

Motion, presented by Mr. Julio Andrade Ruiz, Deputy Mayor responsible for Social Rights, Good Governance and Transparency, to the Plenary Commission of Social Rights, Culture, Education, Sports and Youth, regarding the rectification and substitution of the agreements in the Plenary of 29 September 2016, concerning the official recognition of Armenian Genocide and support to the (Armenian) community in Malaga

On September 29th 2016, the Municipality of Malaga approved an institutional motion with the title “Official recognition of the Armenian Genocide and to support the [Armenian] community of Malaga”.

Our city has always been respectful towards the relations between peoples and as the Municipality we have made statements on different occasions about regrettable events which have saddened the national or international scene, with violations of the human rights of citizens from different countries.

Here we want to expressly state our respect towards both the Armenian and the Turkish people, as well as our respect to the common history they have and that, unfortunately for us, we recognize that we did not have all the information about the corresponding historical events, nor about the stance adopted by our national authorities, during the debate held at the plenary commission pending the ordinary plenary in September.

Turkey is a friendly country of Spain, and Malaga is one of the Spanish cities with which Turkey and Turks maintain very intense and constant bonds. In fact, Malaga has an [Turkish] Honorary Consulate, too. The declaration made on September 29th did not aim to accuse the Turkish people, or to interpret their history.

As human beings and public representatives we are saddened by the fact that thousands of people from all sides lost their lives in the tragic events which took place one hundred years ago, during the First World War, but neither Municipalities nor Municipal councils should judge history. We do not have the competency, the authority, or the experience required to replace the work that should be done by international authorities, historians and academics. Furthermore, international relations are a competency of the Spanish Government and of our (national) Parliament.

According to the information we have gathered, the vast majority (167) of the UN member countries have not recognized the Armenian claims. Spain is one of those countries. The initiatives demanding the recognition of the so-called genocide first arrived to the agenda of the Congress of Deputies, in April 2015, and then to the Senate, in May 2015. On both cases they were rejected.

Genocide is one of the greatest crimes in the history of humanity. It is a juridical term and there is not a consensus about the historical events referred in the motion even among historians.

We expect and wish a peaceful solution to these events. In relation to this, we have found out that Turkey proposed establishing a joint commission formed by historians and academics from Turkey, Armenia and third countries in order to investigate these events with the expectation of reaching a common conclusion about the historical facts. We encourage this

and any other initiatives which, through diplomatic means, aims to find a solution among the concerned countries.

For all these reasons, taking into account of the Plenary of October 2016, which was convened on 2 November 2016, our intention is to declare the declaration of the Plenary of 29 September 2016 as null and void, and we will bring to the commission of the corresponding Plenary in November a motion which, on the basis of the foregoing arguments, rectifies the agreements stated in the motion adopted at the Plenary of September 2016.

To this end, it has been proposed the adoption of the following:

AGREEMENTS

1. Declaring null and void the Motion approved by the Plenary of the Municipality on September 29th about the official recognition of the Armenian Genocide and of support to the [Armenian] community in Malaga.
2. Informing the Armenian community that neither the Municipality of Malago nor the Plenary of the Municipality must judge history, as they don't have the competency to do so, because such work corresponds to international authorities, historians and academics. Besides, international relations are a competency of the Government and the Parliament, and this Municipality shouldn't have made a statement in terms different to those agreed in the past by the Parliament.
3. Informing about this motion to the Embassy of Turkey and to the Embassy of Armenia.