

Basic information	
2015/2723(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on the situation in Burundi Subject 6.10.04 Third-country political situation, local and regional conflicts Geographical area Burundi	

Key players			
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meetings	Date
	Foreign Affairs	3400	2015-06-22

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
10/06/2015	Debate in Parliament		
22/06/2015	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
09/07/2015	Decision by Parliament	T8-0275/2015	Summary
09/07/2015	Results of vote in Parliament		
09/07/2015	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2015/2723(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		B8-0657/2015	01/07/2015	

Motion for a resolution		B8-0658/2015	01/07/2015	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0665/2015	01/07/2015	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0666/2015	01/07/2015	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0667/2015	01/07/2015	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0668/2015	01/07/2015	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0669/2015	01/07/2015	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0275/2015	09/07/2015	Summary

Resolution on the situation in Burundi

2015/2723(RSP) - 09/07/2015 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the situation in Burundi.

The resolution was tabled by the EPP, S&D, ECR, ALDE, GUE/NGL, Greens/EFA and EFDD groups.

Gravely concerned about the worsening political and humanitarian situation in Burundi and the wider region, Parliament called for an immediate end to violence and political intimidation of opponents and the immediate disarmament of all armed youth groups allied to political parties.

It condemned the decision of the Burundian Government to go ahead with the elections despite the critical prevailing political and excessive use of force against demonstrators. **It urged the Burundian authorities to postpone the presidential elections set for 15 July 2015.**

It called on all those involved in the electoral process, including the bodies responsible for organising elections and the security services, to honour the commitments made in the Arusha Agreement, which put an end to the civil war. It emphasised, once again, that only through dialogue and consensus, involving the Burundian Government, opposition and civil society in accordance with the Arusha Agreement and the Burundian Constitution, could a lasting political solution be found.

EU Burundi relations: Members recalled that the EU's partnership with Burundi was governed by the Cotonou Agreement, and that all parties are bound to respect and implement the terms of that agreement, in particular respect for human rights. They called on the Government of Burundi, therefore, to allow genuine and open political debate to take place without fear of intimidation, and to refrain from misusing the judiciary to exclude political rivals.

They also asked the Commission **to reassess EU aid as a matter of urgency** with a view to diverting it, to increasing financial support for civil society and to focusing on humanitarian aid as opposed to central budget support.

Restrictive measures: Members joined the Foreign Affairs Council of 22 June 2015 in calling for a list of targeted restrictive measures and visa and travel bans against those responsible for acts of violence, repression and serious human rights violations, together with those who are actively impeding a political solution. They also asked the VP/HR to take the necessary measures to **freeze the assets** of all of these individuals in the EU Member States.

Intimidation: Parliament expressed its deep concern at the number of victims and the number of cases of serious human rights violations reported since the beginning of the crisis, particularly those abuses attributed to members of the Imbonerakure (CNDD-FDD youth militia). It demanded that the violence and intimidation exercised by the Imbonerakure be brought to an immediate end called on the CNDD-FDD to disarm the youth militia.

Members reiterated that there could be no impunity for those responsible for serious human rights violations, and noted that attempts by certain forces to transform the riots into an ethnic conflict were failing, and that political divisions in Burundi are not explicitly ethnic.

Parliament invited the International Criminal Court prosecutor to monitor media closely for incitement to ethnic hatred, as well as speeches by political leaders. It reiterated, in this context, the importance of abiding by the Code of Conduct in Electoral Matters and the UN-brokered election roadmap to prevent a further increase in political violence.

Lifting of restrictions on access to the internet: Members called for the immediate lifting of restrictions on the media and access to the internet, and denounced once again the repeated targeting of Radio Publique Africaine, which served as one of the country's principal news outlets. They considered that **legitimate elections could not take place unless media outlets were able to operate without restrictions.**

They welcomed the Commission's announcement of an additional EUR 1.5 million to ease the humanitarian situation. Parliament warned, however, that given the huge influx of refugees into an already fragile region, both the EU and its Member States, must redouble commitments as a matter of urgency reported outbreaks of cholera and alarming reports of sexual violence.

Lastly, it called on the EU and its Member States to deliver on all commitments to the UN Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan.

Resolution on the situation in Burundi

On 22 June 2015, the Council adopted **conclusions on Burundi**.

Faced with the critical situation in Burundi, the EU welcomed the fact that the region has mobilised to find a solution. The decisions on the situation in Burundi adopted at the African Union (AU) summit of 13 June, as well as the conclusions of the East African Community (EAC) summit of 31 May 2015, establish an indispensable framework for enabling Burundi to overcome the crisis.

Recalling the Council conclusions of 16 March and 18 May 2015, the EU shared the view expressed by the AU, the EAC and the United Nations (UN) that only through **dialogue and consensus**, can a lasting political solution be found in the interests of security and democracy for all Burundi's people. It called on all Burundian stakeholders to resume dialogue on all areas of disagreement between the parties, and undertakes to support them in this.

Conditions for a smooth running election process: the EU called for full compliance with the conditions identified by the AU and the EAC, which are vital for the credibility and smooth running of the electoral process. It called for greater coordination, supports the mediation efforts made by the AU, the EAC and the UN, and is ready to support the implementation of the specific measures recently announced by the AU. Both the EAC and the AU have clearly declared that **conditions conducive to the holding of elections are not currently in place**. There is a strong likelihood that it will not be possible to put such conditions in place within the time frames provided for in the Burundian Constitution. The EU urged the Burundian Government to respond to the decisions taken by the Peace and Security Council of the AU by taking specific steps as soon as possible.

Towards restrictive measures: the EU expressed its deep concern at the numbers of victims and cases of serious human rights violations reported since the beginning of the crisis, particularly those abuses attributed to the security forces and to members of the Imbonerakure. It asked that leaders bring to a **halt to the actions that are at the root of this violence**. It is determined to adopt, if necessary, targeted restrictive measures against those whose actions might have led or might lead to acts of violence and repression and serious human rights violations, and/or might hamper the search for a political solution within the framework proposed by the AU and the EAC. As a preventive measure, the Council requests that the High Representative initiate preparatory work to that end.

Depending on the reaction of the Burundian Government to the decisions taken by the Peace and Security Council of the AU and on future developments, the EU is prepared to institute those procedures, including in the area of cooperation, in order to ensure that Burundi respects those commitments.

Refugees: lastly, the EU expressed its deep concern about the continued outflow of refugees to neighbouring countries. It reiterated its support for the humanitarian organisations present in the region and congratulated the authorities of the host countries for their open and welcoming attitude towards those seeking refuge beyond their border.