



Plenary sitting

B9-0448/2023

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 despicable terrorist attacks of Hamas against Israel, Israel's right to defend itself in line with humanitarian and international law and the humanitarian situation in Gaza
(2023/2899(RSP))

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on behalf of the Renew Group

European Parliament resolution on the despicable terrorist attacks of Hamas against Israel, Israel's right to defend itself in line with humanitarian and international law and the humanitarian situation in Gaza (2023/2899(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions and recommendations on the Middle East conflict, in particular its resolution of 14 December 2022 on the prospects of the two-state solution for Israel and Palestine¹ and its recommendation of 12 July 2023 to the Council, the Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on relations with the Palestinian Authority²,
 - having regard to the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly,
 - having regard to the Protocol on Economic Relations between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, representing the Palestinian people, of 29 April 1994 and to the Oslo II Accord of 28 September 1995,
 - having regard to the ‘European Joint Strategy in support of Palestine 2021-2024 – Towards a democratic, accountable and sustainable Palestinian state’,
 - having regard to the EU terrorist list,
 - having regard to international humanitarian law, in particular the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 7 October 2023, the terrorist group Hamas, which is listed on the EU list of terrorist organisations, carried out an unprecedented and despicable terrorist attack against Israel in what was the largest terrorist attack on the country in its history and which represents the highest military threat since the Yom Kippur War of 1973; whereas the Hamas terrorist fighters entered Israeli territory by breaking the security wall during a massive launch of 3 000 rockets; whereas these brutal attacks, which were directed mainly at civilians, resulted in the assassination of over 1 400 Israelis and at least 75 foreign nationals, including EU citizens, the majority of whom were civilians, including children, and in the kidnapping of an estimated 150 individuals now held hostage in Gaza; whereas this is the worst massacre of human beings on the basis of Jewish identity since the Holocaust;
- B. whereas the risk of escalation in the region is the highest in many decades; whereas the EU and its Member States have spoken out firmly against this horrible terrorist attack;

¹ OJ C 177, 17.5.2023, p. 73.

² Texts adopted, P9_TA(2023)0283.

whereas key regional players such as Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Syria and Iraq have assigned responsibility for the attack to Israel; whereas the international community is divided on its support to Israel; whereas the UN Security Council has yet to adopt a common position;

- C. whereas Israel has initiated a counterattack, with the stated goal of eradicating Hamas from the Gaza Strip; whereas on Monday 9 October, Israel's defence minister Yoav Gallant ordered a complete siege of Gaza and ordered that all electricity, food, water and fuel supplies be cut; whereas the suspension of the supply of electricity, food, water and fuel to the Gaza Strip risks provoking the further deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the region, as the population of Gaza is not able to leave, because its border with Egypt has been closed for more than a week;
- D. whereas in preparation for its counter-offensive, Israel issued a warning to residents of northern Gaza to evacuate to the southern half of the Gaza Strip within 24 hours for their safety;
- E. whereas, as stated by the World Health Organization, Israel's evacuation order for 22 hospitals is forcing more than 2 000 patients, including patients undergoing haemodialysis, newborns in incubators and women dealing with pregnancy complications, to relocate to southern Gaza, where the health facilities are already running at maximum capacity and are unable to absorb this dramatic increase in patients;
- F. whereas on 9 October 2023, the Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Olivér Várhelyi sent out a tweet, without coordinating with anyone else, stating that the EU would immediately suspend all payments to Palestine, that all projects would be put under review and that all new budget proposals for 2023 would be postponed until further notice, prompting public pushback from various Member States; whereas the communication from Várhelyi was followed by a contradictory statement from the Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič; whereas on 9 October, the Commission announced the launch of an urgent review of the EU's assistance to Palestine with the objective of ensuring that no EU funding indirectly enabled any terrorist organisation to carry out attacks against Israel;
- G. whereas Commission President Ursula von der Leyen did not publicly condemn Israel for its deliberate targeting of civilians and its attempts to forcibly displace the residents of Gaza en masse during her visit to Israel on 13 October;
- H. whereas Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell publicly contradicted President von der Leyen, stating that her remarks did not reflect current EU policy;
- 1. Strongly condemns the horrendous attacks by the barbaric Hamas terrorist fighters, who deliberately targeted civilians, and the indiscriminate rocket attacks against Israel and its population; calls on Hamas to immediately and unconditionally release all hostages without any preconditions; expresses its condolences to all the families of the victims; reiterates its support for the State of Israel and its people, and reaffirms their fundamental right to live in peace and security; stands together with the citizens of the State of Israel in the face of these cruel acts;

2. Calls for the perpetrators of these horrendous attacks to be held accountable, in line with international law; calls on all the perpetrators who participated in the attacks, led by the terrorist organisation Hamas and supported by other terrorist organisations, to be identified and placed on the EU terrorist list, if this has not yet been done; reiterates the EU's strong support for the International Criminal Court's work, including its investigation into war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the occupied Palestinian territories, in particular as regards the Hamas terrorist attack and the current escalation of the conflict; 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; stresses that all forms of terrorism must be defeated to protect civilian populations;
3. Recognises Israel's right to self-defence, as enshrined in and constrained by international law, and emphasises that the actions of Israel must therefore strictly comply with international law; underlines that the attacks by Hamas and the Israeli response risk leading to a renewed cycle of violence in the region;
4. Urges all parties involved to ensure that humanitarian aid can be delivered on the ground and that civilian infrastructure, in particular hospitals and schools, is protected;
5. Calls on the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the EU Member States to undertake urgent diplomatic action to address the situation in the region with partners in the region and international partners, including at the UN Security Council, and to try their utmost to bring the parties to the table to address the situation in the region and work on resolving the root causes of the conflict;
6. Is very concerned with the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, of which approximately half of the population are children; emphasises that the suspension of medicine, electricity, food, water and fuel supplies to the Gaza Strip will lead to a humanitarian disaster and calls on Israel to immediately re-establish the supply of medicine, electricity, food, water and fuel to the Gaza Strip; calls on Egypt to open up a humanitarian corridor to allow Palestinian women, children and elderly people fleeing the Gaza Strip to reach a safe haven;
7. Expresses its serious concern over the ongoing spillover effects of this conflict on other countries and regions, including the EU; is concerned by the increase in antisemitic speeches, rallies and attacks directed towards Jewish people since the beginning of Hamas's terrorist attacks; calls therefore on the Commission and the Member States to take all appropriate measures to guarantee the safety of the EU's Jewish citizens, including providing immediate protection to schools and places of worship; strongly condemns those political actors who have engaged with or persistently failed to distance themselves from terrorist organisations; strongly condemns all forms of antisemitism, anti-Muslim hatred and other forms of religious intolerance; expresses horror at the Islamist terrorist attack perpetrated in France during which a teacher was killed and several others were wounded;
8. Calls on the Commission and the Council to promptly initiate de-escalation measures aimed at averting the potential escalation of current tensions along the Israeli-Lebanese border into a full-scale conflict;

9. Believes that the EU should support organisations working on gathering evidence of potential war crimes and crimes against humanity, with a view to prosecutions under international humanitarian law;
10. Condemns, in the strongest possible terms, Iran's support to Hamas and other terrorist groups in the Gaza Strip, and condemns Iran's destabilising role in the region through its actions to incite violence and escalate the conflict, as well as its support to its Lebanese operative Hezbollah in the context of the attacks; reiterates its call to include the entirety of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps on the EU list of terrorist organisations and calls for a thorough investigation into the role of Iran, as well as other countries such as Qatar and Russia, in financing and supporting terrorism in the region;
11. Underlines that uncoordinated statements from and actions by the Commission have contributed to confusion about the EU's real positions towards the region; condemns, in this regard, the unilateral and uncoordinated announcement by the Commissioner for Enlargement on the suspension of EU financial support to Palestine;
12. Calls on the Commission to thoroughly and swiftly conduct its announced review of EU financial assistance to the Palestinian territories, including the use of all EU funds in the region, in order to ensure that not a single euro ends up in the hands of Hamas or any other terrorist group and calls for it to provide the results to Parliament in its role as the budgetary authority as soon as possible; stresses that the humanitarian situation in the region is expected to worsen significantly and calls on the Commission to consider increasing humanitarian aid to the region and to ensure that EU humanitarian funding continues to reach those in need of assistance;
13. Calls on the Commission to urgently take a coordinating role with the Member States to guarantee the safe and swift evacuation and repatriation of any EU citizens who want to leave the region, based on solidarity among EU countries;
14. Reiterates its unwavering support for a negotiated two-state solution on the basis of the 1967 lines with two sovereign, democratic states living side by side in peace and guaranteed security, with Jerusalem as the capital of both states, and in full respect of international law; encourages the European External Action Service and the Member States to take a European initiative to put the two-state solution back on track; emphasises the absolute necessity of immediately relaunching the peace process;
15. Reiterates that the terrorist organisation Hamas needs to be eradicated; calls for free, transparent and inclusive elections to be held without delay; urges all Palestinian factions to adhere to international agreements, renounce violence, antisemitism and terrorism, and recognise Israel's right to exist; emphasises the need to provide the Palestinian Authority with the tools to foster and protect democracy in the country and effectively counter terrorist attacks;
16. 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, the EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, the Knesset and the Government of Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Legislative

Council.