



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Plenary sitting

15.7.2014

B8-0029/2014

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 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in Ukraine
(2014/2717(RSP))

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on behalf of the PPE Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Ukraine
(2014/2717(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the European Neighbourhood Policy, on the Eastern Partnership (EaP) and on Ukraine, with particular reference to its resolution of 17 April 2014 on Russian pressure on Eastern Partnership countries and in particular destabilisation of eastern Ukraine¹,
 - having regard to the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of 23 June and of the European Council conclusions of 27 June 2014 on Ukraine,
 - having regard to the statement of the NATO-Ukraine Commission of 1 April 2014,
 - having regard to the joint statement of G7 leaders meeting in The Hague on 24 March 2014,
 - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 25 May 2014 Petro Poroshenko was elected the new President of Ukraine; whereas despite the violence in the eastern provinces the election received a positive overall assessment from international monitors, having been – in the vast majority of the country – largely in line with international commitments and with respect for fundamental freedoms;
- B. whereas the new President put forward a 15-point plan for a peaceful settlement of the situation in eastern Ukraine that would preserve the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of Ukraine; whereas, as a first step, President Poroshenko announced a unilateral ceasefire for the period of 20-30 June and expressed his willingness to announce a second ceasefire on three conditions, namely that the ceasefire be bilaterally observed, that all hostages be released and that effective control of the border be monitored by the OSCE;
- C. whereas the Ukrainian army abided by the ceasefire but the mercenaries refused to do so; whereas the mercenaries' non-recognition of the ceasefire led to deaths on both sides;
- D. whereas President Poroshenko restarted the anti-terrorist operation following the failure of the unilateral ceasefire;
- E. whereas the Ukrainian army has regained control of several cities in eastern Ukraine, forcing rebels and mercenaries to withdraw towards Donetsk; whereas, however, violence still continues;

¹ P7_TA(2014)0457.

- F. whereas on 27 June 2014 the EU signed the remaining provisions of the Association Agreement / Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (AA/DCFTA) with Ukraine;
- G. whereas the foreign ministers of Germany, France, Russia and Ukraine met in Berlin on 2 July 2014 to discuss the security situation in eastern Ukraine;
- H. whereas the Federation Council has revoked its decision to authorise the use of Russian forces to intervene militarily in Ukraine;
- I. whereas President Poroshenko declared on 14 July 2014 that Russian military staff officers were fighting against Ukrainian forces alongside separatist rebels and that a new Russian missile system had been established to combat the armed forces of Ukraine;
1. Welcomes the signing of the remaining provisions of the AA, including the DCFTA, and is convinced that it will be a driving force for political and economic reform, bringing about modernisation, strengthening the rule of law and stimulating economic growth; expresses its support for Ukraine in proceeding with the provisional application of the Agreement; declares that the European Parliament will complete its procedure for the ratification of the Agreement as soon as possible; calls on the Member States and Ukraine to ratify it swiftly with a view to its full implementation as soon as possible;
 2. Welcomes, also, the signing of the Association Agreements with Georgia and Moldova; calls for their swift ratification and welcomes the fact that the parliament of Moldova has already done this; rejects Russia's policy of trade measures against countries having signed an AA/DCFTA, including the latest moves to ban beef exports from Moldova; underlines the fact that these moves are in contradiction with World Trade Organisation rules, are politically motivated and are therefore not acceptable; underlines the fact that relations between the EU and eastern partners are in no way directed against Russia and will not hinder bilateral relations between Russia and those partners
 3. Welcomes Petro Poroshenko's election in the first round to the office of President of Ukraine; notes that the election result shows strong support among the population for a European and democratic perspective for the country;
 4. Supports the peace plan as a major chance for de-escalation and peace; supports President Poroshenko's decisive actions to guarantee the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine; welcomes his commitment to addressing the problem of systemic corruption and misuse of public funds; reiterates that Russia is involved in military action and supply; urges Russia to fulfil its international obligations, to genuinely commit to peaceful settlement negotiations and to use its real influence to stop any violence;
 5. Reiterates that the international community supports the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine; reiterates that the Ukrainian authorities have the full right to use all necessary measures, including the right to self-defence as defined in Article 51 of the UN Charter; recalls that it does not, and not will, not recognise the illegal annexation of Crimea; stresses that, like any other country, Ukraine has every right to make its own choices as regards political association and economic integration;

is strongly of the opinion that the EU consequently needs to step up its cooperation with Ukraine with a view to spreading prosperity and increasing the political stability of that country;

6. Condemns the ongoing violence and daily loss of lives in eastern Ukraine; points out that the rebels and mercenaries did not respect the unilateral ceasefire declared by the Ukrainian authorities, thus leading to further bloodshed;
7. Calls on Russia to support the peace plan with true determination, to adopt measures to control its own border with Ukraine effectively and stop the continued incursion of illegal armed men, arms and equipment, to use its power over the rebels and mercenaries to force them to respect the ceasefire, lay down their weapons and withdraw back to Russia via a retreat corridor, as provided for in the Poroshenko peace plan, and to free all hostages;
8. Deplores the illegal detention of Ukrainian air force navigator Nadija Savchenko in Russia and demands her immediate release, as well as the release of all hostages held in Ukraine or Russia;
9. Calls on the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) and on the European External Action Service (EEAS) to have a stronger presence and greater visibility in the dialogue mechanisms established with a view to resolving the crisis, including the Contact Group; welcomes the extension of the current sanctions to a further 11 people, most of whom are officials of the so-called separatist authorities; welcomes the preparatory work undertaken by the Council, the EEAS and the Member States with a view to further sanctions against Russia, which should include the economic, financial and energy sectors, and an arms and dual-use technology embargo;
10. Demands that the Council announce a new deadline for Russia to fulfil its obligations under international law, and that it apply 'stage 3' sanctions should the situation so require;
11. Reiterates the necessity for the EU to speak to Russia with one united voice, including on matters related to EU energy security; deplores the fact that some Member States are showing disunity in this regard and a lack of EU solidarity;
12. Supports a renewed, mutually agreed ceasefire in order to stabilise the security situation, achieve a genuine de-escalation and create momentum for the implementation of President Poroshenko's peace plan, which is conditional on the ceasefire being respected bilaterally, hostages being released and the OSCE monitoring effective border control; welcomes the latest successes of the Ukrainian forces in eastern Ukraine and the fact that they have regained control of several major cities;
13. Encourages the Ukrainian authorities to continue their reform efforts, including the constitutional and decentralisation reforms, the reform of the judiciary, the fight against corruption, and efforts to improve the business climate and the rights of people belonging to national minorities; welcomes the recent disbursement of financial help under the State Building Contract and the Macro Financial Assistance programme;

reiterates that international financial assistance can achieve tangible results for Ukraine only if it is subject to strictly enforced conditions and the implementation of the Ukrainian Government's reform agenda;

14. Welcomes the adoption of the public procurement law and calls for its diligent implementation; expects the prompt establishment of a politically independent anti-corruption agency with powers to investigate corrupt conduct;
15. Reiterates its support for President Poroshenko's will to hold early parliamentary elections;
16. Expresses deep concern over the worsening human rights and humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine and Crimea, caused by rebels and mercenaries at Russia's instigation, in particular with regard to torture, killings, disappearances of journalists and activists, and hostage-taking, including cases of child abduction; calls for better protection of civilians and for the Ukrainian authorities to grant humanitarian aid in the regions concerned;
17. Welcomes the prohibition of goods originating from Crimea or Sevastopol, including financing or financial assistance, insurance and reinsurance related to the import of such goods; calls on the UN member states to consider similar measures in line with UN General Assembly Resolution 68/262;
18. Recalls that Russia cut off the supply of gas to Ukraine and is now requesting pre-payment for any future supply; expresses its hope that the trilateral energy talks under the auspices of the European Commission will yield a positive result, allowing Ukraine to pay a competitive price, which is not politically motivated, for its gas purchases;
19. Calls on the Member States to ensure sufficient gas supply through reverse gas flow from neighbouring states in the EU; welcomes, to this end, the memorandum of understanding on reverse flows between the Slovak Republic and Ukraine, which should encourage Ukraine to establish a transparent and reliable gas transportation system; recalls the strategic role of the Energy Community, of which Ukraine holds the presidency in 2014; welcomes the fact that cooperation with Ukraine forms an integral part of the Commission's European Energy Security Strategy presented in June 2014;
20. Welcomes the fact that Ukraine has recently moved to the second phase of the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan, thereby reconfirming its determination to put in place the necessary legislative, policy and institutional framework; recalls that the end-goal should be the swift introduction of a visa-free regime; calls, in the meantime, for the immediate introduction of very simple, low-cost procedures on a temporary basis at EU and Member State level;
21. Welcomes the decision to establish a robust civilian common security and defence policy mission to Ukraine; calls on the VP/HR and the Member States to speed up its deployment; is convinced that this mission needs to have an ambitious mandate in order to support the Ukrainians effectively in the necessary in-depth efforts to stabilise the situation in the country;

22. Welcomes the Commission's creation of the Support Group for Ukraine, which will provide the Ukrainian authorities with all necessary assistance in undertaking political and economic reforms;
23. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States, the acting President, Government and Parliament of Ukraine, the Council of Europe, and the President, Government and Parliament of the Russian Federation.