



Plenary sitting

B9-0446/2023

16.10.2023

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 recent developments in the Serbia-Kosovo dialogue, including the situation in the northern municipalities in Kosovo
(2023/2880(RSP))

Michael Gahler, Lukas Mandl, Vladimír Bilčík, Željana Zovko, Rasa Juknevičienė, Franc Bogovič
on behalf of the PPE Group

European Parliament resolution on the recent developments in the Serbia-Kosovo dialogue, including the situation in the northern municipalities in Kosovo (2023/2880(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 10 May 2023 on the 2022 Commission Report on Serbia¹ and to its resolution of 10 May 2023 on the 2022 Commission Report on Kosovo²,
- having regard to statement of 19 September 2023 by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union on expectations from Serbia and Kosovo,
- having regard to the statement of 24 September 2023 by High Representative Josep Borrell on the attack against Kosovo Police,
- having regard to the EU Statement of 28 September 2023 on the recent developments in the north of Kosovo made at Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Permanent Council No. 1444,
- having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 24 September 2023, 30 heavily armed gunmen set up a roadblock and opened fire on a Kosovan police patrol in Banjska, northern Kosovo, killing police officer Afrim Bunjaku;
- B. whereas the gunmen then entered and barricaded themselves in an Orthodox monastery, endangering clergy and pilgrims and sparking an hour-long firefight in which three gunmen were killed and eight others were arrested;
- C. whereas the Serbian police arrested former deputy leader of the ‘Serbian list’, Milan Radoičić, who has admitted to leading the gunmen, and released him the next day;
- D. whereas several violent incidents preceded the 24 September terrorist incursion, such as violent demonstrations following the local elections and the abduction of three Kosovan police officers from Kosovo territory on 14 June 2023, who were released on 26 June 2023;
- E. whereas Serbian police, special police and army units were moved into 48 forward positions close to the Serbian border with Kosovo in the weeks and months before the 24 September armed incursion; whereas on 29 September the US Administration and the German Government urged Serbia to withdraw its troops from the border with Kosovo;
- F. whereas following the high-level meeting of the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue held on

¹ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2023)0192.

² Texts adopted, P9_TA(2023)0193.

14 September, the EU expressed its concern over the parties' lack of implementation of their commitments under the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex;

- G. whereas Serbia's continued close relationship and partnership with Russia raises questions about Serbia's strategic direction and hinders the country's economic and political development; whereas Russia is using its influence in Serbia to try to destabilise, interfere with and threaten neighbouring sovereign states, including Kosovo; whereas Serbia has become a safe haven for Russian companies; whereas social media platforms have become tools for fostering anti-democratic political movements in the Western Balkans;
1. Strongly condemns the terrorist incursion into Kosovo and attack against Kosovan Police officers in Banjska in northern Kosovo; expresses its condolences to the family, colleagues and loved ones of Afrim Bunjaku; stresses that the perpetrators responsible for this must be held accountable and face justice; urges the Kosovan authorities to redouble their efforts to prevent weapons smuggling into the country, which is also taking place using ambulance cars and church facilities belonging to the Serbian Orthodox Church in the north of Kosovo; urges, further, in this context the Kosovo authorities to work towards open trade for all civilian goods and services;
 2. Urges all sides to work to de-escalate the situation in northern Kosovo and avoid any rhetoric or action that would further increase tensions; calls on Serbia, in this regard, to withdraw all troops and equipment from the border with Kosovo, including anti-aircraft systems and heavy artillery units, to refrain from any disproportionate military deployments in the area in the future and to end any support to illegal terrorist formations involving northern Kosovo citizens;
 3. Condemns the provision of shelter to the perpetrators of the armed incursion in northern Kosovo, as well any propaganda about them, glorification of their actions or political support for them;
 4. Condemns continuing Russian attempts to exert influence over the Western Balkans, and in particular in Serbia and Kosovo, by exploiting cultural, ethnic and religious divisions and by destabilising pro-democratic forces; condemns, in this regard, possible Russian involvement in the Banjska attacks;
 5. Reiterates its call on Serbia and Kosovo to participate in the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue in good faith and in a spirit of compromise in order to achieve a comprehensive and legally binding agreement on the normalisation of their relations based on the principle of mutual recognition, in line with international law and without further delay; urges in particular the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the EU Special Representative Lajčák to facilitate the dialogue in a proactive manner and report to Parliament no later than the end of November 2023 on Serbian and Kosovan engagement with, action on and delivery of the objectives of the dialogue;
 6. Urges the Commission and the Council to resume their high-level contacts with the President and the Government of Kosovo; calls on the Commission to draw up and present a transparent and ambitious roadmap for Kosovo's path to integration by the end

of the year;

7. Calls on Kosovan Serbs to return to Kosovan institutions and not to further escalate tensions on the ground; reaffirms that reconciliation in Kosovo is essential for ensuring stability in the country and for moving forward in the normalisation of Pristina-Belgrade relations under the EU-facilitated dialogue;
8. Calls again for the full implementation in good faith and in a timely manner of all the relevant agreements by both sides, including the return of Kosovan Serb representatives to the Kosovan institutions, as well as the establishment of the Association/Community of Serb Majority Municipalities; believes that a final and comprehensive settlement will enhance cooperation, stability and prosperity in the wider region;
9. Calls on the National Assembly of Serbia to improve its work and to stop the use of inflammatory language; supports the European Parliament's co-facilitated Parliamentary Dialogue Process in Serbia as an instrument for dialogue and consensus-building on important reform related issues;
10. Calls for the EU to impose restrictive measures on the Serbian leadership, should its involvement in the Banjska attack or any of the above-mentioned condemned action or attitude be confirmed;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the President of the European 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, the President, Government and National Assembly of Kosovo, and the President, Government and National Assembly of Serbia.