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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0393/2023**

2.10.2023

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission

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

on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh after Azerbaijan's attack and the  
continuing threats against Armenia  
(2023/2879(RSP))

**Idoia Villanueva Ruiz, Stelios Kouloglou**  
on behalf of The Left Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh after Azerbaijan's attack and the continuing threats against Armenia (2023/2879(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Armenia and Azerbaijan,
- having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966,
- having regard to the European Convention on Human Rights of 1950,
- having regard to the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of 1984,
- having regard to the Third Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 1949,
- having regard to the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949,
- having regard to its resolution of 16 February 2006 on cultural heritage in Azerbaijan<sup>1</sup>,
- having regard to the joint statement of 9 December 2021 by the Chair of its Delegation for relations with the South Caucasus and its Standing Rapporteurs for Armenia and Azerbaijan on the Orders of the International Court of Justice of 7 December 2021 in the cases between Armenia and Azerbaijan,
- having regard to the reports of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) of the Council of Europe,
- having regard to the statement by the Co-Chairs of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group of 11 November 2021 reiterating the importance of protecting historic and cultural sites in the region,
- having regard to the Orders of the International Court of Justice of 7 December 2021,
- having regard to the Council conclusions of 21 June 2021 on the EU approach to cultural heritage in conflicts and crises,
- having regard to the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 16 November 1972,
- having regard to the UNESCO Declaration Concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage of 17 October 2003,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 290 E, 29.11.2006, p. 421.

- having regard to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954, to which Armenia and Azerbaijan are parties, and its Protocol, as applicable to occupied territories, and its Second Protocol on enhanced protection of cultural property, which prohibits ‘any alteration to, or change of use of, a cultural property which is intended to conceal or destroy cultural, historical or scientific evidence’,
  - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948,
  - having regard to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 21 December 1965,
  - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has various historical and geopolitical complexities; whereas it has had, and still has, severe humanitarian consequences for the civilian population, including displacement, human rights violations and humanitarian crises; whereas it has seen the involvement of regional powers, with Türkiye intervening and arming Azerbaijan;
  - B. whereas the South Caucasus is strategically placed in the global energy market, including the pipelines connecting Azerbaijan with Türkiye, which are crucial for the EU’s oil and natural gas supply; whereas the gas deal signed between the EU and Azerbaijan favours the EU’s energy interests over Armenia and the peace and security of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh); whereas it has become clear that this gas deal has given the Azerbaijani Government carte blanche to do as it pleases, knowing that the EU’s energy security is dependent on its will;
  - C. whereas, in recent years, there has been a concerning escalation of hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, culminating in a major military conflict that erupted in September 2020; whereas the conflict has resulted in a significant loss of life, including civilian casualties, and the extensive destruction of infrastructure in Nagorno-Karabakh, causing immense suffering for the civilian population;
  - D. whereas, despite several ceasefire agreements brokered by the international community, including the OSCE Minsk Group, the conflict has witnessed recurrent violations of these agreements, leading to further casualties and instability;
  - E. whereas the ongoing conflict has forced thousands of civilians to flee their homes, resulting in a humanitarian crisis with displaced persons and refugees in need of urgent assistance and protection;
  - F. whereas there have been alarming reports of human rights abuses, including allegations of arbitrary detentions, torture and attacks on civilian infrastructure, which have raised serious concern about the treatment of individuals caught up in the conflict;
  - G. whereas the Lachin corridor connecting Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) with Armenia and the rest of the world has been blocked since 12 December 2022; whereas the corridor is the only passage for essential goods and services that are vital for the 120 000 Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) residents; whereas, as a result of this blockade coupled with the air

blockade by Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh is effectively under siege; whereas this blockade constitutes a violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and of the Ceasefire Agreement of 9 November 2020;

- H. whereas the situation is being further aggravated by intermittent disruptions to gas supplies in Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh), leaving houses, hospitals and schools without heating; whereas such disruptions deprive citizens of their right to health and education, among other things;
  - I. whereas the Republic of Azerbaijan launched a military offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh on 19 September 2023, which has resulted in more than 100 000 refugees as of 1 October 2023;
  - J. whereas on 20 September 2023, a ceasefire agreement was reached through the mediation of the Russian peacekeeping command in Nagorno-Karabakh; whereas there have since been multiple ceasefire violations;
  - K. whereas, with the already delicate humanitarian situation in Nagorno-Karabakh owing to the blockade of the Lachin corridor, the Azerbaijani military offensive is causing the forced expulsion of an entire ethnic group from a certain area; whereas serious concerns have been voiced as a result of this current situation, as it could constitute a strategy of ethnic cleansing;
  - L. whereas both Azerbaijan and Armenia are bound by international humanitarian law; whereas the Third Geneva Convention protects prisoners of war from all forms of torture and cruel treatment; whereas such acts perpetrated during an armed conflict amount to war crimes; whereas the Fourth Geneva Convention protects civilians in international armed conflicts and establishes that the unlawful confinement, wilful killing and inhuman and degrading treatment of a protected person constitute war crimes;
  - M. whereas, as state parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights, Armenia and Azerbaijan are bound to respect the human right to life and prohibitions on torture and inhuman and degrading treatment;
1. Strongly condemns the military offensive launched by Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, in clear violation of the 2020 Ceasefire Agreement, which resulted in armed conflict and significant loss of life;
  2. Condemns Türkiye's involvement in arming Azerbaijan and its full support to Azerbaijan's offensives in both 2020 and 2023;
  3. Calls for the ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh to be upheld in its entirety by all actors in order to avoid further loss of life and destruction of infrastructure; regrets the massive displacement of the population and calls for the right of return to be guaranteed; calls for the protection of cultural and religious heritage;
  4. Urges all parties involved to exercise maximum restraint, de-escalate tensions and refrain from any actions that could exacerbate the human toll of the conflict;

5. Expresses its concern over the arrest of Nagorno-Karabakh's leadership and calls for their rights to be respected;
6. Calls for unhindered humanitarian access to be granted to the region;
7. Reiterates the paramount importance of diplomatic negotiations as the sole means of achieving a peaceful, comprehensive and sustainable settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict;
8. Strongly encourages all parties to recommit to negotiations under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group, with the full participation of all relevant stakeholders;
9. Condemns unequivocally any deliberate targeting of civilian populations or infrastructure and underscores the supreme importance of safeguarding civilians in strict accordance with international humanitarian law;
10. Expresses deep concern over reports of human rights violations and breaches of international law during the conflict and emphasises the importance of ensuring accountability for these transgressions;
11. Calls on the international community to provide humanitarian assistance, encompassing food, shelter, medical care, psychosocial support and tailored support for vulnerable groups, to those affected by the conflict;
12. Urges the EU and the Member States to play a more active and engaged role in addressing the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, including through diplomatic efforts and support for humanitarian assistance, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction;
13. Calls for the EU and the Member States to activate the Asylum Procedures Directive<sup>2</sup> to aid those fleeing the war, providing refuge and protection for individuals in need;
14. Encourages the EU to significantly increase its humanitarian funding to help meet the urgent needs of those affected by the conflict and provide essential support to humanitarian organisations operating in the region;
15. Highlights the fact that diplomatic efforts must continue and are essential in seeking a peaceful resolution to the conflict, with negotiations conducted under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group, which represents a key platform for dialogue;
16. Calls for the EU and the Member States to continue supporting Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh in the process of finding a peaceful and political resolution to the conflict;
17. Regrets the fact that the President of the Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, had characterised Azerbaijan as a 'trustworthy energy supplier'; calls on the Commission to review its existing gas deal with Azerbaijan and suspend the agreement in the light of the most recent developments; demands that the EU and the Member States further accelerate the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy in line with the 'energy

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<sup>2</sup> Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection (OJ L 180, 29.6.2013, p. 60).

efficiency first' principle;

18. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, and the Governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation.