

Resolution adopted at the EPP Congress in Bucharest, 17th to the 18th October 2012

Responsibility to Protect and Genocide Prevention

Being convinced that prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide and mass atrocities is our shared responsibility. Genocide and mass atrocities are a direct assault on universal human values, including most fundamentally the right to life. It is our obligation to create in the 21st century “A world free from genocide and mass atrocities”. We pledge to make every effort to stop them.

Recalling with deep gratitude the invaluable work of Mr. Raphael Lemkin who coined the word genocide and through his tireless efforts made a milestone contribution to the humanity with the adoption of the Convention on the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide (1948).

Acknowledging that genocide has deep roots and that its execution requires planning and organization. Seizing on opportunities to prevent mass atrocities requires a comprehensive approach, breaking through bureaucratic silos to draw on a wide array of analytical, diplomatic, economic, legal, and military instruments as well as engaging with a variety of partners. It also requires a combination of high-level attention and standing institutional mechanisms.

Bearing in mind the European Parliament's recommendation to the Council of 13 June 2012 on the 67th session of the UN General Assembly (2012/2036(INI)), in particular the strong reconfirmation of the EU's commitment to the concept of Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and to initiate the development of an inter-institutional consensus on R2P between the European Parliament, the EEAS and the EU Member States that could ensure a more consistent EU action on such issues in UN forums; to assist states in fulfilling their responsibility to protect their populations; to stress the need for timely and adequate international action to prevent and halt genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity; and to generate further political and institutional progress on the implementation of the R2P concept in UN organs.

Heaving regard the European Parliament's proposal for the recommendation to the Council on the UN principle of the 'Responsibility to Protect' (R2P) of 28 March 2012 (B7-0191/2012).

The European People's Party,

Welcomes the recent appointment of the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, whose mandate is to enhance the effectiveness and visibility of EU human rights policy.

Calls upon the Council to further strengthen the R2P concept, to build upon inter-institutional consensus on R2P jointly with the EEAS, the Commission and the European Parliament and to improve the EU capacities to prevent atrocities.

Reiterates the need to closely follow policy planning and capability development in the context of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) with the goal of creating EU capacities to provide better protection of human rights and to effectively prevent crimes of genocide, ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity, rape and war crimes.

Recommends to the Council to follow the example of the USA and establish the EU Atrocities Prevention Board as an inter-institutional mechanism, which would coordinate and develop new means of preventing genocide and mass atrocities.

Recommends to the Council to appoint the EU focal point for R2P and to the Governments of EU Member States to appoint their respective national focal points in order to establish an effective network of information sharing and dialogue on conflict and atrocities prevention.