



Doc. 13045 – Compendium of written amendments

(Final version)

The European response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria

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A. Draft Resolution

1. Since the beginning of the conflict in Syria, more than 2.5 million people have found themselves in a perilous situation, suffering from want of food, hygiene and essential goods. Over 1.2 million people have been displaced within the country, and 294 005 have taken refuge abroad in order to avoid the shootings and bombardments and to save themselves from attacks and acts of violence.
2. The situation is thus becoming more and more critical, since each day brings further acts of bloodshed and violence against civilians, medical workers and the staff of humanitarian organisations.
3. The Parliamentary Assembly recalls its Resolution 1878 (2012) on the situation in Syria and regrets the persistence of this crisis and its continuing grievous threat to security and stability in the entire region and in particular the bordering countries.
4. In this context, the Assembly resolutely condemns the acts of violence and the military operations whose victims have been the civilian populations, many thousands of whom have lost their lives.

Amendment 2

Tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

In the draft resolution, paragraph 3, replace the words "the persistence of this crisis" with the following words: "the dramatic deterioration of the conflict, which has escalated into a full-fledged civil war,".

Amendment 3

Tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

In the draft resolution, paragraph 4, replace the words "the acts" with the following words: "all acts".

Amendment 4

Tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

In the draft resolution, at the end of paragraph 4, add the following text: "It particularly condemns the continuing, widespread, systematic and gross human rights violations amounting to crimes against humanity committed by the Syrian military and security forces, such as summary executions, torture and sexual violence, including of and against children. The Assembly reiterates that all allegations of violations and crimes must be properly investigated and their perpetrators, whoever they may be, must be brought to justice, including, as appropriate, before the International Criminal Court."

5. The situation in the refugee camps in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq is also becoming drastic owing to shortages of food, supplies, hygiene products and lack of accommodation. The approach of winter aggravates further the situation.
6. Indeed, for the last six months an upsurge in the number of refugees has been noted in the border regions as well as in certain member States (France, Germany, Sweden, etc.), 75% of them being women and children.
7. The Assembly thanks the Turkish authorities, together with Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq, which have received these refugees, despite the organisational and security problems associated with this task.
8. Unfortunately the reception capability of these countries has very quickly been overwhelmed following the mass influx of refugees, and the Assembly appeals to the solidarity of the international community to make a generous and most urgent response to the calls for funds to assist the refugees from Syria and the neighbouring countries receiving them, as requested in the last revised plan of the United Nations.
9. The Assembly regrets that Turkey, notwithstanding its generous reception of refugees from Syria, continues to maintain the geographic reservation restricting its obligations under the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the status of refugees only to people uprooted by events in Europe.
10. The Assembly considers that the international community's relative silence and inaction vis-à-vis the influx of refugees to neighbouring countries has lasted too long and that it is time to react and take the measures necessary to ensure that the refugees are provided with suitable reception facilities and that they are given the opportunity to move back once the conflict has ended.
11. Accordingly, the Assembly asks the parties to the conflict to:

Amendment 5
Tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

In the draft resolution, paragraph 5, at the end of the first sentence, insert the words: “, as it is in certain areas of Syria itself”.

Amendment 6
Tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

In the draft resolution, delete paragraph 9.

Amendment 7
Tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

In the draft resolution, after paragraph 10, insert the following paragraphs: "The Assembly is convinced that the problems raised by the dramatic situation of refugees and displaced persons in Syria and in neighbouring countries can only be solved if there are prospects of peace. This will only be possible through a political solution to the conflict. For this purpose, it is indispensable that: - a common initiative of the international community emerges; - more voices among the ranks of the supporters of the regime seriously consider the prospect of a political transition; - extremist and fundamentalist forces among the ranks of the opposition are marginalised, and the opposition realises that a military solution is a mere delusion; - more efforts are made to convince the Syrian democratic opposition to unify around a common political platform and leadership to be ready for the political transition."

- 11.1. arrive as rapidly as possible at a ceasefire, the necessary precondition for any political solution, and to that end to avail themselves of the good offices of the international mediator, Mr Lakhdar Brahimi;
- 11.2. allow the humanitarian organisations and the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to help displaced persons in Syria and accordingly to abide by humanitarian law for the access of all humanitarian workers;
- 11.3. ensure that those who have fled from their homes can benefit from housing and adequate medical care;
- 11.4. permit the establishment of humanitarian corridors or buffer zones to let convoys deliver whatever humanitarian aid is necessary for the survival of the displaced population.
12. The recommends that the member States of the United Nations Security Council take measures to establish an air exclusion zone in order to prevent bombing of the civilian population;

Amendment 8
Tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

In the draft resolution, paragraph 12, after the words "Security Council", place the rest of the sentence in a sub-paragraph and add the following sub-paragraph: "- agree on a common initiative which will set the conditions for a political solution to the conflict and generate the prospects of peace."

13. The Assembly recommends that the Council of Europe member States and the countries bordering on Syria:
 - 13.1. do not send asylum seekers back to Syria, in compliance with the fundamental principle of non-refoulement, and ensure that pushbacks do not take place at their borders;
 - 13.2. provide proper facilities for the reception of refugees and provide them with all necessary assistance;
 - 13.3. enable all asylum seekers to obtain international protection, in the form of temporary, subsidiary or full refugee status under the United Nations Convention relating to the status of refugees;
 - 13.4. take the requisite measures to ease and shorten the procedures for obtaining asylum;
 - 13.5. where required, move the refugee camps further away from the border with Syria in order to ensure the safety of those in the camps, as already requested in its Resolution 1878 (2012) on the situation in Syria;

Amendment 1
Tabled by Ms Nursuna MEMECAN, Mr Burhan KAYATÜRK, Ms Tülin ERKAL KARA, Mr Ahmet Kutalmış TÜRKEŞ, Ms Pelin GÜNDEŞ BAKIR

In the draft resolution, delete paragraph 13.5.

- 13.6. ensure that appropriate assistance is provided to refugees previously living in Syria seeking protection a second time, or third country nationals having fled Syria looking to return to their home countries;
- 13.7. lay down an action plan providing in particular for a programme of resettlement operating from the host

countries, possibly enlisting the aid of the Council of Europe Development Bank;

- 13.8. ask the Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank to consider a donation from the Selective Trust Account aimed at reinforcing the action of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the benefit of refugees from Syria.

Amendment 9

Tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

In the draft resolution, after paragraph 13.8, insert the following paragraph:

"- recognise the urgent need to provide vital supplies, including food, clothing, medical aid and temporary shelter, both to displaced persons in Syria and to Syrian refugees in bordering countries before the onset of winter."

14. The Assembly also recommends that the bordering countries, including Israel, open all border crossings to refugees from Syria.

Amendment 10

Tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

In the draft resolution, after paragraph 14, insert the following paragraph:

"The Assembly reiterates that the possibility of eliminating violence and embracing the change for which so many lives have been sacrificed can be opened up to Syria only through a political solution."