

45th SESSION

Declaration
CG(2023)45-21-AMDT
25 October 2023

AMENDMENTS

The humanitarian situation in Karabakh and neighbouring cities and regions

Rapporteur:¹ Bernd Voehringer, Germany (L, EPP/CCE)

DRAFT DECLARATION (for vote) AMDTs 1 - 12

Amendment 1

Presented by Emin YERITSYAN, Armenia, L, EPP/CCE.

Signed by: Davit KHAZHAKYAN, Armenia, L, ILDG; Mihkel JUHKAMI, Estonia, L, EPP/CCE; Viorel FURDUI, Republic of Moldova, L, ILDG; Dusica DAVIDOVIC, Serbia, R, SOC/G/PD; Gintautas GEGUZINSKAS, Lithuania, R, EPP/CCE; Xavier CADORET, France, L, SOC/G/PD; Gudrun MOSLER-TOERNSTROEM, Austria, L, SOC/G/PD.

In the title of the draft declaration and throughout the text, replace the word “Karabakh” with the following words: “Nagorno-Karabakh”.

1. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities strongly condemns the military operation carried out by Azerbaijan in Karabakh on 19-20 September 2023 and the preceding ten-month-long blockade of the region, which have led to a dire humanitarian situation, significant loss of life and the flight of over 100 000 people to neighbouring Armenia.

Amendment 6

Presented by Anar IBRAHIMOV, Azerbaijan, R, EPP/CCE.

¹ L: Chamber of Local Authorities / R: Chamber of Regions
EPP/CCE: European People's Party Group in the Congress
SOC: Socialist Group
ILDG: Independent Liberal and Democratic Group
ECR: European Conservatives and Reformists Group
NR: Members not belonging to a political group of the Congress

Signed by: Tamraz TAGHIYEV, Azerbaijan, L, EPP/CCE; Humbat HUSEYNOV, Azerbaijan, L, EPP/CCE; Aida JALILZADE, Azerbaijan, R, ECR; Cemal BAS, Türkiye, L, EPP/CCE.

Delete paragraph 1 and replace it with the following paragraph:

“The Congress regrets that despite the agreement reached in the Trilateral Statement of November 2020, the Armenian armed forces were not withdrawn from the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, and this source of constant threat led to the deadly escalation on 19 September 2023.”

Amendment 2

Presented by Davit KHAZHAKYAN, Armenia, L, ILDG.

Signed by: Emin YERITSYAN, Armenia, L, EPP/CCE; Viorel FURDUI, Republic of Moldova, L, ILDG; Dusica DAVIDOVIC, Serbia, R, SOC/G/PD; Gintautas GEGUZINSKAS, Lithuania, R, EPP/CCE; Xavier CADORET, France, L, SOC/G/PD; Gudrun MOSLER-TOERNSTROEM, Austria, L, SOC/G/PD.

After paragraph 1, insert the following paragraph:

“The Congress acknowledges with profound regret that the current reality, marked by the forcible displacement of nearly the entire Armenian population from their ancestral homeland, has given rise to valid claims that this amounts to ethnic cleansing.”

2. The Congress recognises the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan but expresses its deep concern over the humanitarian consequences of the situation, and welcomes the efforts of Armenian authorities to receive Karabakh Armenians who have fled the region and respond to their needs.

3. The Congress supports international efforts to respond to the crisis and welcomes in this regard the deployment of a United Nations mission at the invitation of Azerbaijan, Resolution RESOL-VII/032 on the “Situation in Nagorno-Karabakh after Azerbaijan’s attack” adopted by the European Committee of the Regions of the European Union on 11 October 2023, Resolution 2517 (2023) and Recommendation 2260 (2023) “Humanitarian situation in Nagorno-Karabakh” adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 12 October 2023, as well as recent visits to the region by the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on Migration and Refugees and by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.

Amendment 7

Presented by Anar IBRAHIMOV, Azerbaijan, R, EPP/CCE.

Signed by: Tamraz TAGHIYEV, Azerbaijan, L, EPP/CCE; Humbat HUSEYNOV, Azerbaijan, L, EPP/CCE; Aida JALILZADE, Azerbaijan, R, ECR; Cemal BAS, Türkiye, L, EPP/CCE.

Delete paragraph 3 and replace it with the following paragraph:

“The Congress supports international efforts to respond to the crisis and welcomes in this regard the deployment of a United Nations mission at the invitation of Azerbaijan, as well as recent visits to the region by the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on Migration and Refugees and by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, and takes note of Resolution RESOL-VII/032 on the “Situation in Nagorno-Karabakh after Azerbaijan’s attack” adopted by the European Committee of the Regions of the European Union on 11 October 2023, Resolution 2517 (2023) and Recommendation 2260 (2023) “Humanitarian situation in Nagorno-Karabakh” adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 12 October 2023.”

Amendment 8

Presented by Anar IBRAHIMOV, Azerbaijan, R, EPP/CCE.

Signed by: Tamraz TAGHIYEV, Azerbaijan, L, EPP/CCE; Humbat HUSEYNOV, Azerbaijan, L, EPP/CCE; Aida JALILZADE, Azerbaijan, R, ECR; Cemal BAS, Türkiye, L, EPP/CCE.

After paragraph 3, insert the following paragraph:

“In a general sense, the Congress deeply regrets the human tragedies that unfolded in the region over the last three decades, including due to the collective failure of the international community to assume its responsibility and timely address the blatant violation of the international law, in particular the occupation of the Azerbaijani territories and the massive displacement of the civilian populations in the 1990s.”

4. The Congress, therefore:

a. deplores the serious humanitarian consequences of the situation as a result of Azerbaijan’s military operation and preceding blockade of the region, and calls on the authorities of Azerbaijan to refrain from any action that may lead to further deterioration of the situation and further exodus of the population;

Amendment 9

Presented by Anar IBRAHIMOV, Azerbaijan, R, EPP/CCE.

Signed by: Tamraz TAGHIYEV, Azerbaijan, L, EPP/CCE; Humbat HUSEYNOV, Azerbaijan, L, EPP/CCE; Aida JALILZADE, Azerbaijan, R, ECR; Cemal BAS, Türkiye, L, EPP/CCE.

Delete paragraph 4.a.

Amendment 3

Presented by Emin YERITSYAN, Armenia, L, EPP/CCE.

Signed by: Mihkel JUHKAMI, Estonia, L, EPP/CCE; Davit KHAZHAKYAN, Armenia, L, ILDG; Viorel FURDUI, Republic of Moldova, L, ILDG; Dusica DAVIDOVIC, Serbia, R, SOC/G/PD; Gintautas GEGUZINSKAS, Lithuania, R, EPP/CCE.

After paragraph 4.a, insert the following paragraph:

“in this context, expresses deep regret that almost the entire Armenian population had to flee from their homes, facing existential threats, fearing for the safety of their lives and families;”

b. joins the Parliamentary Assembly and the European Committee of the Regions in calling for the release of all representatives of Karabakh, including local officials, detained in Azerbaijan;

Amendment 10

Presented by Anar IBRAHIMOV, Azerbaijan, R, EPP/CCE.

Signed by: Tamraz TAGHIYEV, Azerbaijan, L, EPP/CCE; Humbat HUSEYNOV, Azerbaijan, L, EPP/CCE; Aida JALILZADE, Azerbaijan, R, ECR; Cemal BAS, Türkiye, L, EPP/CCE.

Delete paragraph 4.b.

c. expresses its solidarity with and full support to Armenian local authorities that are at the forefront of the efforts to receive Karabakh Armenians, welcomes the assistance already provided by the national government of Armenia to local communities and calls for sustaining it in the future, and also calls on national, regional and local authorities in other European countries to support Armenia in these efforts and provide them with the necessary humanitarian assistance;

d. affirms its readiness to assist Armenian national and local authorities, including through co-operation activities on the ground, in supporting Karabakh Armenians who have fled the region and addressing the consequences of the situation, in line with the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ETS No. 122), Congress Resolution 411 (2017) and Recommendation 394 (2017) "From reception to integration: the role of local and regional authorities facing migration"; considers in this regard that special care should be taken to ensure the protection of women and girls, giving due consideration to Congress Resolution 487 (2022) and Recommendation 481 (2022) "Reception of women and children refugees in Europe's cities and regions";

e. notes the promises made by the authorities of Azerbaijan that the rights and freedoms of Armenian residents will be ensured and the announced plans for their reintegration, and reaffirms the responsibility of Azerbaijan to guarantee the safety of Karabakh Armenians remaining in the region and ensure the protection of their rights, in full respect of the European Convention on Human Rights (ETS No. 5) and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (ETS No. 157), and including the right to establish local self-government institutions in conformity with the European Charter of Local Self-Government ratified by Azerbaijan in 2002, and to allow a safe return to the region of those who so wish;

Amendment 4

Presented by Davit KHAZHAKYAN, Armenia, L, ILDG.

Signed by: Xavier CADORET, France, L, SOC/G/PD; Emin YERITSYAN, Armenia, L, EPP/CCE; Viorel FURDUI, Republic of Moldova, L, ILDG; Dusica DAVIDOVIC, Serbia, R, SOC/G/PD; Gintautas GEGUZINSKAS, Lithuania, R, EPP/CCE; Gudrun MOSLER-TOERNSTROEM, Austria, L, SOC/G/PD.

After paragraph 4.e, insert the following paragraph:

"urges Azerbaijan to fully implement the most recent decision of the European Court of Human Rights of 22 September 2023 to indicate interim measures under Rule 39 of its Rules in respect of Azerbaijan;"

f. calls on the authorities of Azerbaijan to ensure unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance to those remaining in the region, including through a full re-opening of the Lachin corridor;

Amendment 11

Presented by Anar IBRAHIMOV, Azerbaijan, R, EPP/CCE.

Signed by: Tamraz TAGHIYEV, Azerbaijan, L, EPP/CCE; Humbat HUSEYNOV, Azerbaijan, L, EPP/CCE; Aida JALILZADE, Azerbaijan, R, ECR; Cemal BAS, Türkiye, L, EPP/CCE.

Delete paragraph 4.f. and replace it with the following paragraph:

"welcomes the swift actions taken by Azerbaijan in providing humanitarian aid and restoring key public and social services, such as healthcare system to help mitigate the needs of Armenian residents and direct dialogue between central Azerbaijani authorities and local ethnic Armenians;"

g. decides to pay special attention to the situation of Karabakh Armenians and respect of their rights, including those protected by the European Charter of Local Self-Government;

Amendment 12

Presented by Anar IBRAHIMOV, Azerbaijan, R, EPP/CCE.

Signed by: Tamraz TAGHIYEV, Azerbaijan, L, EPP/CCE; Humbat HUSEYNOV, Azerbaijan, L, EPP/CCE; Aida JALILZADE, Azerbaijan, R, ECR; Cemal BAS, Türkiye, L, EPP/CCE.

In paragraph 4.g., replace the words “Karabakh Armenians” with the following words: “all displaced persons of the region, regardless of their ethnicity”.

The paragraph would read:

“decides to pay special attention to the situation of all displaced persons of the region, regardless of their ethnicity and respect of their rights, including those protected by the European Charter of Local Self-Government;”

Amendment 5

Presented by Emin YERITSYAN, Armenia, L, EPP/CCE.

Signed by: Mihkel JUHKAMI, Estonia, L, EPP/CCE; Davit KHAZHAKYAN, Armenia, L, ILDG; Viorel FURDUI, Republic of Moldova, L, ILDG; Dusica DAVIDOVIC, Serbia, R, SOC/G/PD; Gudrun MOSLER-TOERNSTROEM, Austria, L, SOC/G/PD.

After paragraph 4.g, insert the following paragraph:

urges Azerbaijan to take all necessary measures to protect endangered Armenian cultural and religious heritage of the region.

h. shares the belief expressed by the Parliamentary Assembly that this long-standing conflict can only be resolved peacefully, and calls on the authorities of all levels of governance in both Armenia and Azerbaijan to demonstrate goodwill and engage in dialogue, work towards creating a climate of trust, tolerance and mutual respect, and undertake confidence-building measures as the only way to find a solution to the situation;

i. entrusts its Bureau with overseeing the Congress's follow-up to the present declaration, including a possible visit to the region, and stands ready to assist, using all statutory, cooperation and political tools at its disposal, in concertation with other Council of Europe institutions and the relevant parties.