Resolution on scalating tensions in Varosha following the illegal actions by Turkey and the urgent need for the resumption of talks

2020/2844(RSP) - 26/11/2020 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 631 votes to 3, with 59 abstentions, a resolution on escalating tensions in Varosha following the illegal actions by Turkey and the urgent need for the resumption of talks.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled by the EPP, S&D, Renew, Greens/EFA, ECR and GUE/NGL groups.

As a reminder, Turkey responded to the failed coup of 1974 supported by the Greek Junta by invading Cyprus with its military forces. The city of Famagusta was also invaded in August 1974 and has been illegally occupied ever since. A section of Famagusta, Varosha, was then sealed off and has remained uninhabited, under the direct control of the Turkish military.

Parliament condemned Turkey's illegal activities in the abandoned town of Varosha, in particular its partial 'opening'. This illegal 'opening' would undermine mutual trust and any prospects for a comprehensive solution of the Cyprus problem.

Members are convinced that sustainable conflict resolution can only be found through dialogue, diplomacy, and negotiations in a spirit of good will and in line with international law.

Parliament called on the European Council to maintain its unified position vis-à-vis unilateral and illegal actions by Turkey, to take action and impose tough sanctions in response to Turkey's illegal actions.

Turkey is urged to:

- reverse their decision and withdraw its troops from Cyprus and transfer the Varosha area to its lawful inhabitants under the temporary administration of the UN in accordance with UNSC Resolution 550 (1984);
- refrain from any actions altering the demographic balance on the island through a policy of illegal settlements;
- refrain from proceeding with any unilateral activities, such as illegal exploratory drilling, which further violate the sovereignty and sovereign rights of Cyprus.

Parliament called on the EU and the Member States to:

- increase support for civil society in both the Turkish and the Greek Cypriot communities, both through the EU Aid Programme and more structurally as part of the new multiannual financial framework, in particular through the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme;
- play a more active role in bringing negotiations under UN auspices to a successful conclusion, including by appointing a representative to the UN good offices mission, and to coordinate their efforts with the European Parliament to convince Turkey to reverse its illegal activities in Varosha;
- oppose any attempts by third countries to recognise a state on the island of Cyprus other than the Republic of Cyprus.