



Plenary sitting

B10-0487/2026

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))

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on behalf of the Renew 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, in particular of 11 February 2021 on the humanitarian and political situation in Yemen¹, and of 16 December 2025 on relations between the EU and Saudi Arabia²,
- having regard to the statements by the Spokesperson of the European External Action Service and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Kaja Kallas, of 23 July 2026, 7 August 2026, 8 September 2026, and 17 September 2026 on the Houthi attacks against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and threats to regional civilian infrastructure,
- having regard to the remarks by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Kaja Kallas, upon arrival at and following the Foreign Affairs Council meeting of 12 October 2026,
- having regard to the joint communication from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 18 May 2022 entitled ‘A strategic partnership with the Gulf’ (JOIN(2022)0013), and to the Council conclusions of 20 June 2022 thereon,
- having regard to the Council’s adoption of the EU mandate for opening negotiations for individual strategic partnership agreements with each of the six countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)) – the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Kuwait, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates,
- having regard to the European Council press release of 4 September 2026 regarding the second EU-GCC Summit and the statement by the President of the European Council, António Costa, of 4 September 2026,
- having regard to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and to UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions 2140 (2014), 2216 (2015), 2722 (2024) and 2826 (2026),
- having regard to the statement of 11 October 2026 by UN Secretary-General António Guterres and to the comment of 12 October 2026 by UN Human rights Chief Volker Turk on recent attacks in Saudi Arabia,
- having regard to Rule 136(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

¹ OJ C 465, 17.11.2021, p. 126.

² OJ C, C/2026/2149, 6.5.2026, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2026/2149/oj>.

- A. whereas on 10 October 2026, missile attacks carried out by the Houthi militia at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh claimed the lives of 13 people and injured more than 300 others, including Saudi nationals and foreign citizens, constituting a grave violation of international law and civil aviation protection standards;
- B. whereas direct, targeted or indiscriminate attacks against civilian infrastructure constitute a fundamental violation of international humanitarian law and the rules-based international order;
- C. whereas the recent Houthi strikes are not an isolated incident, but rather part of a long-standing, systematic pattern of cross-border aggression conducted by the Houthi militia against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, other Gulf countries and Israel, which has repeatedly targeted civilian populations, schools, residential areas, regional transport hubs and critical energy infrastructure, inflaming the already volatile situation in the region;
- D. whereas fighting between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Houthi movement forms part of a prolonged conflict originating in 2014, following the armed takeover of Sana'a by Houthi forces and the subsequent intervention of the Saudi-led coalition in 2015 to restore the legitimate Yemeni Government, which resulted in hundreds of thousands of deaths, in particular of children; whereas a UN-mediated truce established in April 2022 led to a significant reduction in cross-border violence and fostered a period of fragile diplomatic de-escalation between Saudi Arabia and the Houthi leadership;
- E. whereas this fragile peace collapsed in July 2026 following renewed hostilities, when Houthi forces resumed direct cross-border strikes against Saudi targets; whereas the military escalation has intensified dramatically following renewed military operations and Saudi-led airstrikes aimed at retaking all Houthi-held territories in Yemen;
- F. whereas, since July 2026, the strategic Bab al-Mandab Strait and the Red Sea corridor have been subjected to systematic blockade attempts, ballistic missile strikes and drone attacks by the Houthi militia; whereas in September 2026, the Houthis captured the port of Mokha and islands in the Bab al-Mandab Strait, seizing control of Yemen's entire Red Sea coastline; whereas Saudi officials and the Yemeni Government declare that they have now regained control of the Red Sea chokepoint, a claim rejected by the Houthi movement; whereas the Red Sea has become essential for Saudi oil exports while navigation through the Strait of Hormuz is disrupted;
- G. whereas, according to media reports, on 19 September 2026 the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) wrote to the Member States warning that Houthi control over Mokha, Perim Island and the Hanish Islands poses a serious threat to maritime security, which is already affecting European interests and supply chains, and that, despite Houthi claims of targeting only Saudi-linked interests, uncertainty remains as to their conduct towards other vessels in the Bab al-Mandab Strait; whereas the VP/HR has called for a substantial increase in the number of suitably equipped naval and air assets, including greater close-protection capabilities; whereas the EU naval force (EUNAVFOR) Operation ASPIDES relies on three core vessels provided by Italy and Greece, and on

vessels provided by France, Germany, Belgium, Spain and the Netherlands participating on a rotating basis, despite the fact that according to assessments carried out upon the operation's launch it was deemed to require at least 10 vessels; whereas merchant vessels are waiting to be escorted and only two additional vessels have been offered since the VP/HR's request;

- H. whereas UN Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator Mohamed Yahya has stated that over 200 000 people have been displaced in Yemen since August 2026, the highest level of new displacement since the now-shattered 2022 truce; whereas the humanitarian situation is extremely alarming, with 2.2 million children under five suffering acute malnourishment;
- I. whereas the Houthi movement's territorial expansion is further destabilising international supply chains, threatening global economic stability, disrupting international navigation and heightening fears of a severe global oil supply crisis; whereas in a context already marked by severe strains on energy supply, the consequences of a further escalation of the energy crisis at the onset of winter would be catastrophic for the purchasing power of EU consumers;
- J. whereas the security situation across the wider Gulf region, the Red Sea and the Arabian Peninsula has reached a critical tipping point on account of compounding geopolitical tensions, escalating military confrontations involving the United States, Israel, Iran and regional proxies, and persistent asymmetric warfare conducted by non-state actors; whereas the conflict has spilled beyond immediate borders into international maritime shipping routes, regional air corridors and sovereign states across the Middle East and the Gulf;
- K. whereas the strikes by the Houthi militia form part of a broader pattern of Iranian-backed asymmetric warfare, with Tehran providing financial backing, advanced technology and weaponry enabling Houthi forces to launch cross-border attacks against the GCC countries, thereby severely threatening regional security and global trade routes; whereas although the Houthi militia have reportedly claimed they would only target Saudi-linked shipping, the fact that both the Bab al-Mandab Strait and the Hormuz Strait are being impeded simultaneously clearly serves Iran's wider geopolitical interests;
- L. whereas the Houthi militia's continuous acquisition, manufacture and deployment of highly sophisticated ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and loitering munitions could not occur without illegal cross-border proliferation networks, military training, financial backing and technological transfer provided by foreign state actors, mainly Iran, in direct violation of UNSC embargoes established by UNSC Resolution 2216 (2015); whereas UNSC Resolution 2624 (2022) already described the Houthis as a terrorist group;
- M. whereas the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the GCC countries are intrinsically connected to European security interests and global trade stability; whereas at least two EU Member States have a defensive military presence in Saudi Arabia so as to protect critical energy infrastructure; whereas the EU has repeatedly expressed solidarity and engaged constructively with Gulf partners;

- N. whereas the strategic partnership between the EU and the GCC is essential for regional security and economic resilience, with bilateral trade reaching EUR 165.6 billion in 2025 and mutual investment stock surpassing EUR 350 billion; whereas the second EU-GCC Summit in Saudi Arabia, scheduled for 24 October 2026, has been postponed, with a new date expected to be announced soon; whereas this partnership serves as a platform for EU and Gulf leaders to jointly address security threats, uphold international law and foster lasting stability across the Gulf;
1. Condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the brutal and unacceptable attacks by the Houthi militia against civilians and civilian infrastructure in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in violation of international humanitarian law; calls on the Houthis to immediately end all attacks both inside and outside Yemen, and for all parties to the conflict to abide by international law;
 2. Expresses its deepest solidarity with and firmest support for the authorities and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as for all foreign nationals affected by these acts of violence; offers its profound condolences to the families of all victims killed and wishes the hundreds injured a rapid recovery;
 3. Calls on the Council to immediately initiate the procedure to include both the military and political wings of the Houthi movement on the EU list of terrorist organisations under Council Common Position 2001/931/CFSP³ and Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001⁴, while ensuring that there are no negative consequences for humanitarian aid or any ongoing peace processes;
 4. Calls for stronger sanctions and action against weapons smuggling and the provision of external support to the Houthi movement with a view to dismantling all channels of financing for the Houthi movement; condemns the destabilising role of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is providing the Houthi militia with weapons, missile and drone technology, training and financing in violation of UNSC Resolution 2216 (2015); calls on the Council to extend restrictive measures to all persons and entities involved in the supply of weapons and components to the Houthi movement, and to strengthen the enforcement of the UN arms embargo;
 5. Emphasises that the recent strikes in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are an additional alarming symptom of the regional conflict, threatening to destabilise commercial zones and civil transport networks, undermining regional security and stability, and further jeopardising efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Yemen;
 6. Condemns the maritime blockade and attacks on commercial and energy shipping; recognises the strategic necessity of the Bab al-Mandab Strait and the Red Sea corridor for global trade; stresses that the maritime blockade imposed by the Houthi movement on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and attacks on oil tankers pose a direct threat to regional stability and constitute a dangerous escalation; stresses its concerns over Iran's attempts to engineer an unprecedented worldwide energy crisis through a 'dual

³ OJ L 344, 28.12.2001, p. 93, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/compos/2001/931/oj>.

⁴ Council Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 of 27 December 2001 on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism (OJ L 344, 28.12.2001, p. 70, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2001/2580/oj>).

chokepoint' strategy; supports preventive efforts to address this strategy; reiterates, in this context, the urgent and strategic need for the EU to reduce its dependency on fossil fuels, and particularly its reliance on imports from outside the EU;

7. Rejects any coercive or unilateral action seeking to undermine or circumvent either the international order based on international law as reflected in the UNCLOS, or the existing legal framework governing international navigation;
8. Stresses the vital role of EUNAVFOR's Operation ASPIDES in protecting commercial vessels and safeguarding freedom of navigation in the Red Sea and surrounding waters in accordance with international law, in the face of repeated Houthi attacks; regrets that the operation remains well below the minimum of 10 vessels deemed necessary upon its launch, while the threat has grown substantially; calls on the Member States to respond without delay to the VP/HR's request of 19 September 2026 by committing additional, suitably equipped naval and air assets, in particular frigates with air defence and counter-drone capabilities and maritime patrol aircraft, so as to substantially increase close protection and end waiting times for escort, and to ensure that the operation has the capabilities required to fulfil its mandate;
9. Calls for a genuinely inclusive Yemeni-led peace process, ensuring the meaningful participation of Yemeni women, civil society and marginalised communities in accordance with international law, including UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000); further calls for the EU to step up diplomatic efforts in multilateral forums and engage in closer cooperation with partners in the region to promote de-escalation, reconstruction and meaningful dialogue;
10. Is extremely concerned by the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Yemen and calls for a significant increase in humanitarian aid, and for all parties involved to ensure full, safe, rapid and unhindered humanitarian access;
11. Condemns the systematic violations of women's rights in Yemen, including restrictions on freedom of movement and gender-based violence;
12. Expresses its full and unwavering solidarity with and support for the GCC countries in the face of ongoing cross-border attacks and regional destabilisation; reiterates that a prosperous, stable and secure Gulf region is indispensable for European geopolitical interests, energy security and global supply chain resilience; in this regard, supports the efforts by the Member States and the UK to provide air defence support in the region, in particular France's decision to help secure the Yanbu oil terminal on the Red Sea coast; underlines the importance of the EU-GCC strategic partnership and fully supports the negotiations for strategic partnership agreements both with the GCC as a bloc and with individual GCC states;
13. 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 government and parliaments of the EU Member States, the authorities and the Shura Council of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Secretary-General of the GCC and the internationally recognised Yemeni authorities.

