



Plenary sitting

B9-0543/2022

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))

Michael Gahler, Tomasz Frankowski
on behalf of the PPE 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 the Council conclusions of 20 June 2022 on a strategic partnership with the Gulf region,
 - having regard the joint communication from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 18 May 2022 on a strategic partnership with the Gulf (JOIN(2022)0013),
 - having regard to the Establishment Agreement signed on 21 February 2022 for the opening of the EU Delegation in Doha,
 - having regard to the Cooperation Arrangement signed in March 2018 by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
 - having regard to the Cooperation Agreement concluded between the EU and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in 1988¹,
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Qatar ratified on 21 May 2018,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the EU-Qatar Cooperation Arrangement signed in 2018 provides a framework for political and sectoral consultations on areas of mutual interest; whereas engagement between the EU and Qatar has intensified significantly, leading to the opening of an EU Delegation in Doha in 2022;
- B. whereas the Council conclusions and the joint communication offer an operational roadmap towards a strategic partnership in a wide range of key policy fields, such as: climate action; the green transition; energy security; global humanitarian and development needs; and regional security challenges;
- C. whereas Qatar is an important partner of the EU; whereas EU-Qatar relations span a multitude of important areas, including the energy sector and trade; whereas Qatar was a co-sponsor of a UN General Assembly resolution in February 2022 calling for Russia to withdraw from Ukraine, and voted in favour of resolutions condemning the Russian

¹ Cooperation Agreement between the European Economic Community, of the one part, and the countries parties to the Charter of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (the State of the United Arab Emirates, the State of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar and the State of Kuwait) of the other part, OJ L 54, 25.2.1989, p.3.

invasion of Ukraine;

- D. whereas the fourth EU-Qatar Human Rights Dialogue was held on 12 September 2022; whereas the Human Rights Dialogue represents a crucial moment of engagement to advance human rights;
 - E. whereas Qatar National Vision 2030, launched in October 2008, aims to diversify its economy, shifting away from dependency on oil and gas revenues, and focusing on developing other sectors and a robust private sector that can generate jobs, growth and foreign investments, and on addressing job market distortions by generating employment for its own nationals;
 - F. whereas according to Qatar's Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs, there are more than 1.9 million migrant workers in Qatar; whereas Qatar has introduced significant labour reforms, allowing migrant workers to change jobs without requiring their employer's permission and setting a higher and non-discriminatory minimum wage; whereas Qatar introduced a wage protection system to ensure that employers are complying with the reforms; whereas 420 000 migrant workers have changed their employer;
 - G. whereas in 2021, diplomatic relations were restored between Qatar and Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt;
 - H. whereas Qatar is the first country in the region that is hosting the FIFA World Cup;
1. Stresses that the EU is committed to supporting human rights in its relations with Qatar, including issues raised in the context of the FIFA World Cup;
 2. Welcomes the cooperation and dialogue between the EU and Qatar, as well as with other Gulf states, which is essential to achieve key objectives of the EU, notably: peaceful and prosperous Gulf and Middle East regions; a strong economic recovery; sustainable, affordable and secure energy supplies; strong collaboration on the green transition; and a strong response to global humanitarian and development needs;
 3. Acknowledges the important contribution of migrant workers to Qatar's economy and the FIFA World Cup 2022; supports Qatar's efforts to improve their working conditions and rights, which the international community has raised; calls for the full implementation of the reforms that have been adopted; welcomes the cooperation of Qatar with the International Labour Organization (ILO); calls on Qatar to continue to engage with the ILO on reforms; underlines the corporate responsibility, including of European companies, to respect workers' rights;
 4. Notes that Qatar is one of the world's biggest suppliers of liquefied natural gas; underlines the importance of the Qatari energy sector; stresses that Qatar is a significant alternative source to Russian oil and gas;
 5. Stresses the importance of strengthening relations between the EU and Qatar in order to foster mutually beneficial development and growth, as with the Gulf Cooperation Council as a whole, which is the EU's fifth largest export market; welcomes, in this regard, the normalisation of relations between Qatar and its neighbours;

6. Welcomes the EU's continued engagement on human rights with Qatar, including through the EU-Qatar Human Rights Dialogue, which should be intensified; underlines that migrant workers' rights, labour reforms, women's rights and freedom of expression are recurrent topics;
7. Underlines that there is a mutual interest to strengthen the institutional set-up for cooperation between the EU and Qatar; stresses that the Qatari National Human Rights Committee has established regular interaction with EU institutions and Qatar invited the EU Special Representative for Human Rights to visit the country;
8. Calls on the EU and Qatar to intensify the dialogue on energy, trade, investment, science and technology;
9. Welcomes the pivotal role that Qatar played in the aftermath of the 2021 crisis in Afghanistan, in facilitating the evacuation of people, including EU citizens;
10. Stresses that the FIFA World Cup is bringing people and cultures together; welcomes the World Cup Qatar 2022 Heritage Fund; notes that Qatar has committed to hosting the first carbon-neutral FIFA World Cup;
11. Welcomes the introduction of human rights requirements by FIFA in all of its bidding and hosting processes since 2017, developed with technical guidance from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and in consultation with human rights NGOs, trade unions and other stakeholders;
12. 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 governments and parliaments of the Member States, and the Government and Parliament of Qatar.