

Resolution on the Ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh

The CDI,

- having regard its own previous “Resolution on recent armed clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan” which was unanimously approved by its Executive Committee on October 1st, 2020;
- having regard the agreement on a complete ceasefire in and around Nagorno-Karabakh signed by Armenia and Azerbaijan on November 9th, 2020;
- having regard the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair’s statement on December 3rd, 2020;
- having regard the statement of the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on occasion of the 3rd Partnership Council meeting between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia held in Brussels on December 17th 2020;
- having regard the statement of the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on occasion of the 17th Cooperation Council meeting between the European Union and the Republic of Azerbaijan held in Brussels on December 18th, 2020;
- having regard the European Parliament’s “Resolution on the implementation of the Common Security and Defense Policy” adopted on January 20th, 2021;
- having regard the provisions of the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement;
- having regard the EU-Azerbaijan Partnership Priorities.

A. Whereas the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict started late in the 1980s and has extended its terrible effects for more than 30 years, triggering a humanitarian disaster in the region;

B. whereas thousands of people lost their lives or were severely wounded;

C. whereas the conflict has produced over the years hundreds of thousands of displaced people;

D. whereas the economy on the region has been terribly affected for this long-lasting unbearable situation, condemning generations Armenians and Azerbaijanis to extreme poverty;

E. whereas previous ceasefires agreed between the parties failed to secure the right framework for a sustainable peace process;

F. whereas the European Union has engaged with Armenia and Azerbaijan on bilateral agreements but has so far failed to address the problem by deliberately referring to others’ solutions, strategies and mechanisms.

G. Whereas the Trilateral Statement signed on November 10th, 2020, puts an end to the armed conflict, subsequent durable peace, pacific coexistence, mutual beneficial cooperation and development in the region can only be achieved through collaboration between the parties with the mediation of the OSCE Minsk Group and the European Union.

1. Welcomes the recent ceasefire and the end of hostilities that will save thousands of lives;

2. Expresses its deepest sympathy for the heavy losses caused during the recent escalation and extends its heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims.

3. Calls upon Armenia and Azerbaijan to continue fully implementing their obligations in compliance with the November 9th, 2020 ceasefire, in Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding districts, as well as their previous ceasefire commitments.

- 4.** Reminds Armenia and Azerbaijan of their obligation to comply with the requirements of international humanitarian law, in particular regarding the exchange of prisoners of war and the repatriation of the remains of those who perished during the conflict, some missing since First Nagorno-Karabakh War, and urges the European Commission to use the diplomatic channels for this mission.
- 5.** Calls for all allegations of war crimes to be duly investigated and those responsible be brought to justice and held accountable for their offenses.
- 6.** Finds the use of banned arms unacceptable and condemns the reported use of cluster bombs and the use of incendiary ammunition of mass destruction (incendiary weapon) in indiscriminate attacks against the civilian population, sometimes kilometers away from the line of contact; urges both Armenia and Azerbaijan to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which comprehensively bans their use, without further delay.
- 7.** Calls on the European Commission, the European Parliament and the UNESCO to send a fact-finding mission to assess the damage caused during the long-lasting conflict to civilian infrastructures, cultural sites and the environment in the region.
- 8.** Acknowledges the importance of the cultural and religious monuments in the region and calls on the international community to protect and preserve this extraordinary valuable heritage.
- 9.** Calls upon the Azerbaijani authorities to respect the rights of the entire population of the Nagorno-Karabakh and preserve all cultural and religious monuments in the region.
- 10.** Calls on the parties to build relations thereafter on the principles of equal neighborhood, based on respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity according to international law.
- 11.** Encourages the participation of foreign investors and humanitarian organizations in the process of clearing from mines and unexploded ordnance, restoration and humanitarian activities in Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas.
- 12.** Calls upon the international community to support full implementation of the ceasefire accord, establishment of peace and trust in the region and reconciliation between the peoples of Azerbaijan and Armenia.
- 13.** Finally, calls upon the EU to be more meaningfully involved in shaping a durable settlement of the conflict to promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. For this reason, calls again on the Vice-president and High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, to demand having the EU formally represented within the wider Minsk Group by the EU member state holding the rotating EU presidency, an already existing OSCE procedure.