**Yemen: the European Parliament voted on Saudi arms embargo**

**Original Script Date:** February 25, 2016

**Script Version:** 1

**Locations:** European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

**Dates Shot:** February 25, 2016

**Sound:** natural with English speech

**Duration:**  2:07

**Source:** S&D group

**Restriction:** none

**Intro**

*Strasbourg, 25th of February.* The high-profile vote in the European Parliament today for an arms embargo on Saudi Arabia is a humanitarian appeal to end the bloodshed in **Yemen**, according to its proposer **Richard Howitt MEP**. The Socialists and Democrats Group's foreign affairs coordinator is proposing the vote backed by four other political groups in the European Parliament, in the face of UN estimates of 7,000 civilian deaths since the Saudi-led military action started in March last year.

**This broadcast-quality video package contains 1 B-ROLL video and stock shots.**

**The package in detail:**

* Interview with the S&D Group's foreign affairs coordinator, **MEP Richard Howitt**
* Extracts of the plenary vote in the European Parliament
* Stock shots on the humanitarian situation in Yemen

**Shotlist**

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (FEBRUARY 25, 2016) (SOCIALISTS AND DEMOCRATS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - ACCESS ALL)

1. CUTAWAY: VARIOUS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN STRASBOURG (EXTERIOR)
2. CUTAWAY: VARIOUS OF THE VOTE ON THE SITUATION IN YEMEN IN THE PLENARY
3. CUTAWAY: RICHARD HOWITT TALKING TO HER ASSISTANT
4. RICHARD HOWITT (S&D MEP) SAYING (ENGLISH):

“This isn’t a political battle about Iran or Saudi Arabia, it is a humanitarian catastrophe where people are loosing their lives in fast numbers - 700 children in the last year - and Europe demands that this situation changes.”

1. CUTAWAY: RICHARD HOWITT TALKING TO HER ASSISTANT
2. RICHARD HOWITT (S&D MEP) SAYING (ENGLISH):

 “The Socialists and Democrats group believes that it is right to have an embargo in Saudi Arabia for arms supply only, recognising that they already have had one billion extra from America this year, and that there are massive numbers of arms that have been sold to that country and in that region in the last year as well. So there’s no shortage of armaments. What there is, is a shortage of peace and diplomacy!”

1. CUTAWAY: RICHARD HOWITT TALKING TO HER ASSISTANT
2. RICHARD HOWITT (S&D MEP) SAYING (ENGLISH):

 “We are leading the debate this week to say on Yemen ‘enough is enough’, the death toll must end, the children must be saved and we believe ending the flow of armaments can be instrumental in helping to make that happen. ”

1. CUTAWAY: RICHARD HOWITT TALKING TO HER ASSISTANT

**Story**

The high-profile vote in the European Parliament today for an arms embargo on Saudi Arabia is a humanitarian appeal to end the bloodshed in **Yemen**, according to its proposer **Richard Howitt MEP**. The Socialists and Democrats Group's foreign affairs coordinator is proposing the vote backed by four other political groups in the European Parliament, in the face of UN estimates of 7,000 civilian deaths since the Saudi-led military action started in March last year.

The European Parliament resolution is seeking to bring greater world attention to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, and acknowledges that the Saudi-led coalition was legally invited to undertake military action but argues that 'serious allegations of human rights abuse' now require the European Union to end arms supplies, and to uphold its own EU Code of Conduct on arms sales (legally titled the 'Common Position').

A petition of 750,000 has been raised to support the call for an embargo. Since the military action began, the United Kingdom alone has licensed close to £3bn worth of arms sales to Saudi Arabia in the last year.