

Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2016/2933(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on the situation in Syria		
Subject	6.10.04 Third-country political situation, local and regional conflicts	
Geographical area	Syria	

Key players			
European Parliament			
Council of the European Union			
Council configuration	Meeting	Date	
Foreign Affairs	3498	14/11/2016	
Foreign Affairs	3492	17/10/2016	

Key events			
17/10/2016	Debate in Council	3492	
22/11/2016	Debate in Parliament		
24/11/2016	Results of vote in Parliament		
24/11/2016	Decision by Parliament	T8-0449/2016	Summary
24/11/2016	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2016/2933(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 132-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway					
Motion for a resolution		B8-1123/2016	24/11/2016	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1249/2016	24/11/2016	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1250/2016	24/11/2016	EP	

Motion for a resolution		B8-1251/2016	24/11/2016	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1252/2016	24/11/2016	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1253/2016	24/11/2016	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1254/2016	24/11/2016	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1255/2016	24/11/2016	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0449/2016	24/11/2016	EP	Summary
Joint motion for resolution		RC-B8-1249/2016	24/11/2016		

Resolution on the situation in Syria

The European Parliament adopted by 506 votes to 77, with 42 abstentions, a resolution on the situation in Syria.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled by the EPP, S&D, ECR, ALDE and Greens/EFA groups.

Members demanded an immediate end to bombing and indiscriminate attacks on civilians and expressed their gravest concern over the continuing fighting, bombardment and worsened humanitarian situation in Syria.

Stressing that the deliberate starvation of populations is prohibited by international humanitarian law, Parliament urged all parties to allow medical evacuations immediately from east Aleppo and all other besieged areas. It is stated that the Syrian regime has the primary responsibility for the protection of the Syrian population.

Parliament condemned in the strongest terms the atrocities and widespread violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed by the Assad forces with the support of Russia and Iran, as well as the human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law by non-state, armed terrorist groups, in particular Daesh, Jabhat Fateh al-Sham/the Al-Nusra Front and other jihadist groups.

These atrocities may be considered as serious war crimes and crimes against humanity and should not go unpunished.

Parliament called on the Union to ensure that all those responsible for violations of international human rights and humanitarian law face justice through appropriate, impartial international criminal justice mechanisms or national courts and through the application of the principle of universal jurisdiction. It reiterated its support for the creation of a Syrian war crimes tribunal pending a referral to the ICC.

The EU should consider all available options, including a no-fly zone over Aleppo city, to set out consequences for the most heinous human rights violations and abuses by all perpetrators if the atrocities and blunt disrespect of humanitarian law continues.

Members urged all participants in the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) to resume negotiations in order to facilitate the establishment of a stable truce and to intensify work on a lasting political settlement in Syria. The regional actors, in particular neighbouring countries, bear special responsibility.

The resolution demanded respect by all for the right of ethnic and religious minorities in Syria, including Christians, to continue to live in their historical and traditional homelands in dignity, equality and safety, and to fully practise their religion and beliefs freely without being subject to any kind of coercion, violence or discrimination.

Lastly, Parliament called on the EU institutions and the Member States to provide full support to the UN and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in order to continue investigating the use and the destruction of chemical weapons by all sides in Syria.