



Plenary sitting

B9-0537/2022

22.11.2022

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation of human rights in the context of the FIFA World Cup in Qatar
(2022/2948(RSP))

Manon Aubry
on behalf of The Left Group

European Parliament resolution on the situation of human rights in the context of the FIFA World Cup in Qatar (2022/2948(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Qatar,
 - having regard to the Charter of the United Nations,
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,
 - having regard to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,
 - having regard to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,
 - having regard to the UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees,
 - having regard to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,
 - having regard to the International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions, in particular Nos 29 on Forced Labour, 105 on Abolition of Forced Labour, 111 on Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) and 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour,
 - having regard to ILO Conventions Nos 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise and 98 on the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining,
 - having regard to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights of 2011,
 - having regard to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises,
 - having regard to UN Human Rights Council Resolution 17/4 of 16 June 2011 on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas since 2010, when FIFA awarded the 2022 World Cup to Qatar without any labour rights conditions attached, millions of workers from South Asian, South-East Asian and African countries have worked in Qatar to build and service the World Cup infrastructure; whereas for the past 12 years, migrant workers and their families have denounced abuses, including wage theft, injuries, rape and sexual violence, confiscation of passports and un-investigated and uncompensated deaths;
- B. whereas the World Cup in Qatar is a disaster for labour and social rights, with gigantic

construction sites for seven stadiums and the renovation of an eighth, not to mention the infrastructure; whereas this effort has been carried out on the backs of foreign workers, in particular Indians, Bangladeshis, Nepalese, Pakistanis and Sri Lankans; whereas these workers do not benefit from the most basic labour rights and are poorly paid and overexploited; whereas many have been deprived of their wages, in particular in recent months, and were expelled before the competition began; whereas FIFA is expecting a revenue of USD 6.4 billion from the World Cup in Qatar; whereas Qatar has spent approximately EUR 187 billion euros on the organisation of the event; whereas thousands of people have been injured and at least 6 500 migrant workers have died in Qatar since 2011; whereas Qatar only recognises the deaths of 37 workers on World Cup construction sites, while investigations show that poor working and living conditions have in all likelihood caused the deaths of thousands of migrant workers;

- C. whereas at least 11 European companies have been operating at construction sites related to the FIFA World Cup; whereas European banks, pension funds and insurers have provided almost half (47 %) of the financing for construction and hospitality companies in Qatar; whereas systemic human rights violations have been documented in these two sectors and hence there is a high likelihood that European companies have caused, contributed or been directly linked to or profited from those violations;
- D. whereas an indictment for ‘reduction to servitude’ and ‘working or living conditions incompatible with human dignity’ was issued on 9 November 2022 by the investigating judge of the Nanterre court against the Qatari subsidiary of VINCI Construction Grands Projets, following 3 years of investigation, after a complaint by France’s National Federation of Employees in Construction, Wood and Furniture (FNSCBA) and the non-governmental organisation Sherpa;
- E. whereas this World Cup is also an environmental disaster, with several air-conditioned stadiums built in a desert country and an airlift of nearly 160 daily flights to transport supporters from neighbouring countries for lack of sufficient housing in Qatar; whereas Qatar has the highest carbon footprint per capita in the world; whereas FIFA estimates the carbon footprint of the event at 3.6 million tonnes of CO₂; whereas the Qatari Government is pretending that the event will be carbon-neutral and is resorting to debatable highly criticised carbon offset programmes; whereas experts consider that the carbon footprint has been widely underestimated and could be several times higher than FIFA acknowledges;
- F. whereas the human rights of women and girls are systematically violated in Qatar, with restrictions that are contrary to Qatar’s constitution and international law; whereas women need permission from their male guardians to exercise many of their basic rights and to make key life decisions such as whether to marry, study abroad on government scholarships, work in many government jobs, travel abroad until certain ages and receive some forms of reproductive healthcare, including abortion; whereas female children inherit half of what their male siblings do;
- G. whereas rape victims who come forward may face accusations of extramarital sex, which is a criminal offense in Qatar; whereas married women can be deemed ‘disobedient’ if they refuse to have sex with their husbands without a ‘legitimate’ reason; whereas women in Qatar are also denied the authority to act as their children’s

primary guardians, leaving them with no authority to make decisions relating to their children's lives, including as regards medical treatments, even when they are divorced and have legal custody; whereas this discriminatory system makes it difficult for women to divorce, and often leaves women with no alternative but to stay in abusive relationships; whereas this system hinders women's ability to lead independent lives and affects their mental health, contributing to self-harm, depression, stress and suicidal thoughts;

- H. whereas Qatari laws discriminate against LGBTIQ people; whereas Qatar's penal code punishes consensual sexual relations between men above the age of 16 with up to 7 years in prison (Article 285); whereas it also lays out penalties of between 1 and 3 years (Article 296) for any male who 'instigates' or 'entices' another male to 'commit an act of sodomy or immorality'; whereas a penalty of up to 10 years (Article 288) is imposed on anyone who engages in consensual sexual relations outside marriage, which could apply to consensual same-sex relations between women or men, or to heterosexual partners; whereas Khalid Salman, a 2022 FIFA Qatar World Cup Ambassador, has described homosexuality as 'damage in the mind'; whereas arbitrary arrests of LGBTIQ people have reportedly been based on Qatari Law No 17 of 2002 on Protection of Community, which allows for provisional detention without charge or trial; whereas Qatari police forces routinely carry out arbitrary arrests and detentions of LGBTIQ people, and subject them to acts of torture, ill-treatment and violence; whereas the media have recently reported that Qatari police forces torture LGBTIQ people and force them under threat to track down and report other LGBTIQ people;
- I. whereas laws in Qatar restrict press freedom; whereas Qatar's penal code criminalises criticisms of the emir, insults to Qatar's flag, defamation of religion, including blasphemy, and incitements 'to overthrow the regime'; whereas Qatar's 2014 cybercrimes law provides for up to 3 years in prison and a fine of QAR 500 000 (USD 137 000) for anyone convicted of spreading undefined 'false news' on the internet or for posting online content that 'violates social values or principles' or 'insults or slanders others'; whereas arbitrary arrests of human rights defenders and political critics are frequent in the country, including against people criticising the conditions underpinning the organisation of the FIFA World Cup;
- J. whereas FIFA deliberately entrusted the management of this event to the Emirate, which had the worst bidding file and which used lobbying and financial haggling methods to buy votes; whereas since 2016, the judiciary authorities have been issuing alerts on the corruption linked to the awarding of the World Cup to Qatar, in particular to find out if France has monetised its support in exchange for 'counterparts', including the sale of Rafale planes; whereas France has facilitated Qatari soft power in the West, in particular by allowing the purchase of Paris Saint-Germain Football Club by the Qatar Investment Authority in 2011 and by deciding to send 220 police officers to 'help' Qatar in the organisation of the event;
- K. whereas high ranking European political figures, including state ministers, have attended or have announced that they will attend the FIFA World Cup in Qatar, without expressing concern for the human rights track record of the country;
- 1. Re-emphasises its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948

and recalls that according to its first article, ‘All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights’;

2. Strongly condemns the extreme violation of migrant workers’ rights in Qatar, including forced labour practices, such as restrictions on the freedom of movement, restrictions on access to justices, recruitment fees, late and non-payment of wages, restrictions on freedom of association and a failure to enforce acceptable occupational safety and health standards; calls on the Qatari authorities to take all necessary measures to ensure that migrant workers have the right to decent working conditions and that at the very least their lives are no longer endangered; strongly condemns the Kafala sponsorship system, which in practice is still in place despite having officially been repealed; urges the Qatari authorities to ratify and implement all ILO Conventions, as well as the recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur of 10 November 2013, and to allow for the organisation of trade unions and ensure that at the very least, the core ILO Conventions are applied and respected;
3. Strongly condemns the Qatari authorities for having failed to investigate the deaths of thousands of migrant workers, many of which had been arbitrarily attributed to so-called natural causes; calls for the opening of an international investigation under the direction of the UN and the ILO into situations in which migrant workers were subjected to forced labour in order to establish the extent to which each party was responsible and to take the necessary measures to eradicate forced labour in the country;
4. Demands that Qatari authorities build on their reforms to ensure that all workers are compensated for abuses in the past 12 years; calls on FIFA and Qatar to set up, in particular, a comprehensive remediation programme, with a funding allocation at least equivalent to the EUR 420 million World Cup prize money; supports the ‘Pay up FIFA’ campaign and demands that FIFA, considering its expected revenue of USD 6.4 billion from the event, pay the sum of EUR 420 million to workers’ families and workers, as compensation for the working conditions under which they suffered;
5. Strongly condemns FIFA for its significant responsibility for the 6 500 deaths of the aforementioned workers – deaths that were entirely preventable – and for granting Qatar the right to host the World Cup while completely disregarding the serious violations of human rights that take place in the country; encourages all football fans to boycott the World Cup, because no sport or leisure activity should be enjoyed when played upon a graveyard, and commends their commitment to human rights;
6. Strongly condemns FIFA, Qatar and companies participating in the organisation of the World Cup for the tremendous environmental and climate footprint of the event; stresses that FIFA’s carbon footprint projection of 3.6 million tonnes of CO₂ and Qatar’s carbon neutrality pledge are severe underestimates, according to experts; stresses that ‘carbon offsetting’ programmes do not appropriately compensate for the environmental and climate impact generated;
7. Strongly condemns FIFA for silencing, by means of sanctions and threats, the football teams and players who wanted to speak out against the oppression of LGBTIQ people by wearing ‘One Love’ armbands; condemns in general FIFA’s silencing of the voices of players and teams who want to speak out for fundamental rights, and considers that

enforcing silence on players is a regrettable political choice;

8. Strongly condemns all guardianship rules and every other restriction on the human rights of women and girls; calls on the Qatari authorities to remove all discriminatory rules against women and girls and to pass anti-discrimination legislation to guarantee their human rights, including the criminalisation of female genital mutilation, domestic violence and marital rape; calls on the Qatari authorities to ensure an enabling environment, in law and in practice, for women to protest and demand their rights;
9. Calls on the Qatari authorities to end arrests and prosecutions for adult consensual sexual relations, including same-sex relations or relations based on gender expression, and to immediately release LGBTIQ people who remain arbitrarily detained, often in inhuman conditions;
10. Condemns the routine arbitrary arrests and ill-treatment to which LGBTIQ persons are subjected in Qatar, as a result of government-sponsored discrimination; condemns in the strongest terms the reported cases of sexual assault while in detention; urges Qatar to respect the human rights of all its residents and World Cup spectators, regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity, and to ensure that no person is subjected to arbitrary detention or ill-treatment during or after the World Cup;
11. Recalls its commitment to the universal abolition of the death penalty and calls on the Qatari authorities to adopt a moratorium on this issue;
12. Urges the Qatari authorities to take concrete steps to guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and to amend or repeal abusive legislation;
13. Strongly condemns the complicity of European companies in human and workers' rights violations that they have participated in and benefited from; reaffirms that European companies must respect human rights and the environment within their own operations, the operations of their subsidiaries and their value chains; supports the campaign by France's General Confederation of Labour (CGT) and the Sherpa association, which has brought to light the slavery-like conditions on building sites; welcomes the indictment by the Nanterre court against the Qatari subsidiary of VINCI Construction Grands Projets; calls on the Member States to protect human rights and the environment from corporate abuse and to hold undertakings operating under their jurisdiction accountable for any human rights violations and environmental damage that they cause, contribute to or are directly linked to in their operations and throughout their value chain; calls for the EU and the Member States to immediately take appropriate measures to hold European companies accountable when they participate in or benefit from human rights violations throughout their operations or their value chain, or when they do not adequately compensate the victims of human rights violations for which they are directly or indirectly responsible;
14. Calls for the EU to swiftly adopt the Commission's ambitious proposal for a directive on corporate sustainability due diligence¹ to prevent such abuses in the future and make undertakings accountable for potential human rights abuses; calls for the EU to define

¹ COM(2022)0071.

financial and insurance activities as a high risk sector under the corporate sustainability due diligence directive in accordance with OECD standards and to remove any exemptions of obligations or liability in the sector's favour; notes with deep concern that, as a non-governmental international association, FIFA is not covered by the proposed scope of the corporate sustainability due diligence directive and calls for the EU to close loopholes in the proposal by referring to 'undertakings' in order to cover all legal forms of private entities; calls for the future directive to include civil liability clauses allowing victims to access justice, including by reversing the burden of proof and recognising a right to access information held by the defendant;

15. Calls on high ranking public officials of the EU and the Member States to enforce a diplomatic boycott regarding the FIFA World Cup in Qatar and to further condemn the human rights violations occurring in the country;
16. Encourages professional football players to take a stand on the unacceptable conditions under which this World Cup is being held and to take advantage of every opportunity (including press conferences, matches or goals) to send a strong message on the respect of human rights;
17. Calls for human rights and environmental criteria to be developed that countries hosting future sport events must commit to meeting as part of the host agreement; calls on all countries to reach an international agreement establishing the human rights and environmental conditions necessary for countries to be awarded the organisation of international sport events, and calls for the EU to take leadership in this regard; condemns all forms of corruption as regards the awarding and organisation of international sporting events, including the FIFA World Cup, in particular any corruption involving politicians from the EU Member States; supports ongoing judicial investigations in France, involving former President Sarkozy, Michel Platini and several high ranking public officers, to determine their responsibilities and hold them accountable;
18. Welcomes the more proactive engagement of the EU in the ongoing negotiations on an international binding treaty on business and human rights and asserts that the EU and its Member States should further engage and commit to the adoption of an ambitious treaty;
19. 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 parliaments and governments of the Member States, the Government and Parliament of the State of Qatar, the Secretary-General of FIFA and the Secretary-General and relevant bodies of the United Nations.