



Plenary sitting

B10-0481/2026

19.10.2026

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 136(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the escalation of Houthi attacks and implications for regional security (2026/2939(RSP))

Ville Niinistö, Hannah Neumann, Maria Ohisalo, Nicolae Ștefănuță, Erik Marquardt
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**European Parliament resolution on the escalation of Houthi attacks and implications for regional security
(2026/2939(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Yemen, in particular its resolution of 11 February 2021 on the humanitarian and political situation in Yemen¹,
- having regard to the statements by the Spokesperson of the European External Action Service (EEAS) on Saudi Arabia and Yemen of 17 September 2026, 8 September 2026 and 7 August 2026, concerning the situation in Yemen and the Houthi attacks,
- having regard to the statement of 24 September 2026 by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights entitled ‘Yemen: Türk decries deepening conflict and appalling impact on civilians’,
- having regard to UN Security Council Resolution 2801, adopted on 14 November 2025 and UN Security Council Resolution 2813, adopted on 27 January 2026,
- having regard to the final report of the Panel of Experts on Yemen of 17 October 2025,
- having regard to Council Decision 2014/932/CFSP of 18 December 2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Yemen² and Council Regulation (EU) No 1352/2014 of 18 December 2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Yemen³,
- having regard to the EU Guidelines on promoting compliance with international humanitarian law⁴,
- having regard to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and their applicable additional protocols, and to customary international humanitarian law,
- having regard to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea,
- having regard to Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP of 8 December 2008 defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment, as amended, and to the Arms Trade Treaty⁵,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

¹ OJ C 465, 17.11.2021, p. 126.

² OJ L 365, 19.12.2014, p. 147, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2014/932/oj>.

³ OJ L 365, 19.12.2014, p. 60, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/1352/oj>.

⁴ OJ C 303, 15.12.2009, p. 12.

⁵ OJ L 335, 13.12.2008, p. 99, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/compos/2008/944/oj>.

- having regard to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security and subsequent relevant resolutions,
 - having regard to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict of 2000,
 - having regard to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,
 - having regard to the UN's 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for Yemen,
 - having regard to the UN Charter,
 - having regard to Rule 136(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the recent dramatic escalation of hostilities between the Houthis, or *Ansar Allah*, and the internationally recognised Government of Yemen and Saudi Arabia follows the breakdown of a four-year-long UN-brokered ceasefire in July 2026 and is linked to the US-Israeli war against Iran; whereas the Houthis are supported by Iran and the Yemeni government is supported by Saudi Arabia;
- B. whereas in September 2026 the Houthis launched a military offensive capturing a large swathe of territory along the Red Sea coastline and claim control of the Bab al Mandab waterway; whereas with support from Iran, including the provision of weapons, military technology and training, the Houthis have increased their military capabilities and preparedness, while their mobilisation and recruitment efforts continues unabated;
- C. whereas since July 2026 the Houthis have carried out attacks against civilian airports, notably King Khalid International Airport on 10 October, military installations and oil facilities across Saudi Arabia, as well as commercial ships at sea, killing tens and wounding hundreds; whereas attacks intentionally directed against civilians or civilian objects, and indiscriminate attacks, are prohibited under international humanitarian law and may constitute war crimes; whereas attacks against commercial shipping threaten freedom of navigation, the safety of seafarers and international trade;
- D. whereas Saudi Arabia, in coalition with Yemeni government forces, has resumed its airstrikes on Houthi-controlled territory; whereas reports, including from Amnesty International, indicate that these operations have caused civilian deaths and injuries, among them children, as well as damage to civilian infrastructure; whereas intensified ground fighting has further increased the risk to civilians; whereas all parties to the conflict are bound by applicable international humanitarian law, including the principles of distinction, proportionality and precautions in attack;
- E. whereas the armed conflict between the Houthis, or *Ansar Allah*, in Yemen, the internationally recognised Yemeni Government and Saudi Arabia started in 2015, when a Saudi-led coalition intervened in Yemen after the Houthis seized Sana'a and ousted the internationally recognised government; whereas the conflict between the warring parties has repeatedly flared up and is marked by gross human rights violations and serious violations of international humanitarian law, possibly including war crimes, committed by all parties to the conflict, as confirmed by the UN Panel of Experts on Yemen; whereas there has been almost no accountability or justice for the violations

committed by the warring parties in Yemen; whereas in its resolution of 2021 it demanded an EU-wide ban on arms exports to the Saudi-led coalition and took note of the decision of EU Member States to implement such bans;

- F. whereas the widening regional conflict and renewed hostilities in Yemen threaten to destabilise the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the wider Middle East; whereas attacks against international shipping and energy infrastructure pose significant risks to maritime security, global supply chains, energy markets and the economic interests of the EU and its partners; whereas further military escalation risks undermining diplomatic efforts and exacerbating the humanitarian situation;
- G. whereas the European Union Naval Force operation Aspides (EUNAVFOR ASPIDES) has been running since February 2024 as a defensive operation in response to the Red Sea crisis to protect commercial shipping; whereas in March 2026 the Council expanded the mission's mandate to include maritime information-sharing, cooperation with the Yemeni Coast Guard and training for Djiboutian maritime forces and extended the mission until 28 February 2027;
- H. whereas the return to full-scale war in Yemen is exacerbating an already severe humanitarian crisis in Yemen where, according to the UN at least 18.3 million people – about 40 % of the total population – are acutely food insecure and more than 2.2 million children under five are acutely malnourished; whereas the Yemeni health system is close to collapse;
- I. whereas the International Monetary Fund ranks Yemen as the poorest country in the world;
- J. whereas renewed hostilities since September 2026 have caused further mass displacement, with more than 200 000 people reportedly newly displaced in the latest escalation; whereas the 2026 UN Humanitarian Response Plan estimated that approximately 5.2 million people were already internally displaced in Yemen; whereas displacement places additional pressure on host communities and public services that are already overstretched;
- K. whereas access to food, healthcare, safe drinking water, sanitation and other essential services has repeatedly deteriorated as a result of the conflict, the ongoing economic collapse, restrictions imposed by parties to the conflict and reductions in international humanitarian funding; whereas Yemen is heavily dependent on commercial imports of food and other essential goods; whereas further disruption of ports, roads and humanitarian supply chains threatens to exacerbate food insecurity and preventable suffering;
- L. whereas the EU has contributed almost EUR 1.6 billion to the response to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen since 2015, including over EUR 1 billion in humanitarian aid and approximately EUR 500 million in development assistance, and it allocated EUR 120 million in humanitarian funding in 2025 alone, including an additional EUR 40 million announced in September 2025 to support food security, healthcare, nutrition, water and sanitation, and the most vulnerable communities, stressing the need for sustained EU funding and safe, unhindered humanitarian access;

- M. whereas on 14 March 2022 the Council added the Houthis, or *Ansar Allah*, to its sanctions list of designated persons and entities responsible for or supporting acts threatening Yemen's peace, security or stability, freezing its funds, economic resources and prohibiting economic interaction with the group; whereas EU sanctions related to the situation in Yemen also include an arms embargo, restrictions on military assistance and related financing and restrictive measures in line with UN Security Council Resolutions 2140 (2014) and 2216 (2015);
- N. whereas the Houthis have arrested and are prosecuting at least eight UN staff and other persons involved in human rights and humanitarian work; whereas they have been charged with espionage, charges that carry the death sentence in Yemen; whereas these prosecutions form part of a broader crackdown by the Houthis in which over 100 UN staff and civil society workers have been arbitrarily detained, with reports of torture, enforced disappearances and denial of access to legal counsel and adequate medical care; whereas 73 UN staff members, as well as others, remain arbitrarily detained by the Houthis;
- O. whereas international humanitarian law requires parties to armed conflicts to distinguish at all times between civilians and combatants and between civilian objects and military objectives; whereas indiscriminate attacks and attacks expected to cause incidental civilian harm that is excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated are prohibited; whereas parties must take all feasible precautions to avoid and minimise incidental harm to civilians and civilian objects;
- P. whereas women and girls in Yemen face heightened risks of gender-based violence, displacement and restricted access to healthcare, education and economic opportunities; whereas Yemeni women, including women peacebuilders, human rights defenders and civil society representatives, play an essential role in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and reconciliation; whereas their full, equal, meaningful and safe participation is necessary for a sustainable and inclusive peace process;
- Q. whereas children in Yemen continue to face grave violations, including recruitment and use by armed forces and armed groups, killing and maiming, and attacks on schools and hospitals, as well as displacement, disrupted education and exposure to mines and explosive remnants of war; whereas prolonged malnutrition and the disruption of healthcare and education threaten the health, development and future prospects of an entire generation;
- R. whereas the conflict has caused serious environmental damage and increased risks to marine ecosystems, coastal communities and essential water infrastructure; whereas attacks against vessels, ports and energy infrastructure create risks of oil spills, marine pollution and other transboundary environmental harm; whereas Yemen is particularly vulnerable to climate change, water scarcity, floods and extreme weather events, which compound food insecurity, displacement and pressure on natural resources;
- S. whereas a durable political settlement requires an inclusive, Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned process involving Yemen's diverse political and regional actors, including southern representatives, women, young people and civil society; whereas Yemen's sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity must be respected, while

legitimate political grievances must be addressed through peaceful and inclusive dialogue;

- T. whereas Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP, as amended, establishes legally binding criteria for Member States' decisions on exports of military technology and equipment, including the risk that such equipment might be used to commit serious violations of international humanitarian law or for internal repression; whereas Member States must ensure that arms transfer decisions comply with their obligations under applicable EU and international law;
 - U. whereas serious violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of international human rights law have been documented in Yemen over many years; whereas the lack of effective and independent accountability mechanisms has impeded victims' access to justice, truth and reparations; whereas the independent collection, preservation and analysis of evidence are essential to future investigations and prosecutions;
 - V. whereas restrictive measures must be implemented in way that is consistent with applicable international law and relevant humanitarian exemptions; whereas financial restrictions, over-compliance and disruption of legitimate commercial transactions can impede the provision of humanitarian assistance and the import of essential civilian goods, including food, medicines and fuel;
 - W. whereas renewed fighting around the city of Taiz has severely restricted the movement of civilians and humanitarian supplies; whereas reports indicate that approximately 800 000 people have been affected by restrictions on access to essential humanitarian assistance; whereas the disruption of food and fuel supplies, the closure of roads and the deterioration of healthcare services are placing civilians at increasing risk;
1. Condemns the unlawful attacks by the Houthis on commercial shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden as well as on civilian and energy infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, which has resulted in the killing and injury of civilians, disrupted vital shipping routes and further destabilised the Gulf region;
 2. Calls on the Houthis to immediately and unconditionally end all unlawful attacks and respect the freedom of navigation; urges all parties to the resurging conflict, including the forces of Saudi Arabia and the Yemeni Government, to cease attacks on civilians and civilian objects as well as disproportionate attacks, and fully abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law;
 3. Calls on all parties to ensure the protection of hospitals, schools, healthcare workers, humanitarian personnel, water and sanitation facilities and other civilian infrastructure; recalls the special protection afforded to medical personnel, units and transports under international humanitarian law; stresses that the civilian population must never be subjected to collective punishment and that starvation of civilians as a method of warfare is prohibited;
 4. Expresses its solidarity with the victims and families of those killed and injured in attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, Yemen and the wider region; stresses that all civilian lives must be protected without distinction and

that victims of violations of international law must have access to effective remedies;

5. Expresses its profound concern about the return of full-blown armed hostilities between the Houthis, the Yemeni Government and Saudi Arabia, causing an appalling and growing death toll on an already exhausted population, notably children, as well as large-scale displacement and risk of famine;
6. Urges all warring parties to immediately end hostilities, establish a nationwide ceasefire, and return to negotiations towards a Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned political settlement based on the agreed references and consistent with the relevant Security Council resolutions; emphasises that there is no military solution to the current conflict and that the only viable path forward is dialogue and reconciliation among the parties;
7. Calls on the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) and Member States to intensify coordinated diplomatic engagement with the UN, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, notably Oman and other relevant partners, with a view to restoring channels for dialogue, reducing regional tensions and supporting a sustainable political settlement; underlines the importance of an independent EU diplomatic approach based on international law, conflict prevention and the protection of civilians;
8. Supports the efforts of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, to achieve de-escalation and a sustainable settlement of the conflict; calls on the VP/HR and Member States to provide strong political and diplomatic support for the Special Envoy's mandate and UN-led mediation efforts;
9. Stresses that a sustainable peace in Yemen cannot be achieved without the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women, young people, civil society organisations and representatives of Yemen's diverse political and regional constituencies, including southern representatives; calls for the effective implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security; calls for the integration of gender equality, human rights, transitional justice and inclusive governance into all stages of the peace process;
10. Expresses its support for the defensive EU operation EUNAVFOR ASPIDES and its recently extended and expanded mandate; calls on EU Member States who are not yet contributing to EUNAVFOR ASPIDES to increase their commitment and provide the necessary ships, surveillance aircraft and personnel; calls on the Council to extend EUNAVFOR ASPIDES beyond February 2027 to secure continuity in defensive maritime security in the Gulf region;
11. Stresses that all measures undertaken to safeguard maritime security and freedom of navigation must comply with international law, including the UN Charter, the applicable law of the sea, international humanitarian law and international human rights law; underlines that maritime security operations cannot substitute for a comprehensive diplomatic and political solution to the conflict;
12. Calls on the Council, under its existing EU sanctions regime on Yemen, to designate further officials and entities, notably Houthi leaders and commanders, credibly linked to attacks on civilian infrastructure and international shipping;

13. Stresses that restrictive measures and designations must be targeted, and implemented in a way consistent with applicable international law; calls for the effective application of relevant humanitarian exemptions and safeguards to ensure that humanitarian organisations can continue delivering life-saving assistance and that legitimate commercial activity necessary for the civilian population is not obstructed; urges the Commission, the Council and Member States to address barriers arising from financial de-risking and over-compliance that impede lawful humanitarian operations;
14. Condemns foreign interference in Yemen's internal affairs, notably the reported provision of weapons, military technology and other assistance by Iran to the Houthi movement in violation of applicable UN arms embargo measures; calls on Iran to cease any transfers that breach its international obligations and urges the EU and its Member States, in close cooperation with international and regional partners, to strengthen monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to prevent illicit arms trafficking to Yemen;
15. Calls on all Member States to ensure the strict and consistent implementation of Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP, as amended, and their applicable obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty and suspend authorisations for exports of arms, military equipment and related technology, to any of the warring parties, where such equipment may be used in the conflict in Yemen, in accordance with applicable EU and international law; stresses that EU Member States must not allow their arms exports to contribute to serious violations of international humanitarian law or of human rights;
16. Calls on the Council to impose targeted restrictive measures under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime against individuals and entities responsible for, or involved in, serious human rights violations and abuses in Yemen, including arbitrary detention, torture, enforced disappearances and attacks against civilians; underlines that ending impunity is essential to protecting civilians, deterring further abuses and establishing the foundations for lasting peace and accountability in Yemen; considers that victims of atrocity crimes and their families should be supported in accessing justice;
17. Calls for the establishment of an independent international investigative mechanism under the auspices of the UN, with a mandate to investigate and preserve evidence of serious violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of international human rights law committed by all parties to the conflict in Yemen, including acts potentially constituting international crimes; stresses that such a mechanism should support future accountability processes, protect witnesses and survivors, and facilitate access to justice and reparations for victims;
18. Calls on the UN Security Council to consider referring the situation in Yemen to the International Criminal Court; urges all parties to cooperate with credible, independent and impartial investigations and to ensure that those responsible for international crimes are brought to justice through competent national or international mechanisms; underlines the importance of accountability for crimes committed by all parties, without selectivity or impunity;
19. Denounces the aggravating effect renewed fighting has had on the humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen, further exacerbating food insecurity, malnutrition, displacement

and the collapse of essential services after years of conflict; expresses grave concern over the disruption of life-saving humanitarian assistance, the disruption of food supply chains and the growing obstacles to humanitarian access, which leave millions of people at risk of hunger and preventable death;

20. Strongly condemns the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups, attacks on schools and hospitals and other grave violations against children in armed conflict; calls for the immediate release of children associated with armed forces and armed groups and their safe reintegration into civilian life; urges the EU and its Member States to strengthen support for child protection, education in emergencies, psychosocial assistance, mine-risk education and programmes addressing severe acute malnutrition in Yemen;
21. Expresses grave concern over the growing number of internally displaced persons and people fleeing Yemen as a consequence of renewed fighting; calls for the protection of internally displaced persons, refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, including women, children and other people in vulnerable situations, in accordance with applicable international law; urges neighbouring countries and international partners to ensure access to protection and humanitarian assistance and to respect the principle of non-refoulement wherever applicable;
22. Urges all conflicting parties to allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded humanitarian relief for civilians in need and to allow humanitarian workers to do their work safely; commends the UN's and humanitarian workers' efforts to provide emergency assistance in Yemen despite the very high risks they are exposed to due to the warring parties' conduct in breach of international humanitarian law;
23. Urges all parties to ensure the protection of ports, airports, roads, healthcare facilities, water infrastructure and other civilian facilities essential for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and commercial imports; stresses the importance of maintaining access to food, fuel, medicines and other essential goods, including through Yemen's Red Sea ports; calls for the immediate removal of unlawful restrictions on humanitarian access, including around Taiz, and recalls that the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare is prohibited under international humanitarian law;
24. Expresses grave concern over the environmental consequences of attacks on vessels, ports, energy infrastructure and other industrial facilities, including the risks of oil spills, marine pollution and damage to the Red Sea's fragile ecosystems; calls on all parties to respect applicable international legal obligations concerning the protection of the natural environment during armed conflict; calls for the EU and international partners to support environmental monitoring, emergency preparedness, water security, climate adaptation and the restoration of damaged ecosystems and essential infrastructure;
25. Condemns the detention of personnel of the UN, diplomatic missions, non-governmental organisations and civil society, and the unlawful forced entry into and seizure of UN premises by the Houthis; urges the Houthis to immediately and unconditionally release all UN staff and civil society workers they have arbitrarily detained, and drop all charges against them; calls on the EEAS and the Member States

in cooperation with the UN to exert their diplomatic leverage to obtain their release;

26. Calls for the EU and its Member States to hold all perpetrators of severe human rights violations in Yemen to account; calls for the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime to be deployed in order to impose targeted sanctions, such as travel bans and asset freezes, on officials of all parties to the conflict involved in grave human rights violations in Yemen, notably attacks on civilians and the obstruction of humanitarian assistance, including Iran and Saudi Arabia; considers that victims of atrocity crimes and their families should be supported in accessing justice;
27. Calls for the EU and its Member States to sustain funding for Yemen under the geographical pillar in the forthcoming Global Europe Instrument and to increase humanitarian funding for Yemen, addressing shortfalls resulting from reductions in international humanitarian assistance, in order to restore and maintain basic life-saving services and education programmes;
28. Calls for the EU and its Member States to complement emergency humanitarian assistance in Yemen with support for sustainable economic recovery, the restoration of essential public services, food security, water and sanitation, education and livelihoods; stresses the importance of supporting Yemeni institutions and local civil society while ensuring transparent and accountable management of assistance; calls for international efforts to address economic fragmentation, the disruption of public-sector salaries and barriers to essential imports as part of a comprehensive political settlement;
29. Calls on the VP/HR and the Commission to provide Parliament with regular updates on developments in Yemen, including the humanitarian situation, progress towards a political settlement, the implementation of restrictive measures, compliance with international law and the activities of EUNAVFOR ASPIDES; emphasises the importance of continued parliamentary scrutiny of the EU's diplomatic, humanitarian and security engagement in Yemen;
30. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the UN Secretary-General, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, the Government of Yemen, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Iran;