at least primary humanitarian assistance, dignified living conditions and all appropriate social and legal advice to all people received, irrespective of their legal status;
16. Calls on the Members States to list their reception capacities in order to activate the Temporary Protection Directive 2001/55/CE and to share responsibility for the relocation of persons protected under this scheme to other EU Member States; reminds that the common policy on asylum and immigration shall be governed by the principle of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility, including its financial implications, between the Members States;
17. Insists that the EU cannot have a repressive answer to the humanitarian crisis and that Frontex is not the answer; reminds namely that Frontex operations carried out at sea and return operations must not result in persons being returned to Libya or other country where their life is at risk according to the principle of non-refoulement enshrined in the Article 19(2) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights; insists that international law must be strictly implemented in particular by the Frontex agency;
18. Recalls that in May 2010 the European Parliament approved by a large majority two reports on the establishment of a joint EU resettlement programme and on the proposed amendments to the European Refugee Fund for the period 2008 to 2013, which foresaw, in particular, the possibility for EU Member States to prepare for emergency procedures in case of humanitarian circumstances, procedures that could already have been implemented as regards to the humanitarian situation in Libya; urges the Council to complete without delay this co-decision procedures;
19. Takes the view that the Southern Neighbourhood policy has failed and insists on a profound policy change; 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; calls for the coherence of EU's policies vis-à-vis its Southern Mediterranean Neighbours, in order to

ensure that there is no contradiction with the EU human rights and democracy promotion objectives; insists on the strict implementation of the EU Code of Conduct on arms exports;

20. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Government of the Member States of the European Union, to the United Nations, to the League of Arab States, to the African Union and to the Governments of Libya's neighbouring countries.