



Plenary sitting

B9-0397/2023

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))

Pedro Marques, Tonino Picula, Marina Kaljurand, Evin Incir
on behalf of the S&D 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, in particular those of 19 January 2023 on the humanitarian consequences of the blockade in Nagorno-Karabakh¹, of 10 March 2022 on the destruction of cultural heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh², and of 20 May 2021 on prisoners of war in the aftermath of the most recent conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan³,
 - having regard to the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 21 September 2023 on developments in Nagorno-Karabakh,
 - having regard to the Charter of the United Nations,
 - having regard to the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,
 - having regard to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group's 2009 Basic Principles,
 - having regard to the trilateral statement by Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia of 9 November 2020,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 19 September 2023, Azerbaijan launched an unjustified attack against Nagorno-Karabakh, resulting in several hundred casualties, the death of civilians, among them particularly vulnerable persons, and tens of thousands of people fleeing from their homes;
- B. whereas this military aggression was preceded by Azerbaijan's nine-month blockade, in place since 12 December 2022, of the Lachin corridor, as the only land corridor linking the mostly Armenian-populated Nagorno-Karabakh region with Armenia, the establishment of a check point on the same corridor in April 2023, in violation of the 9 November 2020 trilateral statement between Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia, a military build-up around Nagorno-Karabakh and along the border with Armenia, as well as aggressive and inflammatory rhetoric by Azerbaijan's leadership;
- C. whereas the Russian so-called peacekeeping forces present as part of the

¹ OJ C 214, 16.6.2023, p. 104.

² OJ C 347, 9.9.2022, p. 198.

³ OJ C 15, 12.1.2022, p. 156.

9 November 2020 trilateral statement have not acted, either against Azerbaijan's blockade of the Lachin corridor, or upon its establishment of a check point, or against Azerbaijan's most recent military aggression;

- D. whereas the use of military force to resolve political disputes constitutes a violation of the UN Charter;
 - E. whereas a ceasefire agreement between Azerbaijan and representatives of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh was signed on 20 September 2023, according to which local self-defence forces agreed to disband; whereas there have, however, been repeated reports about violations of the ceasefire;
 - F. whereas the EU fully supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Armenia and Azerbaijan, and actively supports the efforts to resolve the dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh by peaceful means and in respect for the rights of the population concerned, inter alia through the work of its Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia and the most recent round of talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan mediated by the President of the European Council;
 - G. whereas Azerbaijan bears the responsibility to ensure full respect for the safety, security and rights of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh, a responsibility that it will have to account for before the international community;
1. Expresses its solidarity with the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh who, after months of hardship resulting from Azerbaijan's blockade of the Lachin corridor, which led to shortages of essential products such as food and medicine, combined with disruptions to gas and electricity deliveries, suffered another military attack by Azerbaijan on 19 September 2023 with the shelling of civilian buildings reportedly resulting in hundreds of persons being killed or wounded and tens of thousands fleeing the region;
 2. Firmly condemns Azerbaijan's military aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh, which violates Azerbaijan's international commitments, contradicts its stated intentions of working towards a sustainable peace with Armenia and a resolution of the decade-long conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, and undermines the ongoing peace negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan;
 3. Resolutely denounces Azerbaijan's use of military escalation, preceded by the deprivation of essential goods such as food and medicine, as a means to force the exodus of the local population; reminds Azerbaijan that the use of coercive practices to remove a civilian population from a territory may amount to a crime against humanity and could fall under the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;
 4. Urges Azerbaijan to maintain the ceasefire and to refrain from any further violence, including hate speech, that might contribute to inciting further large-scale violence against an already vulnerable population;
 5. Demands that Azerbaijan ensure the safety and security of the entire ethnically Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh, respecting the UN Charter and all relevant

international conventions, the principles of international humanitarian law and human rights, its international commitments and the OSCE principles; calls on Azerbaijan to provide credible guarantees for the safety of and respect for the rights of the Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians as a matter of urgency and to consult the UN, the Council of Europe, the OSCE and other international organisations on best practices to guarantee the rights of ethnic Armenians in the post-war environment; calls on Azerbaijan to refrain from any acts of violence against the civilian population of Nagorno-Karabakh; insists on an amnesty for those who lay down their arms both as a matter of confidence-building in the context of the continuation of the talks between Baku and Stepanakert and as a necessity to prevent the resurgence of violence;

6. Strongly underlines that Azerbaijan, its political and military leadership, as well as all perpetrators of alleged war crimes will be held to account by the international community; underlines that any allegations of war crimes, crimes against humanity or the crime of genocide will have to be investigated;
7. Expresses its utmost concern about the humanitarian situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, which has been intentionally escalated by Azerbaijan during its nine-month blockade of the Lachin corridor; demands, therefore, that Azerbaijan ensure unimpeded humanitarian access to the population in need, for the International Red Cross as well as for relevant UN agencies, including through a full re-opening of the Lachin corridor in line with the Orders of the International Court of Justice of February and July 2023;
8. Welcomes the Commission's announcement of additional humanitarian assistance in support of the vulnerable population of Nagorno-Karabakh and those fleeing from the region; urges the Commission, however, to substantially increase the humanitarian assistance, as well as the political and practical support being offered, also in order to help Armenia cope with the challenge of accommodating a massive inflow of Nagorno-Karabakh residents fleeing the war, physical violence and credible threats against their lives;
9. Expresses its full support to the calls for the UN to swiftly deploy a peace-keeping mission to Nagorno-Karabakh in order to effectively protect the safety and security of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh; underlines that the flagrant inaction of the Russian so-called peacekeepers present on the ground has unmistakably demonstrated Russia's failure, if not its blatant lack of political will, to protect the rights of the local population of Nagorno-Karabakh;
10. Calls on Azerbaijan to urgently and genuinely engage in a comprehensive and transparent dialogue with the Karabakh Armenians to ensure respect for their rights and guarantee their security, including their right to live in their homes in dignity and safety, and their land and property rights, to maintain their distinct identity and fully enjoy their civic, cultural, social and religious rights;
11. Expresses its support to the High Representative's call at the UN Security Council meeting of 22 September 2023 for the resumption of talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan on all pending issues, with the aim of concluding a peace treaty; welcomes the EU's commitment, repeated at the same meeting, to continue facilitating dialogue between all sides, notably under the auspices of the President of the European Council,

with the support of the EU Special Representative, and to pay particular attention to the situation in the southern Armenian province of Syunik, in order to ensure a comprehensive, sustainable peace for the benefit of all people of the region;

12. Calls on Azerbaijan to reaffirm its unequivocal commitment to the 1991 Almaty Declaration guaranteeing the territorial integrity of Armenia and Azerbaijan, and to agree to the delimitation of their bilateral border in line with the letter and spirit of the 1991 Almaty Declaration;
13. Calls for the EU mission in Armenia (EUMA) to be substantially strengthened by increasing its human, financial and technical resources, as well as working towards extending its mandate to both sides of the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, in order to effectively contribute to human security and confidence-building and help prevent further military escalation and violence on Armenia's borders; calls on the Council to reconsider providing support to Armenia through its European Peace Facility;
14. States its ultimate conviction that the EU cannot morally accept negotiating a future partnership agreement with a country that blatantly violates principles of international law as well as its international obligations and is therefore neither a reliable nor a trustworthy partner; urges the High Representative and the European External Action Service, therefore, to suspend the negotiations for a renewed partnership agreement until Azerbaijan has demonstrated its genuine readiness to respect the rights and security concerns of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh, not only through words but, first and foremost, through deeds;
15. Calls on the Council to reconsider the EU's relations with Azerbaijan and impose targeted and individual sanctions against the responsible Azerbaijani authorities; calls on the Commission to quickly reconsider the 'strategic partnership' with Azerbaijan in the field of energy, given Azerbaijan's repeated violations of its international commitments, including commitments made in talks mediated by the EU and binding provisions under international law; notes that, in the light of Azerbaijan's aggression against Armenia in September 2022 and its unjustified use of force against and forced displacement of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh in September 2023, as well as the country's alarming human rights record, developing such a 'strategic partnership' is incompatible with the objectives of EU foreign policy as defined in Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union; is seriously concerned about Azerbaijan's import of Russian gas and the notable Russian share in the production and transportation of Azerbaijani gas for the EU, which contradicts the EU's objective of undermining Russia's capacity to continue its war of aggression against Ukraine by cutting its revenues from oil and gas exports to the EU;
16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and to the President, Government and Parliament of Armenia and Azerbaijan.