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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 110(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in Egypt

Adrian Severin, Hannes Swoboda, Kader Arif, Harlem Désir, Saïd El Khadraoui, Richard Howitt, Maria Eleni Koppa, Wolfgang Kreissl-Dörfler, María Muñoz De Urquiza, Vincent Peillon, Carmen Romero López, Boris Zala, Raimon Obiols, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Ana Gomes
on behalf of the S&D Group

European Parliament resolution on the situation in Egypt

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Egypt,
 - having regard to the debate on the situation in the Mediterranean, in particular in Tunisia and Egypt, which took place at the plenary session of the European Parliament on 1 February 2011,
 - having regard to the European Council declaration on Egypt and the region of 4 February 2011,
 - having regard to the Council conclusions on Egypt of 31 January 2011,
 - having regard to the statement by President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy on the situation in Egypt of 29 January 2011,
 - having regard to the statements by EUHR/VP Catherine Ashton on Egypt of 4 February, of 3 February, of 28 January, and of 27 January 2011 as well as on the elections to the People's Assembly of Egypt of 6 December 2010,
 - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Egypt is a key partner to the European Union in the Middle East; whereas the European Union should contribute to the emergence of a democratic, prosperous and stable Egypt by encouraging and supporting the renewal of the country,
- B. whereas demonstrations in Egypt, and in other Arab countries, calling for political, economic and social change, which must come now, have expressed strong popular demand for genuine democracy and better social conditions,
- C. whereas demonstrations in Egypt resulted in hundreds of deaths and a large number of people injured and arrested,
- D. whereas the army reacted in a responsible way and has refrained from using force against demonstrators and from intervening in current political developments; whereas the initially peaceful protests have become increasingly violent with the attack against demonstrators by armed individuals and the police firing teargas and rubber bullets and using water cannons,
- E. whereas change in Egypt requires an immediate, serious and open dialogue with the participation of all democratic political and social forces as well as the civil society, which must result in urgent, concrete and decisive measures aimed at implementing real and significant reforms,

- F. whereas demonstrations in Egypt, and in other Arab countries, show that authoritarian regimes and fundamentalist extremism are not the only political alternatives in the Arab world,
- G. whereas the quest for stability has often overshadowed the values of democracy, social justice and human rights in the EU's relations with its southern neighbours in the past years; whereas human rights clauses in association agreements need to be backed by a mechanism to monitor their implementation,
- H. whereas the European Parliament has repeatedly called for the lifting of the state of emergency, which has been in place since 1981, the strengthening of democracy, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Egypt,
- I. whereas the Council, in its conclusions of 31 January 2011, confirmed that the EU is committed to accompanying, through a partnership, the Egyptian transformation process by mobilising, renewing and adapting existing instruments to support political, economic and social reforms as well as that the EU stands ready to assist the Egyptian people in this transformation process, taking into account further developments,
- J. whereas the European Council, in its declaration on Egypt and the region of 4 January 2011, confirmed that the EU is determined to lend its full support to transition processes in the region with the aim of creating democratic governance, pluralism, improved opportunities for economic prosperity and social inclusion as well as strengthening regional stability,
1. Strongly supports the legitimate democratic aspirations and the demand for better social conditions expressed by the people in Egypt and in other Arab countries; expresses its solidarity with peaceful demonstrators and applauds their courage and determination; expresses also its support for the demand for President Hosni Mubarak to resign and is of the opinion that his retirement in due time should facilitate the political transition; calls on the Egyptian authorities to ensure a peaceful transition to genuine democracy;
 2. Calls for an accelerated political transition involving all democratic political and social forces and the civil society with the aim of paving the way for the revision of the constitution and the electoral law, free and fair elections, and establishing genuine democracy in Egypt;
 3. Deeply regrets the considerable loss of life and the high number of injuries during demonstrations; extends its condolences and expresses its solidarity with the families of the victims; condemns the use of force by police forces and violence by armed individuals;
 4. Reminds Egyptian authorities and security forces of their obligation to assure the security of all citizens and their property as well as to protect cultural heritage and calls them on to do their utmost to avoid further violence against peaceful demonstrators; notes the refraining by the Egyptian army from using force against demonstrators and from intervening in current political developments;
 5. Calls on Egyptian authorities to immediately release all peaceful demonstrators held in

custody as well as to fully restore all communication networks, including the Internet, without delay; condemns the censorship imposed by Egyptian authorities on communication networks and social media as well as the aggression and intimidation directed at journalists and human rights defenders;

6. Regrets the reaction of some European mobile communication and Internet service providers to recent events in Egypt and calls for learning from this lesson;
7. Stresses again the importance of strengthening the rule of law, good governance, the fight against corruption, and the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Egypt, with special regard to freedom of conscience, religion, and thought, freedom of expression, freedom of press and media, freedom of association, women's rights and gender equality, the protection of minorities, and the fight against discrimination based on sexual orientation; reiterates its call for the lifting of the state of emergency in Egypt;
8. Stresses the importance of considerably accelerating economic and social reforms in Egypt as freedom, economic development and a higher standard of living are essential for political and social stability in the country;
9. Calls for significant and efficient EU support for democratic transformation as well as for economic and social development in Egypt, and in other southern neighbours concerned, by urgently mobilising, reviewing and adapting existing EU instruments aimed at assisting political, economic and social reforms as well as by further strengthening the cooperation with civil society organisations;
10. Stresses that the ongoing strategic review of the European Neighbourhood Policy as well as the further shaping of the EU's relations with southern neighbours must fully take into consideration and reflect current developments in the region; insists also that the ENP review should prioritise criteria relating to political pluralism, the fight against corruption, the independence of the judiciary, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the freedom of press and media; considers that the Union for the Mediterranean must be re-launched in this very same spirit;
11. Calls on the HR/VP to promote the establishment of a task force, involving Parliament, in response to the calls for monitoring of the democratic transition process made by actors for democratic change, in particular as regards free and democratic elections and institution-building including the independent judiciary; calls on the HR/VP to support the democratic transformation also by sending an electoral observation mission to coming elections;
12. Emphasises that events in Egypt, and in other countries in the region, highlight again the urgent need to develop more ambitious and efficient policies and instruments as well as to strengthen their budgetary background with the aim of encouraging and supporting political, economic and social reforms in the EU's southern neighbours;
13. Urges Egypt to continue being committed to and playing an active and constructive role in efforts aimed at finding lasting peace in the Middle East, with special regard to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and Palestinian reconciliation;

14. 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 governments and parliaments of the Member States, and the Government and Parliament of Egypt.