Basic information

2020/2774(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on the preparation of the special European Council summit focusing on the dangerous escalation and the role of Turkey in the Eastern Mediterranean **Subject** 8.40.14 European Council	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
15/09/2020	Debate in Parliament		
17/09/2020	Decision by Parliament	T9-0230/2020	Summary
17/09/2020	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2020/2774(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		B9-0258/2020	17/09/2020	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0260/2020	17/09/2020	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0263/2020	17/09/2020	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0264/2020	17/09/2020	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0266/2020	17/09/2020	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0268/2020	17/09/2020	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0270/2020	17/09/2020	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0230/2020	17/09/2020	Summary

Resolution on the preparation of the special European Council summit focusing on the dangerous escalation and the role of Turkey in the Eastern Mediterranean

2020/2774(RSP) - 17/09/2020 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 601 votes to 57, with 36 abstentions, a resolution on the preparation of the special European Council summit focusing on the dangerous escalation and the role of Turkey in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The text adopted in plenary had been tabled as a joint resolution by the EPP, S&D, Renew, Greens/EFA, ECR and GUE/NGL groups.

Condemnation of Turkey's illegal actions

Members expressed concern about the ongoing dispute and the related risk of military escalation between EU Member States and an EU candidate country. They condemned Turkey's actions in the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of Greece and Cyprus, while expressing their solidarity with both countries.

While welcoming Turkey's decision of 12 September 2020 to withdraw its seismic research vessel from the disputed area, Parliament called on Turkey to refrain from any unilateral action or threat and to exercise restraint while respecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all its neighbours, by immediately halting all further illegal exploration and drilling activities in the Eastern Mediterranean, refraining from violating Greek airspace and Greek and Cypriot territorial waters and distancing itself from nationalist warmongering rhetoric.

Members stated that a solution should be found by diplomatic means, mediation and international law. They called on both sides to resume dialogue and invited all actors concerned to engage without delay in a process of de-escalation by withdrawing their military presence in the region in order to enable dialogue and effective cooperation.

Parliament called on Turkey, as an EU candidate country, to fully respect the law of the sea and the sovereignty of EU Member States Greece and Cyprus over their territorial seas and their sovereign rights in their maritime zones. It also regretted that the increasing escalation of tension undermines the prospects for the resumption of direct talks on the comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue, which remains the most effective way forward with regard to the prospects for the demarcation of the EEZs between Cyprus and Turkey.

EU-Turkey relations

Parliament expressed its deep concern about the current state of relations between the European Union and Turkey, mainly with regard to the disastrous human rights situation in Turkey and the erosion of democracy and the rule of law.

Parliament called on the Commission and all Member States to engage in a broader and more inclusive dialogue with Turkey with a view to establishing a comprehensive and strategic security architecture for the Mediterranean and energy cooperation in the region. Commitment to the fundamental values and principles of the Union, including respect for human rights, democracy, the rule of law and the principle of solidarity should be at the centre of this dialogue.

Members called on Turkey and Member States to support political dialogue in Libya and to respect the UN Security Council arms embargo. They deplored the negative impact on the stability of the region, particularly in Syria, of Turkey's current foreign policy and other actions in the Mediterranean. They stressed that further sanctions can only be avoided through dialogue, sincere cooperation and concrete progress on the ground.

Green deal for the Mediterranean

Parliament called for a comprehensive environmental risk assessment of any drilling activity, considering the multitude of risks associated with offshore gas exploration for the environment, the workforce and local populations. It called upon all parties involved to invest in renewable energy and a sustainable climate friendly future, and calls on the EU to support the development of such a Green Deal for the Mediterranean, which would include plans for investment in renewable energy in the wider region in order to avoid disputes over limited fossil resources that are harmful to the climate and environment.