

Draft EGP Resolution

1 **On Syria**

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3 1. Syria has been ruined and traumatised by a murderous civil war for over six years. Half of the
4 country's inhabitants have been forced to flee and today still live in uncertain conditions, mostly
5 in camps in the neighboring countries. As part of the Syrian population now enjoys a slight
6 respite from mindless killing and savage destruction, the European Green Party calls on the
7 international community not to draw its attention away from this country.

8 2. We welcome the temporary cease-fire since the end of last year that seems to be holding across
9 most of Syria, and we support all diplomatic efforts, which may allow for continued suspension
10 of hostilities, its consolidation and the beginning of another round of peace talks. These peace
11 talks must also give an opportunity to women to voice their contribution. Since the start of this
12 tragedy, the EGP has been very clear: there is no military solution and only an inclusive, political
13 process will provide an end to the war. Setting pre-conditions or excluding negotiating parties is
14 the best guarantee to see fighting resumed.

15 3. There will be a time to reflect and assess the mistakes and failings of the European Union and
16 its Member States and of the West at large in the Syrian conflict. There will be a need to draw
17 necessary conclusions with regards to the dramatic consequences of the assistance of toppling a
18 dictator through military means. Yet, the time is now for pooling all European diplomatic
19 resources in support of the current UN-led peace talks.

20 4. While side-lined and marginalised at the diplomatic table - mostly because of its own doing -
21 Europe has a role to play in the recovery and reconstruction of Syria and an experience to share
22 in terms of reconciliation, fostering trust and overcoming the destructive forces of war. Europe
23 should promote a vision of a future Syria, which is plural, inclusive, democratic and respectful of
24 all groups. Europe should use its influence and economic weight to press all actors - in
25 particular its regional allies - to de-escalate, rather than re-fuel, the conflict.

26 5. We reiterate our absolute condemnation of the atrocities and the widespread violations of
27 human rights and international humanitarian law, committed by the forces of the Assad regime
28 and its allies, as well as the abuses and crimes committed by non-State armed groups, in
29 particular Daesh and Jabhat Fateh al-Sham (formerly al-Nusra). All war crimes and violations of
30 human rights must be prosecuted.

Draft EGP Resolution

- 31 6. We deeply deplore that European governments and some of our close allies have provided
32 military, financial or logistical support to warring actors that have been, and still are,
33 responsible for serious crimes.
- 34 7. While the EGP recognises that Russia has secured itself a decisive and indispensable role on the
35 Syrian question, we denounce the complicity of President Putin in the destruction in Syria, as
36 illustrated most gruesomely by the flattening of Aleppo by Russian air forces.
- 37 8. The latest reports of mass hangings and exterminations and of widespread sexual violence
38 against children in detention centres under the control of Assad confirm the latter's ranking
39 among the worst barbarians of human history. These atrocities cannot be rationalised by
40 pointing to atrocities that have been committed by Daesh or other groups.
- 41 9. We remain convinced that there can be neither effective conflict resolution nor sustainable
42 peace in Syria without accountability for the crimes committed by the Assad regime and the
43 other conflicting parties. Peace is not antonymous to justice; peace requires justice.
- 44 10. We deplore the blockage of a referral by the UN Security Council to the International Criminal
45 Court and we call for an EU coordinated accountability strategy towards the crimes committed
46 in Syria, the creation of an ad-hoc Syrian war crimes tribunal and for the application of the
47 principle of universal jurisdiction across national courts.
- 48 11. We condemn the heinous acts of Daesh within the region and beyond, including against civilians
49 in the streets of Berlin and Paris, and we firmly wish to see an end to this criminal group of mass
50 murderers. We stress, however, that Daesh represents, first and foremost, the consequence,
51 rather than the cause, of the convulsions in the Middle East. Fighting Daesh will be in vain unless
52 its foundations are addressed; these include sectarianism, marginalisation and discrimination
53 against entire groups, including Arab Sunnis. We need a clearly thought through strategy, driven
54 by locals, to find the kind of sustainable solution to the conflict that does not guarantee the
55 creation of Daesh's successor. The hard lessons from the liberation of Fallujah need to be
56 carefully reminded as the battle of Mosul unfolds and that of Raqqa approaches.
- 57 12. Europe should support, wherever possible, the building of the capacities of the people and civil
58 society of Syria, including through actors that promote human rights, equality (including gender
59 equality and minority rights), democracy and empowerment, inside Syria, but also outside its
60 borders for the population in exile.

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61 13. The EGP reiterates its solidarity with Syria's neighbouring countries and nations that, by hosting
62 millions of Syrian refugees, have reminded the world, and in particular the European
63 governments, that solidarity to those in distress is a fundament of mankind. Europe should be
64 ashamed of itself. We condemn the hijacking of European development, migration and foreign
65 and security policies by narrow-minded, xenophobic and parochial considerations. We urge
66 Europe to step up its support to the neighbours of Syria who are hosting the millions of refugees
67 that fled their country, which should not translate into the construction of walls designed to
68 prevent migration, or the fostering of autocratic regimes. We urge our Member States to finally
69 live up to their principles and to their obligations under international humanitarian law, vis-à-vis
70 refugees and asylum-seekers (including through humanitarian visa). Also, under the condition of
71 the guarantee of security, we want European countries to help in facilitating safe voluntary
72 returns for refugees to Syria and to help the country in building a new Syrian society based on
73 democratic values and respect of human rights. We reiterate our commitment to establish a
74 truly European Asylum procedure and policy.