



Plenary sitting

B9-0164/2024

8.3.2024

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

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

on closer ties between the EU and Armenia and the need for a peace agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia
(2024/2580(RSP))

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on behalf of The Left Group

B9-0164/2024

European Parliament resolution on closer ties between the EU and Armenia and the need for a peace agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia (2024/2580(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Armenia and Azerbaijan,
 - having regard to the Charter of the United Nations and to the principles of international law,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
 - having regard to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR),
 - having regard to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to the European Neighbourhood Policy and to the Eastern Partnership,
 - having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Armenia, of the other part, and the Comprehensive and enhanced Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Armenia, of the other part¹,
 - having regard to the EU Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society in Armenia 2021-2027,
 - having regard to the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Armenia, of the other part,
 - having regard to the ongoing conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region,
 - having regard to the need for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in accordance with the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, and the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Azerbaijan's invasion of Nagorno-Karabakh has resulted in significant human suffering and Azerbaijani troops have committed ethnic cleansing and violence against the Armenian inhabitants of the region;

¹ OJ L 23, 26.1.2018, p. 4.

- B. whereas Azerbaijan's aggressive attitude towards Armenia must cease and all those responsible for its war crimes committed during the invasion of Nagorno-Karabakh must be brought to justice before relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan can be normalised sustainably; whereas all agreements reached between Armenia and Azerbaijan must be fully implemented in order to ensure the long-term stability of bilateral relations and of the wider region as a whole; whereas such a goal can only be achieved when the authorities of Azerbaijan can guarantee peaceful coexistence and the respect of minority rights;
- C. whereas both Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed to a longer-term negotiation plan in May 2023 with the aim of signing a comprehensive peace agreement; whereas the ceasefire in place between Azerbaijan and the Nagorno-Karabakh authorities was established on 20 September 2023;
- D. whereas, in the International Court of Justice order of 7 December 2021, which ordered Azerbaijan to prevent and punish acts of vandalism and desecration against Armenian cultural heritage, serious allegations were made regarding the involvement of the Azerbaijani authorities in the destruction of cemeteries, churches and historical monuments in Nagorno-Karabakh; whereas the building of the National Assembly of Nagorno-Karabakh was demolished by Azerbaijan on 3 March 2024;
- E. whereas Armenia's Prime Minister, Nikol Pashinyan, proposed on 28 January 2024 the signing of a non-aggression pact with Azerbaijan; whereas on 13 February 2024, four Armenian soldiers were killed by Azeri forces during an attack on an Armenian border post;
- F. whereas Nikol Pashinyan recently warned that Azerbaijan was preparing a new attack on Armenia;
- G. whereas Azerbaijan still occupies parts of Armenia, notably in the Tavush, Gegharkunik and Syunik regions;
- H. whereas a lasting and comprehensive peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan is essential for the security, stability and prosperity of the South Caucasus region;
- I. whereas progress has been made in recent years towards closer cooperation between the EU and Armenia, including in areas such as trade, development and political dialogue; whereas the European Union is Armenia's second largest trading partner and its largest development cooperation donor;
- J. whereas the human rights of LGBTIQ people in Armenia and Azerbaijan are at best disregarded and at worst actively fought against by the government and state institutions; whereas, according to the 2023 Rainbow Map and Index of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association Europe, Armenia scored 9 % and Azerbaijan 2 % in terms of their legal and policy practices; whereas this ranking places Azerbaijan in the lowest place among all the countries assessed;
- K. whereas the 2024 Freedom in the World index ranks Azerbaijan as one of the least free countries in the world with a Global Freedom Score of 7/100, below Russia and

Belarus;

- L. whereas it has become clear that the gas deal signed between the Commission and Azerbaijan has given the Azerbaijani Government carte blanche to do as it pleases, knowing that the EU's energy security is dependent on its will;
 - M. whereas the EU and Armenia are engaged in regular dialogue on a wide range of issues, including security, human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law;
 - N. whereas in October 2023 Nikol Pashinyan expressed his country's strong interest in becoming closer to the EU;
1. Condemns, in the strongest terms, the pre-planned and unjustified invasion of Nagorno-Karabakh by Azerbaijan that has resulted in the ethnic cleansing of Armenian inhabitants of this region;
 2. Underlines the importance of peace, stability and security in the South Caucasus, for the region, for the EU and for the world;
 3. Highlights that a lasting and comprehensive peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan is essential for the security, stability and prosperity of the South Caucasus region;
 4. Notes with interest the development of closer ties between the European Union, its Member States and Armenia; notes that the Armenian Prime Minister has expressed an interest in deepening his country's relations with the European Union;
 5. Welcomes Armenia's commitment to democracy, human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, and encourages further progress in these areas; encourages Armenia to further deliver on these commitments; recalls that the fight against discrimination is a cornerstone of democratic systems and urges the authorities to categorically uphold all human rights enshrined in the ECHR, notably when they concern vulnerable groups such as women, children, persons with disabilities and LGBTIQ persons;
 6. Calls on the Governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan to engage in good-faith negotiations, with the support of the international community, in order to reach a just, peaceful and sustainable settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, based on the principles of territorial integrity, mutual respect and non-aggression; condemns Azerbaijan's attacks along the Armenia-Azerbaijan border; notes with concern that despite recent efforts, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains unresolved, leading to continued tensions and instability; underlines the importance of promoting peace, stability, democracy and the rule of law in the Eastern Neighbourhood; calls on Azerbaijan to withdraw from all Armenian territories that it occupies;
 7. Urges Azerbaijan to respect the ceasefire and take all necessary measures to prevent further violence and civilian casualties;
 8. Urges Azerbaijan to close the so-called Trophy Park in Baku, inaugurated on 12 April 2021, as it undermines the building of mutual trust between Armenia and

Azerbaijan;

9. Deplores the destruction of Armenian cultural, religious and historical heritage since the beginning of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, notably the razing to the ground of the building of the National Assembly of Nagorno-Karabakh;
10. Calls upon the international community to support the peace process by providing diplomatic and economic assistance and by encouraging all parties to fulfil their commitments under international law;
11. Strongly denounces 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 immediately impose targeted sanctions on the Azerbaijani leadership and to suspend the Memorandum of Understanding on a Strategic Partnership in the Field of Energy; demands that the EU and the Member States further accelerate the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy in line with the ‘energy efficiency first’ principle;
12. Calls for the European Union and its Member States to continue to support the efforts of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Minsk Group Co-Chairs to facilitate a peaceful resolution to the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia and to provide assistance to the parties in implementing any agreements reached;
13. Urges the Governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan to address the humanitarian needs of all those affected by the conflict, including by providing access to safe drinking water, food, shelter and medical care;
14. Urges the Governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan to take steps to build trust and confidence between their communities, including by promoting people-to-people exchanges and educational programmes that foster reconciliation and understanding;
15. Reaffirms its commitment to the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the United Nations Security Council resolutions, and calls for the full implementation of these principles in the resolution of the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia;
16. Urges the European Union and its Member States to enhance their support for Armenia’s democratic reforms, economic development and regional integration, and to explore the possibility of deepening cooperation in areas such as trade, energy and transport;
17. Calls for the European Union and its Member States to support the implementation of confidence-building measures between Azerbaijan and Armenia, including the exchange of prisoners of war, the return of remains, and the provision of humanitarian assistance to affected populations;
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.

