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Plenary sitting

4.2.2014

B7-0139/2014

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 Ukraine
(2014/2547(RSP))

Guy Verhofstadt, Johannes Cornelis van Baalen, Graham Watson, Louis Michel, Leonidas Donskis, Marietje Schaake, Marielle de Sarnez, Ramon Tremosa i Balcells, Sarah Ludford, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Hannu Takkula, Alexander Graf Lambsdorff
on behalf of the ALDE Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Ukraine
(2014/2547(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Ukraine,
 - having regard to the statements by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton, of 23 and 27 January 2014,
 - having regard to the statement by the President of the Commission, José Manuel Barroso, of 22 January 2014,
 - having regard to the Foreign Affairs Council's conclusions on Ukraine of 20 January 2014,
 - having regard to the Verkhovna Rada's decision to repeal the repressive laws adopted on 16 January 2014, which severely restricted fundamental freedoms in Ukraine,
 - having regard to the adoption of the Amnesty Law by the Verkhovna Rada on 29 January 2014,
 - having regard to the statement by President Barroso following the EU-Russia Summit of 28 January 2014,
 - having regard to the resignation of Prime Minister Mykola Azarov,
 - having regard to the reports of the monitoring mission conducted by Pat Cox, former President of the European Parliament, and Aleksandr Kwaśniewski, former President of Poland, as initiated by President Martin Schulz and Prime Minister Mykola Azarov,
 - having regard to the Joint Declaration of the Vilnius Eastern Partnership Summit of 29 November 2013,
 - having regard to the deteriorating situation in Ukraine, which developed after the decision by the Ukrainian authorities not to sign the Association Agreement at the Vilnius Summit of 28 and 29 November 2013, resulting in the outbreak of massive popular demonstrations, loss of lives, and violent clashes between demonstrators and the police in Kyiv and other cities in Ukraine,
 - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the situation in Ukraine has gravely deteriorated and ongoing confrontations between demonstrators and the authorities have led to loss of life, reports of persons missing and scores of injuries;
- B. whereas the massive protests within the country against the authorities continue, with

- the support of the political opposition and civil society organisations alike;
- C. whereas the Ukrainian security forces have resorted to excessive use of force, intimidation and torture;
- D. whereas in the past few weeks demonstrators have responded to violence with violence and the occupation of public authority buildings;
- E. whereas the Verkhovna Rada has repealed the legislation of 16 January 2014, which undermined fundamental freedoms, in particular the right of assembly in Ukraine;
- F. whereas on 29 January 2014 the Verkhovna Rada adopted the Amnesty Law without the support of the opposition and without taking their views and concerns into consideration, an act which failed to de-escalate the tense political stand-off in the country or respond to the demands of the opposition and demonstrators;
- G. whereas the legitimacy of the public authorities can be renewed through free and fair elections;
1. Calls for the utmost restraint to be shown by the Ukrainian Government, security forces, opposition and Maidan protesters alike, in order to avoid further loss of life and injuries; denounces the use of force by both sides and calls for an immediate end to the violence;
 2. Welcomes the Verkhovna Rada's decision to repeal the controversial legislation that infringed the right of freedom of assembly; expresses its disappointment, however, at the conditionality contained in the Amnesty Law which was adopted on 29 January 2014; calls on the Verkhovna Rada to continue to work on a broader compromise;
 3. Urges the President and the government to engage seriously in an inclusive dialogue with the opposition, civil society and the Maidan protesters in order to de-escalate the tense and polarised situation and to find ways of overcoming the current political and societal crisis in Ukraine;
 4. Reminds the authorities of their obligation to respect and protect the demonstrators' right of assembly and protest, and condemns the brutal use of force, intimidation tactics and reported instances of torture and kidnapping carried out by the security forces in Ukraine; calls on the Ukrainian authorities to ensure that the reported acts of violence, torture and ill-treatment are fully investigated; expects all those responsible to be brought to justice;
 5. Calls also on the Maidan protesters to refrain from the use of force, not to occupy public buildings, and to maintain the legitimacy of their cause by remaining peaceful; stresses that further escalation could have dramatic and unpredictable consequences for the political and economic situation of the country;
 6. Calls for the continued engagement of EU officials to mediate and facilitate a process leading to a de-escalation and towards a more constructive political dialogue in the country; underlines the fact that such a dialogue should be transparent and fully involve civil society; calls for swift and substantial moves on visa facilitation measures with

Ukraine in order to further improve and strengthen people-to-people contacts with the country;

7. Notes that the financial support pledged by Russia has now been suspended following the resignation of former Prime Minister Azarov;
8. Notes the calls for new elections, constitutional changes and a return to the 2004 constitution, and expresses the hope that these issues will be addressed by the government and the opposition; points out that any new elections must be conducted freely and fairly in order to avoid any possible doubts on the outcome;
9. Expresses continued support for the European aspirations of the Ukrainian people; stresses that the EU remains committed to working with Ukraine to improve democratic institutions, strengthen the rule of law, ensure media freedom and advance essential economic reforms;
10. Reaffirms its ongoing commitment to Ukraine's political association and economic integration, based on respect for common values, and to signing the Association Agreement, with its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area; welcomes the decision to conduct expert-level meetings with Russia over trade-related concerns expressed by Moscow; welcomes and supports the ongoing work of the European Union and the United States to create a substantial support package for Ukraine, which is currently under way;
11. Recalls that sanctions such as visa bans and a freeze on assets held within the EU can be imposed on those responsible for gross violations of fundamental rights and calls on the EEAS to closely monitor events in Ukraine and to be ready to act swiftly if and when necessary;
12. Notes the wide range of contacts established by the Cox-Kwaśniewski monitoring mission, and invites its President to consult with the High Representative regarding the feasibility of extending its mandate, possibly as a joint mission of the European Parliament and the Council;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the EEAS, the Council, the Commission, the Member States, the President, Government and Parliament of Ukraine and the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe and the OSCE.