

Resolution on the Turkish invasion of North-East Syria

Tabled by Bündnis C – Christen für Deutschland, Germany

The General Assembly of ECPM, gathered on the 5th of December 2019 in Brussels,

On the occasion of the third invasion of the Turkish army in Northern Syria east of the Euphrates since 9 October 2019,

Recalling the first two wars of Turkey in the summer of 2016 and early 2018, in which Turkey had already taken control of large areas of northern Syria west of the Euphrates and had largely expelled, expropriated or murdered the indigenous population of Al-Bab, Jarablus and Afrin,

Rejecting Turkey's intention to ethnically clean up a 30-40 km wide security zone along the Syrian border from Kurds and forcibly resettle Syrian refugees from Turkey in the area,

Pointing out that since 2014 under Kurdish leadership the democratic Self-Administration North-East Syria (SANES) with the participation of all ethnic and religious groups has been established, where since then 4 million Kurds and Yazidi, Arabs and Alevis, Christian Assyrians, Aramaeans and converts, Armenians and Turkmen live and work together largely peacefully and thus have laid the foundation for a democratic Syria,

Reminding that the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) under the leadership of the Kurdish YPG fighters and with the support of the US defence troops defeated the Islamic State (IS) in North-East Syria and thus 10,000 fallen, mostly Kurdish fighters contributed to security in Europe,

With regard to the decision of the Court of the European Union of 15 November 2018 that the inclusion of the PKK in the EU terror list 2014-2017 was illegal, and various rulings of the Supreme Court in Belgium that the PKK is not a terrorist organisation but part of an internal conflict in Turkey,

Underlining that Turkey cannot assert any security interests for the invasion of North-East Syria because the YPG did not attack Turkey from the territory governed by SANES and Turkey therefore cannot invoke a casus foederis of mutual defence under Article 5 of the NATO Treaty,

Warning that with the withdrawal of US troops and advance of the Assad regime as well as the agreed Russian-Turkish ground patrols to secure the Syrian-Turkish border strip, the EU is losing its geopolitical influence in the region,

Warning that Russia's control over North-East Syria may increase Iran's influence and further threaten Israel,

Warning also that in the renewed destabilization of Syria and Iraq by Turkish aggression, up to 70,000 IS fighters with their families could be released and also get to Europe, who have so far been held captive by the SDF,

Deploring the fact that many civilians have already been killed as a result of Turkey's war of aggression and that so far some 200 000 people have fled from North-East Syria to Iraq or more southern parts of Syria,

Appealing that so far neither the EU nor the USA have sufficiently supported SANES and the SDF against the invasion of NATO partner Turkey in violation of international law,

Calls on the European Council,

- To take a clear stand against Turkey's attack on a neighbouring country in violation of international law and to demand the complete withdrawal of Turkish troops from Syrian territory,
- To support the proposal of the German Defence Minister Kramp-Karrenbauer to NATO to establish an international protection zone along the Turkish border,
- In the event of continued aggression by Turkey against Syria, to cooperate with the US to impose a no-fly zone for Turkish fighters over Syrian airspace,
- To provide long-term support to the Self-Administration North-East Syria (SANES) in stabilising the region and resettlement of Syrian refugees,
- To cooperate with the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) for defeat and further dealings with the Islamic State (IS).