Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Expected humanitarian catastrophe caused by the dangerous condition of the Sarsang water reservoir in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Motion for a resolution
tabled by Mr Elkhan SULEYMANOV and other members of the Assembly

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This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

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The Sarsang reservoir is the highest water reservoir of Azerbaijan, situated at 726 meters above sea level (with a dam of 125 meters high and a capacity of 560 million cubic meters) and was built on the Tartar River in 1976. The reservoir is actually located in the territories occupied by the Armenian military forces and is currently kept under their control.

The Parliamentary Assembly stresses the dangerous condition of Sarsang reservoir, which is of vital importance for the Azerbaijani inhabitants of the surrounding non-occupied provinces of Azerbaijan, due to a lack of maintenance as a result of occupation. The threat of a possible collapse for various reasons seriously endangers the lives of 400,000 people of seven provinces of Azerbaijan, and may cause an accident leading to mass casualties and to a new humanitarian crisis.

The Assembly therefore strongly condemns the illegal blockade by Armenia of water supplies and irrigation systems in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, in breach with fundamental principles of international law, and considers this abuse of power by Armenia as inhuman.

The Assembly urges the Armenian military forces to hand over their illegal control of this water reservoir and related irrigation systems to the Azerbaijani authorities, in compliance with previous international resolutions.

The Assembly should call for an immediate action from the international community to prevent any scenarios of military diversion and to be prepared for any accident or natural disaster which may provoke massive human casualties.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democrat Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group