Basic information

2010/2735(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on the Israeli military operation against the humanitarian flotilla and the Gaza blockade **Subject** 6.10.04 Third-country political situation, local and regional conflicts **Geographical area** Israel Palestine	

Key players

Council of the European Union	**Council configuration**	**Meetings**	**Date**
	General Affairs	3023	2010-06-14

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
14/06/2010	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
16/06/2010	Debate in Parliament		
17/06/2010	Decision by Parliament	T7-0235/2010	Summary
17/06/2010	Results of vote in Parliament		
17/06/2010	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2010/2735(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary

Motion for a resolution		B7-0345/2010	16/06/2010	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0347/2010	16/06/2010	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0350/2010	16/06/2010	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0379/2010	16/06/2010	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0389/2010	16/06/2010	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0235/2010	17/06/2010	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2010)6508	27/10/2010	

Resolution on the Israeli military operation against the humanitarian flotilla and the Gaza blockade

2010/2735(RSP) - 17/06/2010 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 470 votes to 56, with 56 abstentions, a resolution on the Israeli military operation against the humanitarian flotilla and the Gaza blockade.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled in the form of a joint resolution by the S&D, Greens/ALE, GUE/NGL, ALDE and EPP groups.

Parliament extends condemns the attack against the flotilla in international waters, which is a breach of international law. It calls for a **prompt, international and impartial inquiry** into this attack.

It calls on Israel to immediately **end the blockade** on Gaza, which has resulted in a humanitarian disaster and increasing radicalisation, which is becoming a source of insecurity for Israel and for the region as a whole. It also demands that all **attacks against Israel cease immediately** and warns that those who perpetrate them must face their full responsibility.

Parliament urges the HR/VP and EU Member States:

- to take steps to ensure the **sustainable opening** of all the crossing points to and from Gaza, including the port of Gaza, with adequate international end-use monitoring, to allow the unimpeded flow of humanitarian and commercial goods necessary for reconstruction and a self-supporting economy, as well as currency flows and free movement of people. to immediately take the initiative by submitting an **EU plan to the Quartet with the aim of ending the blockade of Gaza** and addressing Israeli security concerns by ensuring international monitoring of the crossings, including the reappraisal of the mandate of the EU Border Assistance Mission (EU-BAM), potentially with a maritime dimension, as well as its reactivation, and deploying an international naval force to monitor the Gaza seashore.

Parliament recalls that, even if the EU is ready to extend its assistance package to Palestinians, this commitment is **not open-ended** and insists that, while humanitarian aid must remain unconditional, the **EU must play a political role** which delivers tangible results towards the creation of a viable Palestinian state. It expresses its support for the proximity talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority and underlines the need for their continuation with a view to the resumption of direct negotiation.

It is convinced that there is an urgent need for a **comprehensive reshaping of EU policy towards the Middle East** and that this reform should extend to all EU policies, including, among others, trade and development policies.

Parliament urges the Council to take the necessary steps to i) convene the EU-Israel Association Council and ii) the EU-Palestinian Authority Joint Committee in order to discuss the current situation.

Parliament calls for the immediate release of the Israeli sergeant Gilad Shalit, kidnapped by Hamas on Israeli soil in 2006, and who has been held incommunicado in Gaza ever since.

Lastly, Parliament notes that the recent events have considerably damaged relations between Turkey and Israel and the resolution encourages the Turkish Government to focus its diplomatic and political efforts on easing the plight of the Palestinian people and to contribute to the Middle East peace process.

Resolution on the Israeli military operation against the humanitarian flotilla and the Gaza blockade

2010/2735(RSP) - 14/06/2010

The Council discussed the situation regarding Gaza and adopted the following conclusions:

- the EU deeply regrets the loss of life during the Israeli military operation in international waters against the Flotilla sailing to Gaza and condemns the use of violence. The Council believes that an **immediate, full and impartial inquiry into these events and the circumstances surrounding them** is essential. To command the confidence of the international community this should include credible international participation;

- the Council emphasises that the **situation in Gaza remains unsustainable**. The continued policy of closure is unacceptable and politically counterproductive. The EU calls for an **urgent and fundamental change of policy** leading to a durable solution to the situation in Gaza. In line with UNSC Resolution 1860, the EU reiterates its call for an **immediate, sustained and unconditional opening of crossings for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons to and from Gaza** including goods from the West Bank. The Council calls for a solution that addresses Israel's legitimate security concerns including a complete stop to all violence and arms smuggling into Gaza;

- the Council deplores the continuing acts of rocket fire. All those responsible must take immediate and concrete steps to cease and prevent such violence. It calls on those holding the abducted Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit to release him without delay;

- the EU stands ready to contribute to the implementation of a mechanism based on the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access that would permit the reconstruction of Gaza and the revival of its economy. To this end, **full and regular access via land crossings, and possibly by sea, on the basis of a list of prohibited goods**, should be the prime aim, while at the same time providing strict control over the destination of imported merchandise. To achieve progress on the ground, the High Representative will continue to engage with the Government of Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Quartet members and other appropriate parties as a matter of urgency and present EU options with a view to the next Foreign Affairs Council.

In conclusion, the Council recalls its conclusions of December 2009. The EU stresses the paramount importance that the proximity talks continue with a view to the resumption of direct negotiations which should lead to a settlement negotiated between the parties within 24 months. All efforts to achieve Palestinian reconciliation behind President Mahmoud Abbas must be accelerated.