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 rise in neo-fascist violence in Europe
(2018/2869(RSP))

Kristina Winberg
on behalf of the ECR Group
European Parliament resolution on the rise in neo-fascist violence in Europe (2018/2869(RSP))

The European Parliament,

– having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
– having regard to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,
– having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
– having regard to Articles 2, 3, 6 and 7 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU),
– having regard to Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law1,
– having regard to its resolution of 22 October 2013 on local authorities and civil society: Europe’s engagement in support of sustainable development3,
– having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas as enshrined in Article 2 TEU, the Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities; whereas these values are common to the Member States;

B. whereas while there is no legally adopted definition of neo-fascism, it commonly refers to extreme right-wing views that include extreme nationalism, racist views and views similar to those espoused by the National Fascist Party of Italy between the 1920s and 1940s;

C. whereas as Europol’s European Union terrorism situation and trend report (TESAT) of 2018 notes, the majority of terrorist attacks carried out in the EU in 2017 were specifically classified as separatist attacks (137 out of 205); whereas, however, TESAT also notes that there are currently no such EU-wide terrorist networks and clearly states that there have been no reported activities in any terrorist category as lethal and as impactful on society as a whole as those committed by jihadist terrorists; whereas the

3 OJ C 208, 10.6.2016, p. 25.
Commissioner responsible for security, Sir Julian King, has highlighted the growing menace of right-wing violent extremism, stating that he was not aware of a single EU Member State that is not affected by the phenomenon in some way, citing the specific case of the Breivik massacre in Norway;

D. whereas neo-fascist and neo-Nazi organisations manifest themselves in a variety of forms; whereas most neo-fascist and neo-Nazi organisations appeal to the principle of freedom of speech; whereas the right to freedom of speech is not absolute;

E. whereas on 16 June 2016 Jo Cox, Member of the UK Parliament, was brutally murdered in Birstall, UK;

F. whereas on 21 September 2018 Eleonora Forenza, MEP, was assaulted, and her assistant Antonio Perillo suffered injury, following an anti-fascist demonstration in Bari, Italy;

1. Strongly condemns and deplores all terrorist attacks, threats, murders, and violent physical attacks carried out by any organisation or individuals in any Member State; regrets the fact that violence and extremism are present across the political spectrum;

2. Is deeply concerned by current manifestations of fascism, racism and xenophobia in the European Union;

3. Is especially worried about any kind of violence targeting particular national and ethnic minorities;

4. Acknowledges the worrying trend of neo-fascist and neo-Nazi groups using social media and the internet to organise and strategise across the European Union;

5. Strongly condemns all violence, including the attack on Eleonora Forenza MEP, her assistant Antonio Perillo and others who took part in an anti-fascist demonstration in Bari, Italy on 21 September 2018;

6. Calls on the Member States to clearly sanction hate crime, particularly the illegal incitement to violence, as set out in Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA;

7. Calls on the Member States to envisage and provide for adequate support for the victims of racist or xenophobic crimes and hate crimes, and the protection of all witnesses;

8. Commends community groups and civil society organisations that fight fascism, racism and xenophobia;

9. Urges the Member States to safeguard their compliance with the provisions of the Council Framework Decision, and to counter organisations spreading violence in public spaces and inciting it online, by imposing the penalties established by the Decision;

10. Calls for full and timely engagement with community groups and civil society organisations in order to fight fascism, racism and xenophobia;

11. Encourages Member States to verify whether pilot projects to reintegrate members of violent groups, so called ‘exit programmes’, are successful or not; emphasises that such
programmes should be benchmarked and, where proven successful, adequately promoted and funded;

12. Emphasises that an awareness of history is one of the preconditions for preventing such crimes in the future, and plays an important role in educating the younger generations; points out that downplaying Nazi or Communist crimes is the first step towards reawakening ideas from that era;

13. Cautions against equating patriotism with extreme nationalism; one conveying pride in a nation, the other hatred against all others;

14. Calls for a common culture of remembrance that rejects the fascist crimes of the past; is concerned that young Europeans who are unaware of the history of fascism risk becoming indifferent to new threats;

15. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Council.