REFUTABLE RESOLUTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Hazel ÇAĞAN ELBİR

Analyst

Hazel ÇAĞAN ELBİR

Analyst, AVİM

On March 3rd, 2015, European Parliament adopted a resolution titled The Armenian Genocide, Turkish Responsibility, and European Values.

The resolution was proposed by the European Peoples Party in the European Parliament. According to the resolution, Turkey should recognize the "genocide" and face her history as soon as possible. It is obviously seen that, the European Peoples Party aims to promote a negative image of Turkey during the EU accession by generating a one-sided and provocative understanding of a historical event in order to politically pressurize Turkey. However, since, the resolutions have no legal or historical basis, the demands are refutable by the references.

Recognition of the Armenian genocide, genocide is a legal term that has to be explained by the legal definition. It is essential to bear in mind that there is no international legal judgement or resolution in support of the Armenian claims before any international legal court of legal authority. The genocide term is only used as a political connotation.

While the term "genocide" is underlined by the European People's Party (EPP), there was not only the "Armenian genocide", "the Pontic Greeks and Assyrians" were also supposedly subjected to "genocide " in Anatolia. 1915 is a tragic date for all the Anatolian people. For one of the communities in Anatolia, to call the events as "genocide" is to disregard the pains suffered by all of the inhabitants living in that territory. Including the Muslims, most of the population suffered from the effects of wartime hardships and disorder. Furthermore, there is no legal decision that there has been "genocide" by Ottomans in Anatolia. "Genocide" is a legal term and there is no "genocide consensus" on neither Armenian nor Pontic Greek and Assyrians. As for the Armenians, Pontus Greeks and Assyrians were also tried to be a part of a political propaganda material. All people who had been living in Anatolia suffered together. Furthermore, they all became a part of this pain. Nevertheless, to call 1915 events as a legal term, genocide is to disregard the pain of all people who had been living in Anatolia.

Freedom of expression is one of the pillars of being a European country as the European Parliament highlighted. Questioning the freedom of expression is directly pertaining to the Perinçek v. Switzerland case. It should not be forgotten that Europe should face its criteria of freedom of expression. Thus, in the case of Perinçek v. Switzerland on ECHR, it is ruled that there had been a violation of the article 10 where As a consequence, Perinçek was acquitted. Therefore, European countries should also be audited by the ECHR considering "freedom of expression."

Restoration of religious and cultural sites is also another point of the Resolution. As it is known, İstanbul and many other places in Anatolia, there are countless buildings, constructions, churches and any other architectural structures. The Balyan's in İstanbul built Dolmabahçe Sarayı, Beylerbeyi Sarayı, Ortaköy Camii and many more. Republic of Turkey has restored many of the churches and these churches are open to worship. The Armenian Patriarchate in Turkey has a website and it is available to see the conditions of the religious and cultural architectures in Turkey. If Turkey had a harassment and inconvenience with the existence of the Armenian architecture, İstanbul should not have been "İstanbul" today.

Turkey, as a strategic partner for the European Union, constitutes a significance considering economical and energy routes aspects. "Having regard to the fact that", (with the European Parliament parlance) the resolution is only released with the concerns of Armenian diaspora which sustains its presence in the European countries which constitute EPP in the European Parliament due to the centennial of the Armenian allegations - 1915 events.

On April 12, 2015, Pope Francis claimed that the 1915 events were the first genocide of the 20th century. However, Pope Francis disregards the very first industrialized extermination (which today would be defined as genocide) genocide of the 20th century against Namas and Hereros by the Germans in 1904. Recently, Germany (both parliament and the government) is looking for accomplice for Germanys industrialized genocide by recognizing the so-called Armenian genocide.

On April 15, the resolution was adopted by the European Parliament which urges Turkey to recognize the Armenian genocide. This non-binding resolution of the EP creates obstacles against the normalization process for Turkey and Armenia.

About the Author :

Hazel Çağan-Elbir is an analyst in AVİM. Çağan-Elbir continues her studies in Political Economy doctorate program at Atılım University.

To cite this article: ELBİR, Hazel ÇAĞAN. 2026. "REFUTABLE RESOLUTION OF THE EUROPEAN

PARLIAMENT." Center For Eurasian Studies (AVİM), Commentary No.2015 / 53. April 28. Accessed November 20, 2026. https://www.avim.org.tr/en/Yorum/REFUTABLE-RESOLUTION-OF-THE-EUROPEAN-PARLIAMENT

Süleyman Nazif Sok. No: 12/B Daire 3-4 06550 Çankaya-ANKARA / TÜRKİYE
Tel: +90 (312) 438 50 23-24 • **Fax**: +90 (312) 438 50 26
@avimorgtr
https://www.facebook.com/avrasyaincelemelerimerkezi
E-Mail: info@avim.org.tr
http://avim.org.tr

© 2009-2025 Center for Eurasian Studies (AVİM) All Rights Reserved