



Plenary sitting

3.6.2015

B8-0534/2015

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in Hungary
(2015/2700(RSP))

Monika Hohlmeier, Esteban González Pons, Milan Zver, Jeroen Lenaers
on behalf of the PPE Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Hungary
(2015/2700(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the EU Treaties and in particular to Articles 2, 3 and 6 of the Treaty on European Union and Article 2(2) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
 - having regard to the Commission communication of 19 March 2014 entitled ‘A new EU Framework to strengthen the Rule of Law’ (COM(2014)0158),
 - having regard to Protocol No 13 to the European Convention on Human Rights on abolition of the death penalty,
 - having regard to its debate of 19 May 2015 on the situation in Hungary,
 - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 28 April 2015 the Hungarian Prime Minister, Viktor Orbán, made a statement concerning the need for public debate on the death penalty, following the brutal stabbing to death of a woman clerk in a town in southern Hungary which shocked public opinion across the country;
- B. whereas on 30 April 2015 the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, issued a press release stating that Viktor Orbán had assured him that the Hungarian Government has no plans to take any steps to reintroduce the death penalty and will comply with and honour all European treaties and legislation;
- C. whereas the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union has been fully incorporated into the Hungarian constitution;
- D. whereas public consultation is an important and valuable tool for governments to develop policies that can count on the support of the population;
- E. whereas in May 2015 the Hungarian Government launched a public consultation on migration, having held a number of similar consultations in the past on other issues;
- F. whereas in 2014 Hungary had the second-highest intake of refugees in Europe after Sweden, and whereas the country is faced with unprecedented migration challenges, as the number of detections at the border between Hungary and Serbia in 2014 was almost three times that of the previous year, thus making the Western Balkans route the number three hot spot for illegal crossings in Europe, according to Frontex’s annual risk analysis for 2014;
- G. whereas the EU is facing a number of different challenges both internally and externally;

- H. whereas the Council, representing the 28 Member States, is one of the two co-legislators and is itself a European institution;
1. Reaffirms in the most adamant manner that the abolition of the death penalty constitutes a milestone in the development of fundamental rights in Europe, and reiterates in the most categorical fashion that capital punishment is contrary to the EU's fundamental values and to EU law and is therefore regarded as a closed issue within the EU;
 2. Welcomes the commitment made by Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán not to reintroduce capital punishment in Hungary, and underlines the responsibility of a prime minister as head of government to promote EU values and to lead by example;
 3. Believes that all Member States have to comply fully with EU law in their legislative and administrative practice, and that all legislation, including the primary law of any Member State or candidate county, has to reflect and be in accordance with basic European values, namely democratic principles, the rule of law and fundamental rights;
 4. Affirms Members States' sovereign right to launch national consultations and engage their citizens in a dialogue on issues which are of great importance and have a direct impact on them; recalls that consultations should reflect the readiness of governments to exercise responsible governance aimed at securing democratic political solutions and respect for fundamental European values;
 5. Believes, however, that the content and language of the particular consultation launched in Hungary, on immigration and terrorism, are highly misleading, biased and unbalanced; regrets the fact that it casts blame on the EU institutions and their policies, whereas the responsibility lies with the Member States, and recalls that the Member States are fully involved in the EU legislative process;
 6. Expects Member States to cooperate and stand together in times of crisis, and calls on the Commission, as guardian of the Treaties, to support Member States in developing solutions to tackle crises and strengthen the rule of law;
 7. Deplores the revival of extreme nationalism and of extreme parties of both left and right which make simplistic and irresponsible political claims and are out of touch with reality, while at the same time challenging the democratic spectrum of political parties; regrets, in this context, the fact that there are democratic parties using populist arguments to counter extreme parties; believes EU governments should take the initiative to dismantle extremist groups of left and right and refute their simplified claims, which call into question the European project and endanger our European values, which have been and will continue to be the basis for our peace and prosperity;
 8. Recalls that the EU is faced with complex international challenges that require strong cooperation across borders, a willingness to exercise realistic solidarity, and a readiness to take responsible action; believes that the EU can only influence strong actors in other parts of the world, with their different values and political systems, when it shows unity in the most important fields;
 9. Invites all Member States to participate in a constructive manner in the current discussion on the European Agenda on Migration, which affects equally internal,

external and development policies that have to be implemented in the EU and consequently impact on the African continent and the Middle East;

10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the President of the Republic of Hungary.