European Parliament

2019-2024



Plenary sitting

B9-0392/2022

12.9.2022

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 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in the Strait of Taiwan (2022/2822(RSP))

Emmanuel Maurel on behalf of The Left Group

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B9-0392/2022

European Parliament resolution on the situation in the Strait of Taiwan (2022/2822(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Charter of the United Nations, which prohibits the threat and use of force in international relations,
- having regard to UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 of 25 October 1971, which recognised the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) as 'the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations',
- having regard to the EU's 'One China' policy,
- having regard to the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement of 3 August 2022 on the Cross Strait Development,
- having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas US Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's recent visit to Taiwan caused an unnecessary increase in tensions in and around the Taiwan Strait; whereas since US President Joe Biden took office, more than 40 US lawmakers have visited the island, including 28 during the first nine months of 2022;
- B. whereas after the visit of the Speaker of the US House of Representatives to Taipei, China conducted massive military exercises in the Taiwan Strait intended to demonstrate its ability to strike anywhere in Taiwan; whereas during the exercise, ballistic missiles also landed in Japan's exclusive economic zone, heightening tensions between China and Japan;
- C. whereas in recent years, the dynamics in the Indo-Pacific region have given rise to intense geopolitical competition, mirrored in an increase in military spending and more aggressive rhetoric;
- D. whereas on 17 June 2022, US Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Menendez and Senator Lindsey Graham introduced the Taiwan Policy Act, at this stage not yet approved by the White House, which would authorise USD 4.5 billion in military aid to Taiwan;
- E. whereas the United States has reinforced its military presence in the region; whereas the US and its allies in the region conducted a 12-day command and control exercise in the Southern Pacific in August 2022; whereas France and Germany have sent naval forces into the South China Sea;
- F. whereas the Taiwan Strait, the waterway between Taiwan and China, is one of the busiest global shipping lanes; whereas the Taiwan Strait is the primary route for ships carrying goods to European markets from all over Japan, South Korea, China and Taiwan; whereas China is the EU's second biggest source of imports and its largest



- export market; whereas Taiwan plays a critical role in the global technology supply chain, and Europe's technology sector is heavily reliant on its semiconductor production and computer chip assembly;
- 1. Expresses its utmost concern at the international and regional volatility affecting the Taiwan Strait, which could destabilise the region and eventually lead to miscalculation, serious confrontation, open conflicts and unpredictable consequences involving major international actors:
- 2. Calls for maximum restraint, for all parties to refrain from provocative action and for the principles enshrined in UN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia to be upheld;
- 3. Welcomes ASEAN's expressed readiness to play a constructive role in facilitating peaceful dialogue between all parties, including through utilising ASEAN-led mechanisms to deescalate tension and to safeguard peace, security and development in the region;
- 4. Reiterates its commitment to the 'One China' policy; strongly condemns the threat of the use of force by China against Taiwan; notes with concern that in its recently published 'White Paper The One-China Principle and the Taiwan Issue', the Chinese Government stated that 'China will do its best to achieve peaceful reunification, but will not commit itself to ruling out the use of force';
- 5. Regrets US Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's recent visit to Taiwan, despite warnings from the US military not to go, which caused an unnecessary increase in tensions in and around the Taiwan Strait; notes that over recent years, a series of actions or speeches have been made by officials both in the US and in the EU and some of its Member States calling the traditional 'One China' policy into question;
- 6. Rejects any attempts to undermine the current status quo in the region; reminds China and the United States that as permanent Members of the UN Security Council, they have a distinct responsibility to abide by the obligation to peacefully resolve any conflict;
- 7. Acknowledges that Taiwan cooperates on transnational issues internationally, including in the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- 8. Recalls that maintaining peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific is a core interest not only of the EU and its Member States but of all countries in the region, particularly in terms of being able to cooperate in the region to meet global challenges such as climate change and social and environmental sustainable development, including the realisation of the UN 2030 Agenda's 17 sustainable development goals; stresses that a military conflict in the Taiwan Strait would create major economic disruptions and call into question the EU's ability to achieve its goal of open strategic autonomy;
- 9. Is deeply concerned about the growing military presence in the region, which increases the danger of a military escalation;

- 10. Underlines the critical importance of China and all other actors in the region respecting the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and reiterates the importance of respecting international law, in particular UNCLOS with its provisions on the obligation to settle disputes by peaceful means and on maintaining freedom of navigation and overflight in the Strait of Taiwan; calls for the EU to make a concerted effort to press all its allies, in particular the United States, to ratify UNCLOS;
- 11. Recalls that the added value of EU engagement in the Indo-Pacific lies in its comprehensive range of civilian and well-developed non-military contributions; calls for the EU and its Member States to use their vast network of diplomatic assets to facilitate dialogue on conflict resolution and legal solutions, and to build expertise in setting up confidence-building measures;
- 12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, and the Government and Parliament of China and Taiwan.

