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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0438/2023**

16.10.2023

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission  
pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the despicable terrorist attacks by Hamas against Israel, Israel's right to  
defend itself in line with humanitarian and international law and the  
humanitarian situation in Gaza  
(2023/2899(RSP))

**Jaak Madison, Marco Zanni, Jordan Bardella, Gerolf Annemans,  
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on behalf of the ID Group

**B9-0438/2023**

**European Parliament resolution on the despicable terrorist attacks by Hamas against Israel, Israel's right to defend itself in line with humanitarian and international law and the humanitarian situation in Gaza (2023/2899(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the UN Charter, in particular Article 51 thereof,
  - having regard to the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907,
  - having regard to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the 1977 Protocols thereto,
  - having regard to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court of 2002,
  - having regard to all relevant UN resolutions on Israel and Palestine,
  - having regard to the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) following the informal video conference of foreign affairs ministers of 10 October 2023,
  - having regard to the statement by Commissioner Várhelyi of 9 October 2023 and the contradictory statements by the Commission that followed,
  - having regard to the statement by the Chair of the Delegation for Relations with Palestine of 10 October 2023,
  - having regard to Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1505 of 20 July 2023 implementing Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism, and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/420<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to the Council and Commission statements of 18 October 2023 on the despicable terrorist attacks of Hamas against Israel,
  - having regard to its previous resolutions on Israel and Palestine,
  - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Hamas launched a large-scale surprise terrorist attack on Israel in the early morning of 7 October 2023; whereas, to date, at least 1 400 people have been killed in Israel; whereas at least 2 700 have been injured and substantial numbers kidnapped, including children;
- B. whereas the attack carried out by Hamas has been characterised by unparalleled brutality towards ordinary citizens and families, with numerous reports of women and

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 184, 21.7.2023, p. 1.

children being raped, killed or kidnapped; whereas more than 100 people are believed to be being held hostage by Hamas;

- C. whereas the bodies of more than 260 civilians were found at a festival site; whereas horrific reports have emerged of entire families being massacred in the Israeli kibbutz Kfar Aza;
- D. whereas the Israeli Government issued a formal declaration of war on 8 October 2023 and launched 'Operation Swords of Iron' in response to the attack;
- E. whereas the consequences of this attack could spill over into the region and further destabilise the Middle East; whereas Israel has warned other countries not to get involved in the conflict;
- F. whereas Hamas is included on the EU list of terrorist organisations; whereas the EU has funded various organisations in Palestine, including allocating EUR 1.7 million to the University of Gaza, also known as the 'Hamas Campus'; whereas reports have surfaced that the EU funded water pipelines for Palestinians despite Hamas boasting that they had the ability to build homemade rockets from the pipes; whereas videos have since emerged showing that Hamas did indeed manufacture makeshift weapons using pipes;
- G. whereas Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah group claimed responsibility for targeting three Israeli sites in an area known as Shebaa Farms;
- H. whereas Sven Kuehn von Burgsdorff, the former EU Ambassador to Palestine, performed the first paragliding flight in Gaza in July 2023 to 'draw attention to Israel's occupation of Gaza';
- I. whereas on 11 October 2023, the founder and former leader of Hamas, Khaled Mashal, posted a video calling for a global jihad on 13 October 2023, naming it the 'Friday of Al-Aqsa flood'; whereas, in response to this call, a number of Member States took preventative measures such as closing Jewish schools for the day; whereas on the same day, a teacher was brutally murdered and two others injured in a knife attack by an Islamic extremist in France; whereas on 14 October, the Louvre and Versailles were evacuated following a written threat; whereas France has since been placed on the highest state of counter-terrorism alert;
- J. whereas protests in support of the terror acts by Hamas have taken place across a number of cities in the EU; whereas certain Member States, such as France, have since banned all pro-Palestinian protests;
- K. whereas President Metsola and Commission President von der Leyen visited Israel on 13 October 2023 to express the EU's solidarity with the county; whereas the visit by President von der Leyen has been met with criticism; whereas the European Council adopted a statement on 15 October 2023 reiterating the EU's commitment to a two-state solution;
- L. whereas on 15 October 2023, more than a week after the terrorist attack on Israel, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas finally distanced himself from Hamas, emphasising that Hamas' actions and policies do not represent the Palestinian people;

1. Extends its sincerest and most heartfelt condolences to all the families and friends of the victims of this attack; expresses its sincere hope that those who are still missing, particularly children, will be found alive and reunited with their families;
2. Condemns, in the strongest terms, the brutal terror attack launched by Hamas against Israel and its particular targeting of civilians; denounces the torture, kidnapping and murders of Israeli citizens, including children; expresses deep concern following reports of children, toddlers and babies being executed, mutilated and abducted by Hamas terrorists; calls for all hostages to be immediately and unconditionally released; notes with horror that the aim of Hamas was to target the Israeli civilian population in blatant violation of international humanitarian law;
3. Expresses its solidarity with Israel and its people; recalls that Israel is a sovereign state and reaffirms Israel's right of existence; underlines that Israel has the right to defend itself against terrorist attacks by state and non-state actors;
4. Calls on Israel, in its response to this malicious attack, to respect international humanitarian law; notes that the Israeli Defense Forces issued an evacuation order on 13 October 2023 calling on Palestinians to evacuate Gaza City, citing that Hamas was hiding in underground tunnels, using Palestinians as human shields and preventing civilians from leaving;
5. Expresses concern about the risk of the destabilisation of the Middle East, which could undermine the results achieved by the Abraham Accords, which normalised diplomatic relations and led to a new form of regional economic and political cooperation;
6. Regrets the unbalanced text of its draft recommendation on relations with the Palestinian Authority<sup>2</sup>, adopted on 12 July 2023; unequivocally rejects, and distances itself from, the statement by the Chair of the Delegation for Relations with Palestine, Manu Pineda, which was published on 10 October 2023;
7. Welcomes Commissioner Várhelyi's announcement that the Commission was reviewing the full development aid portfolio for Palestinians, worth EUR 691 million, and that it was immediately suspending all payments; regrets the fact that the Commission, in a later press release, appeared to backtrack on this announcement by stating that no payments had been suspended but that the funding was being reviewed; notes that the VP/HR has stated that humanitarian aid will continue to be disbursed to Palestinians and that there will be no structural delay of the cooperation with, or funding to, the Palestinian Authority and that no payments have been suspended or cancelled;
8. Notes with concern that the Commission has announced a further EUR 50 million in funding to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); insists that the disbursement of any and all EU funds to Palestinian organisations, including those to the Palestinian Authority and UNRWA, be immediately suspended and that commitments for funding to Palestine be reviewed in all budget lines following the brutal attack by Hamas against Israel; calls on the Commission to make its funding to Palestine, Palestinian organisations and NGOs that are active in Palestine transparent by creating a separate budget line; calls on the

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<sup>2</sup> Texts adopted, P9\_TA(2023)0283.

Commission to conduct an audit to ascertain whether any past EU funding to Palestinians and their organisations could have been redirected to finance Hamas or other Islamist and terrorist organisations;

9. Recalls with disgust that the EU indirectly contributed to funding antisemitic schoolbooks in Palestine for a prolonged period of time; is both utterly ashamed and appalled by the fact that EU funding (EUR 1.8 billion pledged in total between 2021 and 2024) was instrumental in fuelling and permeating hatred against Israel and Israelis among Palestinians;
10. Condemns the terrorist attack on a school in France, which took place on the day of ‘global jihad’ proclaimed by the Hamas founder, in which a teacher was murdered and two others injured; expresses its support for the survivors of the attack and its sincerest condolences to the family and friends of the victim; calls for the immediate expulsion of all foreign-national supporters of terrorism;
11. Notes with the gravest concern and condemns the demonstrations taking place in support of the terrorist attacks in various cities across Member States, including among students in schools and universities and in migrant camps; notes with concern that the EU, through its ‘welcome policy’ has imported these problems and conflicts to the Member States; points out that the ability of Hamas supporters to freely spread their vile hatred against Israel and the Jewish community in the Member States is evidence of the strength and assertiveness of the growing parallel societies within Europe; condemns the violent antisemitic incidents that have taken place in certain Member States following the events of 7 October 2023, such as the attack on Jewish people in Ieper, Belgium, on 12 October 2023; expresses concern that various local authorities have been reluctant to hoist the Israeli flag for fear of retaliation by Hamas supporters that live in the Member States; considers that terrorist sympathisers and migrants who pose a danger to Jewish life in Europe have no place in our European societies and should, if legally possible, have their citizenship, residence permit or visa revoked and be returned to their countries of origin, as was done with ISIS foreign fighters; insists on a policy of regional placement of Palestinian refugees;
12. Reiterates that terrorism must be fought against with vigour; notes with regret that the events in Israel serve as a wake-up call for Europe and a stark reminder of the brutality of Islamist terror attacks;
13. Calls for the establishment of a permanent subcommittee on fighting terrorism; recalls that a special committee with a similar remit was created for a limited period of time in 2017, following the Paris and the Nice terrorist attacks in 2015 and 2016, respectively;
14. Calls on the International Criminal Court to launch an urgent investigation into the involvement of Iran and other actors in providing support and resources to Hamas to organise and execute the attack against Israel; urges the intelligence communities to share any evidence they may have regarding the attack and from whom Hamas received support;
15. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Parliaments of the Member States, the Government of Israel, and the Palestinian Authority.

