



Plenary sitting

B9-0555/2022

9.12.2022

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 prospects for the two-state solution for Israel and Palestine
(2022/2949(RSP))

Hilde Vautmans, Petras Auštrevičius, José Ramón Bauzá Díaz, Nicola Beer, Sylvie Brunet, Ilana Cicurel, Dacian Cioloș, Bernard Guetta, Nathalie Loiseau, Frédérique Ries, Ramona Strugariu, Dragoș Tudorache
on behalf of the Renew Group

**European Parliament resolution on the prospects for the two-state solution for Israel and Palestine
(2022/2949(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Middle East peace process,
 - having regard to the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, including Resolution 2334 (2016),
 - having regard to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part¹,
 - having regard to the statement of the EU concerning the 12th meeting of the EU-Israel Association Council of 3 October 2022,
 - having regard to the joint communication from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 1 December 2021 entitled ‘The Global Gateway’ (JOIN(2021)0030),
 - having regard to the joint communication from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 9 February 2021 entitled ‘Renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood – A new Agenda for the Mediterranean’ (JOIN(2021)0002),
 - having regard to the Commission joint staff working document of 9 February 2021 entitled ‘Renewed Partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood – Economic and Investment Plan for the Southern Neighbours’ (SWD(2021)0023),
 - having regard to the Abraham Accords,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the two-state solution would entail the State of Israel, with secure and recognised borders, and an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace and security, with Jerusalem as the capital of both states;
- B. whereas Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid, in a speech to the UN, spoke in favour of the establishment of an independent State of Palestine, on the condition that such a state must refrain from hate and violence; whereas Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has repeatedly spoken in favour of the two-state solution;
- C. whereas international humanitarian law and international human rights law are a

¹ OJ L 147, 21.6.2000, p. 3.

cornerstone of peace and security;

- D. whereas the UN Security Council has adopted multiple resolutions on the issue, including Resolution 2334 (2016); whereas the EU-27 made reference to these resolutions and the need for them to be respected in its statement following the latest meeting of the EU-Israel Association Council;
- E. whereas Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories began in 1967 and continues to this day;
- F. whereas the expansion of Israeli settlements, demolitions of houses owned by Palestinians and forced evictions of Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, are illegal under international law;
- G. whereas Israelis and Palestinians alike have the right to live in security; whereas this includes the right to protect their borders and defend their legitimate security interests;
- H. whereas Hamas and other terrorist organisations continue to launch terror attacks against Israel from Gaza, including rocket attacks, infiltrations into Israel and the building of tunnels; whereas their ideology is guided by the aim of destroying the State of Israel;
- I. whereas there have been instances of the Palestinian Authority glorifying Palestinian terrorists as martyrs; whereas Hamas persistently uses civilians to shield its terrorist activities;
- J. whereas intra-Palestinian reconciliation is an important element for reaching the two-state solution;
- K. whereas, according to the 17th edition of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights' report on the state of data collection on antisemitism in the EU, periods of heightened tension in Israel and Palestine are followed by an increase in the number of antisemitic incidents in some countries;
- L. whereas the EU is based on European reconciliation; whereas the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance has developed a working definition of antisemitism;
- M. whereas the Foreign Affairs Council decided to relaunch the EU-Israel Association Council;
- N. whereas the EU has significant expertise in water diplomacy;
- O. whereas the Global Gateway strategy was launched on 1 December 2021; whereas, on 9 February 2021, the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy relaunched and strengthened the strategic partnership between the EU and its Southern Neighbourhood partners by way of a new agenda for the Mediterranean, which included a dedicated economic and investment plan for the Southern Neighbours;
- P. whereas Europe's geographical proximity to, and historical ties and intensive economic

exchanges with, the Middle East region mean that the EU and its Member States are uniquely placed to play an active and effective political role in the peace process between Israelis and Palestinians, and between Arab states and Israel in general;

- Q. whereas the Abraham Accords have helped to improve cooperation between the signatory states in the political, social and economic spheres;
- R. whereas, on 11 October 2022, Israel and Lebanon reached an agreement on the shared use of natural resources on their maritime borders, despite the two countries still being at war;

General principles

1. Reiterates its support for the two-state solution and stresses that the EU will not recognise any changes to the 1967 boundaries other than those agreed by the parties, including with regard to Jerusalem as the capital of both states;
2. Welcomes Prime Minister Lapid's speech to the UN, in which he spoke in favour of the establishment of an independent State of Palestine; welcomes also President Abbas's repeated speeches in favour of the two-state solution; insists that these words must be followed by concrete action, including an end to unilateral steps undermining the two-state solution on the ground and a resumption of genuine peace talks;
3. Is concerned, however, that various statements issued by members of the new majority in the Knesset endanger the peace process; is deeply concerned, in particular, by the fact that, during the talks to form a government, incoming Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reached an agreement with the right-wing leader Itamar Ben Gvir regarding the retrospective legalisation of outposts in the occupied territories within 60 days of coming to power; asks the next Israeli Government to make a clear commitment in favour of the two-state solution;
4. Recalls that compliance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law by states and non-state actors, including accountability for their actions, is a cornerstone of peace and security;
5. Considers that education programmes on both sides should promote reconciliation and peace and be in line with UN values and UNESCO standards;
6. Reaffirms its commitment to the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, including, most recently, Resolution 2334 (2016), and stresses the need for them to be respected, as reiterated by the EU-27 in its statement following the latest meeting of the EU-Israel Association Council;

The obstacles to the two-state solution

7. Expresses its grave concern about the prolonged occupation of the Palestinian territories; recalls that the expansion of Israeli settlements, demolitions and evictions in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, are illegal under international law and threaten to make the two-state solution impossible, as detailed in the Council conclusions in this regard;

8. Asks Israel to fully comply with its responsibilities and obligations as an occupying power under international law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Hague Regulations; calls on the Israeli authorities to immediately end the blockade in Gaza;
9. Condemns the repeated violence against civilians and violations of international humanitarian law on both sides; acknowledges that Israel has the right to protect its borders and defend its legitimate security interests, but underlines that it must respect the principle of proportionality in the use of force, as well as the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association; calls on the Palestinian Authority to respect the right to freedom of expression, including freedom of the press, and other human rights, including the rights of LGBTIQ people;
10. Condemns the continuous terror attacks against Israel perpetrated from Gaza by Hamas and other terrorist organisations; insists that the Palestinian Authority should end the glorification of Palestinian terrorists as martyrs and prevent any financial support for terrorism; strongly condemns Hamas's persistent tactic of using civilians to shield its terrorist activities;
11. Is concerned about the conflict escalating beyond the region and in particular spilling over into Europe, leading to violence and an increase in antisemitic acts;
12. Calls for presidential and legislative elections to be organised in Palestine as soon as possible;
13. Condemns hate speech by both Israelis and Palestinians, including political figures on both sides; condemns acts of violence of all kinds, whether by Israelis or Palestinians; condemns, in this context, the most recent terrorist attacks in Jerusalem, which killed one person and injured many;

The role of the EU

14. Calls on the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, with the support of the EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process, to urgently set up a European peace initiative in order to restore a political horizon for comprehensive, long-lasting and peaceful solutions to the conflict between Israel and Palestine; calls on the Member States to engage with the High Representative and the Special Representative to move such an initiative forward;
15. Notes the decision by the Foreign Affairs Council to relaunch the EU-Israel Association Council and believes that it should be used not only to strengthen the EU-Israel partnership but also as a forum for dialogue on issues related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and as a means to revive the Middle East peace process;
16. Calls on the High Representative and the Special Representative to make better use of the political relations and institutional expertise of the EU and its Member States; firmly believes that Europe's geographical proximity to, and historical ties and intensive economic exchanges with, the Middle East region should be used to their full potential to ensure a more active and effective political role in the peace process between Israelis and Palestinians, and more broadly between Arab states and Israel;

17. Insists that the EU should make full use of the Global Gateway strategy, together with the economic and investment plan for the Southern Neighbours, to increase trade links, foster economic development and deliver sustainable projects, taking into account the needs of partner countries and ensuring lasting benefits for local communities;
18. Reiterates its commitment to the determined fight against antisemitism; confirms that it will further implement the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition, while rejecting attempts by certain actors to instrumentalise antisemitism to deflect any criticism of Israel; underlines that fighting antisemitism should go hand in hand with combating anti-Arab racism and other forms of religious intolerance and hate crimes;
19. Is particularly concerned about the limited access to water in the West Bank and Gaza; believes that the EU should step up its water diplomacy and harness its expertise with a view to finding a solution to water scarcity and inequality in the region;
20. Notes the Abraham Accords and encourages the EU to explore further cooperation and joint initiatives in a similar vein; regrets, however, the decoupling of the Palestinian issue from the normalisation of relations between Israel and Arab states, which has weakened prospects for a two-state solution;
21. Emphasises the importance of all peace treaties between Arab states and Israel contributing to the resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict on the basis of the two-state solution, so that comprehensive and lasting peace is achieved; supports the establishment of a European Parliament Abraham Accords Network;
22. Welcomes the agreement reached between Israel and Lebanon on the shared use of natural resources on their maritime borders despite the two countries still being at war;
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23. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and candidate countries, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, the Court of Auditors, the Committee of the Regions, the European Economic and Social Committee, for distribution to subnational parliaments and councils, the Council of Europe, and the United Nations.