

Vlaams  
Parlement

MODTAGET  
LEDELSESSEKRETARIATET

Dato 11/5-15 Kl.

**Jan Peumans**  
Speaker

Courtesy translation

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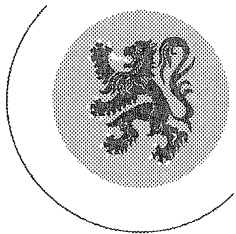
Subject:  
Resolution with respect to the commemoration of the centenary of the Armenian genocide

Dear Madam, Sir,

Please find attached the resolution adopted by the Flemish Parliament on 22 April 2015 concerning the commemoration of the centenary of the Armenian genocide.

Yours Faithfully,

Jan Peumans



Vlaams  
Parlement

submitted on **328** (2014-2015) – No. 3  
22 April 2015 (2014-2015)

## **Text adopted by the Plenary Session**

of the Motion for a Resolution

by Karim Van Overmeire, Ward Kennes,  
Jean-Jacques De Gucht, Marc Hendrickx, Bart Somers and Karl Vanlouwe

on the commemoration  
of the centennial  
of the Armenian Genocide

Documents in the file:  
**328** (2014-2015) – No. 1: Proposal of Resolution  
– No. 2: Amendment

dispatching code: IED

The Flemish Parliament,

- Having regard to the 1948 United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;
- Having regard to the resolution of the European Parliament of 18 June 1987 on a political solution to the Armenian question, and the resolution of the European Parliament of 12 March 2015 on the 2013 Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World and the European Union's policy on the matter;
- Having regard to the protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Armenia, and the protocol on development of relations between the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Armenia, signed in Zürich on 10 October 2009;
- Having regard to the resolution of the Senate of 26 March 1998 concerning the 1915 genocide of Armenians living in Turkey;
- Having regard to the resolution of the European Parliament of 15 April 2015 on the commemoration of the centennial of the Armenian Genocide;
- Whereas:
  - 1° In 2015 it is one hundred years ago that the Armenian Genocide took place in the Ottoman Empire;
  - 2° An increasing number of EU Member States, national parliaments and state parliaments, recognise the Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire as a historical fact;
  - 3° The desire to prevent further wars and crimes against humanity was one of the main drivers behind the commencement of the process of European unification;
  - 4° Turkey and Armenia have initiated a process of diplomatic normalisation and in 2009 have signed protocols in Zürich on establishing and developing diplomatic relations;
  - 5° It is of crucial importance to keep the memories of the past alive, since there can be no reconciliation without truth and commemoration;
  - 6° Flanders aims at friendly relations and active collaboration with both Turkey and Armenia;
- condemns all the instances of crimes against humanity and genocide; strictly disapproves of any endeavours to deny them; and joins the commemoration of the fact that the Armenian Genocide took place one hundred years ago, and does so in a spirit of solidarity and justice;
- commemorates the innocent victims of all genocides and crimes against humanity;
- considers the declarations made by the president of the Republic of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and the prime minister of the Republic of Turkey, Ahmet Davutoğlu, in which they have expressed their sympathy and recognised that acts of cruelty have been committed against Ottoman Armenians, as a step in the right direction;
- encourages Turkey to seize the centennial of the Armenian Genocide as an important opportunity for increasing its efforts to face its past, among other things by opening its archives, recognising the Armenian Genocide, and thus paving the way towards true reconciliation between the Turkish and Armenian people;

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- recognises the 1915 Armenian Genocide;
  - requests the Government of Flanders:
    - 1° to ask Armenia and Turkey, in analogy to the successful reconciliations between European nations, to focus on a plan for the future which includes cooperation between their people as a first priority; trusts that this will contribute to the historical reconciliation between Armenians and Turks in an atmosphere of genuineness and respect;
    - 2° to support the initiatives of societal organisations in Turkey and Armenia that are working on normalisation of the relations between the two countries;
    - 3° to urge both Turkey and Armenia to normalise their relations by ratifying and implementing the protocols establishing their diplomatic relations without reservation; to open their borders to each other; and to work constructively towards improving their relations, more particularly regarding their cross-border cooperation and economic integration;
  - decrees that this resolution will be submitted to the Council, the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the government and the parliament of the Republic of Armenia and the government and parliament of the Republic of Turkey.