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*Plenary sitting*

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**B8-0347/2017**

15.5.2017

## **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 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on achieving the two-state solution in the Middle East  
(2016/2998(RSP))

**Charles Tannock, Bas Belder, Anna Elżbieta Fotyga, Geoffrey Van Orden, Anders Primdahl Vistisen, Arne Gericke, Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Ryszard Czarnecki, Tomasz Piotr Poręba, Zdzisław Krasnodębski, Ruža Tomašić, Raffaele Fitto, Karol Karski, Angel Dzhambazki, Jana Žitňanská**

on behalf of the ECR Group

**European Parliament resolution on achieving the two-state solution in the Middle East (2016/2998(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Middle East Peace Process,
  - having regard to the conclusions of the Foreign Affairs Council of 18 January and 20 June 2016 on the Middle East Peace Process,
  - having regard to the report of 1 July 2016 by the Middle East Quartet,
  - having regard to the statement of 23 September 2016 by the Middle East Quartet,
  - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Israel, the EU and the Quartet support a negotiated two-state outcome as the way to achieve an enduring peace that meets Israeli security needs and Palestinian aspirations;
- B. whereas 55 % of Israelis and only 44 % of Palestinians support the two-state solution, according to a joint Israeli-Palestinian poll of February 2017, funded by the EU;
1. Reiterates its continued support for a negotiated ‘two states for two peoples’ solution with the mutual recognition of Palestine and Israel as the homelands of their respective peoples; welcomes the Arab Peace Initiative with the subsequently endorsed land swaps as a basis for a lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict that aims at securing peace and security; supports the return without delay of direct bilateral peace negotiations;
  2. Calls on both sides to work to de-escalate tensions by exercising restraint and refraining from provocative actions and rhetoric; stresses that the illicit arms build-up and militant activity, the continued absence of Palestinian unity, the failure to recognise the right of Israel to exist, unilateral actions and the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza feed instability and ultimately impede efforts to achieve a negotiated solution;
  3. Strongly supports regional cooperation between Israel and its neighbours; reiterates its support for the important role of the Quartet and of regional partners such as Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia in seeking the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict; calls on all parties to support dialogue and practical collaboration, particularly on security, access to water, sanitation and energy resources and on boosting the Palestinian economy; commends, in this context, the Red Sea - Dead Sea Project;
  4. Strongly condemns continued Palestinian violence, terrorist attacks and incitement to violence, and stresses that they are fundamentally incompatible with a peaceful resolution to the conflict; stresses the responsibility of the relevant EU authorities in continuing to ensure that no EU funding can be directly or indirectly diverted to terrorist organisations or activities that incite violence or justify or glorify terrorism;

5. Strongly condemns rocket fire by terrorist groups into Israeli territory and underlines the danger of escalation; stresses the imperative need for the EU to work in partnership with Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt, Jordan and the United States towards preventing the rearming of terrorist groups in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, as well as their smuggling of weapons, manufacturing of rockets and building of tunnels; stresses once more the overwhelming need for all terrorist groups in Gaza to disarm, in line with the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of July 2014;
6. Expresses deep concern about the situation in Gaza, in particular with regard to the current energy crisis, the social, economic and political consequences of which should not be underestimated; condemns the unacceptable activities on the part of the de facto authorities in Gaza and, in this context, reiterates the need for the Palestinian Authority to take charge of the Gaza Strip;
7. Notes with concern the precarious water situation in Gaza and urges all relevant parties to address the outstanding questions regarding energy supplies for desalination and water treatment in Gaza; notes support, in this context, for a desalination plant in Gaza with international funding; reiterates the strong need for EU funding to be allocated to specific, well-defined projects in Gaza, solely in line with the trilateral mechanism for financial support, and the need to ensure that it reaches the civilians intended;
8. Welcomes and supports the constructive discussions between Israel and the Palestinian Authority on financial sector stability, especially the recent decision by the Israeli government to help maintain banking relations, as well as the continued progress towards bringing the Palestinian Anti-Money Laundering / Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) regime into line with international standards, with support from international partners;
9. Notes that conflicts in the Middle East pose serious threats to the region and the EU; condemns the serious threats posed by jihadi and other terrorist organisations to the citizens of the Middle East and Europe; believes that conflict and instability on Israel's borders negatively affect the prospects of a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the governments and parliaments of the members of the UN Security Council, the Middle East Quartet Envoy, the Knesset and the Government of Israel, the President of the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Legislative Council, the Parliament and Government of Egypt, the Parliament and Government of Jordan, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the member states of the Arab League.