Resolution on Srebrenica

2005/2575(RSP) - 07/07/2005 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Srebrenica. The resolution had been tabled by the PES, GUE/NGL, Greens/ALE, EPP-ED, ALDE, and UEN groups.

Parliament condemns in the strongest possible terms the Srebrenica massacre in July 1995, when more than 8 000 Muslim men and boys, who had sought safety in this area under the protection of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), were summarily executed by Bosnian Serb forces commanded by General Mladic and by paramilitary units, including Serbian irregular police units which had entered Bosnian territory from Serbia. Members commemorate and honour the victims of the atrocities. They call on the Council and Commission to **pay adequate remembrance to the tenth anniversary** of the Srebrenica-Potocari act of genocide, stressing that this unbearable shame in Europe should be considered forever the last massacre carried out in the name of ethnic ideology. Parliament states that it will do everything in its power to prevent such acts of monstrous barbarism from happening in Europe ever again. It expresses its deepest concern that Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic are still at large in the region, and calls on the Republika Srpska and on Serbia-Montenegro to take urgent action in order to locate Karadzic and Mladic and bring them to justice.

Parliament expresses its wholehearted support for the valuable and difficult work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), and emphasises that full and unrestricted cooperation with the ICTY remains an essential requirement for further continuation of the process of integration with the EU. The **European integration perspective** offered to all the countries of the Balkans and the Stabilisation and Association Process should form the catalyst for a domestic drive for reforms and democratic consolidation and should assist all countries in the region in developing a common understanding of their tragic past and creating a basis for a better future. Parliament emphasises that this future depends to a very large extent on the countries of the region themselves.

Parliament is deeply disturbed and shocked by the video footage recently released at The Hague tribunal and aired on channels across the world, depicting the cold-blooded execution of six prisoners in civilian clothing and presenting irrefutable evidence of what actually took place.

Parliament reaffirms the EU’s commitment to assisting the applicant and potential applicant countries of the Balkans in their preparation for membership, and calls for **adequate instruments and funding** in this regard during the next financial perspective that match the ambitions of the Union and the legitimate expectations of the countries of the region. Members note that Dayton is no longer an appropriate framework with respect to future integration with the EU, and they urge the Council and all parties concerned to support initiatives aimed at adapting the agreement by consensus. They stress that the citizens of all the country's entities and ethnicities must assume their responsibility in order to reach a new constitutional settlement and create a viable state for all.

It regrets deeply that the Serbian Parliament failed to adopt a draft resolution recognising and formally condemning the Srebrenica massacre and giving a sign of willingness to cope with the past and contribute to reconciliation and the peaceful resolution of the problems of the region. It also expresses its sincere preoccupation in regard to the still considerable part of Serbian public opinion which does not recognise war crimes against Muslim civilians, and strongly encourages the Serbian Government to take action to confront the nation with its past and curb the hero-worship of indicted war criminals.

Lastly, Parliament stresses that the lessons learned from Srebrenica and the wars in former Yugoslavia must serve as the basis for a **strengthening of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy.**