



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Plenary sitting

16.9.2014

B8-0128/2014

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 and state of play of EU-Russia relations
(2014/2841(RSP))

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on behalf of the ALDE Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Ukraine and state of play of EU-Russia relations
(2014/2841(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 those of 27 February 2014 on the situation in Ukraine¹, 13 March 2014 on Ukraine's invasion by Russia², 17 April 2014 on Russian pressure on Eastern Partnership countries and in particular the destabilisation of eastern Ukraine³, and 17 July 2014 on the situation in Ukraine⁴,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on Russia, with particular reference to its resolution of 6 February 2014 on the EU-Russia summit⁵,
 - having regard to the signing of the final parts of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement and the DCFTA on 27 May 2014 and to the consent given by the European Parliament and by the Verhovna Rada during that week,
 - having regard to the continued occupation of Crimea, to the serious fighting in the eastern parts of Ukraine and to the credible and undisputable proof of direct involvement of Russian military force in these fights,
 - having regard to the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 on 17 July, which showed that the conflict in eastern Ukraine is indeed a threat to overall security in Europe and cannot be regarded as only a regional conflict,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the EU Foreign Affairs Council of 29 August 2014, the conclusions of the European Council on Ukraine of 30 August June 2014 and the decision of 5 September on further sanctions against the Russian Federation,
 - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the armed conflict in the eastern part of Ukraine has resulted in over 2 600 military and civilian casualties, with many more wounded and hundreds of thousands having fled their homes or endured the insecurity of months of fighting; whereas the economic costs of the conflict, including the cost of rebuilding the eastern regions, are of serious concern for the social and economic development of Ukraine;
- B. whereas there is no military solution to this conflict; whereas, since we are talking about

¹ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2014)0170.

² Texts adopted, P7_TA(2014)0248.

³ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2014)0457.

⁴ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2014)0009.

⁵ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2014)0101.

an internal socio-political problem that has been changed to warlike aggression, the solution must be based on political dialogue and agreement within Ukraine, in accordance with the peace plan presented by President Poroshenko, and include more local and regional governance, based on full respect for Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence;

- C. whereas the ceasefire agreement signed in Minsk on 5 September has so far been largely respected and offers a chance to end the violence and start work on a political solution to the conflict;
- D. whereas the election campaign for the early parliamentary elections, scheduled for 26 October, should focus on finding constructive and conclusive ways forward to secure the unity of Ukraine, while also laying the groundwork for a comprehensive reform of the way Ukraine is governed, based on effective decentralisation in the country;
- E. whereas the European Union has committed to further deepening and developing the relations between the EU and Russia, and whereas the European Union and Russia have already established deep and comprehensive relations, particularly in the energy, economic and business sectors and have become intertwined and mutually interdependent in the global economy;
- F. whereas the current crisis, alongside serious concerns about domestic developments in the Russian Federation as regards respect for democratic principles and fundamental rights and the rule of law, and international treaties and obligations, means that EU-Russia relations can no longer be conducted as 'business as usual', as this conflict constitutes the greatest European security challenge of the post-war era and necessitates a united and firm position on the part of all the EU Member States;
- G. whereas the European Union continues to condemn the illegal annexation of the autonomous Republic of Crimea and of the city of Sevastopol, and will not recognise it;
 - 1. Expresses its condolences regarding the civilian and military victims of the fighting in the eastern part of Ukraine, including the many civilian casualties caused by the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, and expresses its solidarity with the many displaced persons throughout Ukraine and with the refugees who have had to flee the country;
 - 2. Reiterates its condemnation of the Russian military and any other intrusion into the territory of Ukraine, the strong political backing the Russian leadership has extended to the so-called separatist forces and the military support the Russian security forces have provided to these separatists; underlines the fact that these actions by the Russian leadership constitute a threat not only to the unity and independence of Ukraine, but to the whole European continent;
 - 3. Calls on the Russian Federation and on any other entity not having the permission of Ukraine to withdraw its troops from Ukrainian territory without delay, to scale down the forces it has deployed along the border with Ukraine and to commence a full withdrawal of all its forces as soon as possible;

4. Expresses its full backing for the ceasefire reached in Minsk on 5 September and calls on all sides to respect the ceasefire and to refrain from any action or moves which would jeopardize the agreement; underlines that the end of violence is just the beginning of the political process towards a solution to the conflict;
5. Call on Russia to take urgent measures to control its border with Ukraine, and to halt all incursions and movements of irregular fighters, arms and equipment, in order to put a complete stop to any further infiltration of Ukrainian territory; stresses that as long as Russia remains the occupying force of Crimea, the Russian Federation must guarantee full protection for all the minorities in Crimea;
6. Calls on the Russian leadership to use its influence with the east Ukrainians and foreigners to persuade them to lay down their weapons and to engage in the political resolution of the conflict; strongly believes that there can only be a negotiated solution to this conflict; calls on both sides to end belligerent rhetoric in the interests of peace and reconciliation;
7. Stresses that any political solution to the conflict must be made with full respect for Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence; stresses that the EU and the Council of Europe should stand ready to offer assistance and expertise during the work on more decentralised governance in Ukraine; underlines that under no circumstances should the separatists have veto power over Ukraine's foreign policy choices;
8. Calls for the release of all illegally detained persons in Ukraine and for those who have allegedly been transferred to Russia, as a significant confidence-building measure; points in particular to the case of Nadezhda Savchenko, a Ukrainian volunteer captured by the separatists in June, subsequently transferred to Russia and still being held in detention;
9. Calls on the Council and the Member States not to consider lifting any sanction before assessing the clear progress of the peace process in Ukraine and to remain ready to impose further sanctions on Russia for any actions undertaken by Russia to undermine the ceasefire agreement or to further escalate the tensions in Ukraine; welcomes the coming into force of further sanctions on 12 September, directed against a number of Russian individuals and companies;
10. Stresses that the current deterioration of EU-Russia relations is the result of a long process and of Russia's domestic and foreign policy choices;
11. Underlines the fact that medium- and long-term political and economic stability and development in Russia are dependent on the emergence of true democracy, and stresses that the future development of EU-Russia relations will depend on efforts to strengthen democracy, the rule of law and the respect for fundamental rights inside Russia; reiterates that the European Union remains committed to good relations and constructive cooperation with Russia, provided that the country lives up to the commitments ensuing from its permanent seat on the UN Security Council and its membership of the Council of Europe and of the OSCE;

12. Likewise regrets the fact that the Russian leadership regards the EU's Eastern Partnership as a threat to its own political and economic interests; underlines the fact that, on the contrary, Russia will gain from increased trade and economic activities, while Russia's security will be enhanced by a stable and predictable neighbourhood; points out that the black-and-white historical and political world view, which is promoted by the Kremlin and the official state media, creates a serious challenge not only to Russia's neighbours but also to its domestic stability and political and economic development;
13. Welcomes the decision by the French Government to halt the delivery of the Mistral helicopter carriers, and calls on all Member States to take a similar line regarding exports not covered by the EU sanctions decisions, in particular as regards arms and dual-use material;
14. Calls on the Commission to follow closely the impact of the Russian so-called 'counter-sanctions' and to take swift measures to support producers that are hit by the Russian trade restrictions;
15. Underlines that the EU should take urgent measures to reduce its dependence on Russian fossil fuels, in particular coal and gas, and on uranium; considers that the establishment of the European Energy Union should result in energy independence from Russia;
16. Calls on the Commission and on the EEAS to urgently draw up a comprehensive and ambitious financial assistance and aid package for Ukraine and in particular for the people in eastern Ukraine, to support the work on a political solution and on national reconciliation; calls further on the Commission to take every measure to ensure smooth and early implementation of the Association Agreement with Ukraine, as a key instrument for developing relations between the EU and Ukraine in every dimension provided for; notes the move of 12 September to postpone the implementation of the DCFTA by one year while keeping the EU preferential trade regime for Ukraine in place;
17. Hopes that the election campaign for the parliamentary elections on 26 October will further consolidate the work on an ambitious EU-oriented reform agenda, with the aim of strengthening the rule of law, eliminating impunity and corruption, and guaranteeing compliance with international human rights standards and fundamental freedoms, in particular as regards the treatment of cultural, linguistic, religious and ethnic minorities;
18. Notes that while the ceasefire includes some stipulations on impunity for those involved in the conflict in the eastern part of Ukraine, no such decision can be taken for war crimes such as the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17; underlines that the perpetrators of the shooting down must be brought to Ukrainian or international justice;
19. Supports any measures aimed at restoring infrastructure in the regions of eastern Ukraine affected by military operations; calls on the Commission and the Member States to intensify the provision of humanitarian aid to the people of Ukraine who need it;

20. Strongly condemns the unlawful abduction of an official of the Estonian Internal Security Service, Eston Kohver, by the Federal Security Service (FSB) of the Russian Federation, from the territory of Estonia; calls on the Russian authorities to provide Mr Kohver with unhindered and regular contact with official representatives of Estonia, to ensure his personal wellbeing and security whilst on Russian territory and to immediately release Mr Kohver and allow his safe return to Estonia; stresses that EU and NATO solidarity is especially needed in a situation where the Russian authorities are trying to present Mr Kohver as part of NATO activities against Russia;
21. Supports the efforts by the European Aviation Safety Agency to create a more coordinated risk assessment model for flight paths over conflict zones and calls on the Agency, the Commission and the Member States to work together on the creation of an effective risk alert system on a global scale;
22. Notes the part played by the German and French Foreign Ministers in the diplomatic efforts towards a solution to this conflict; regrets the perceived absence of the EU High Representative and emphasises that part of her role is to be a visible and vocal public figure in crisis situations;
23. Calls for a better coordination of EU policy responsibility towards Russia in this new term of the Commission, with a clear and central role of the High Representative / Vice-President and with the Member States committed to speaking to Russia with one voice; calls on the incoming High Representative to initiate as a matter of urgency a revision of the European Security Strategy in light of recent events and to propose future measures to enhance the effectiveness of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, as well as the EU's capability to act;
24. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States, the President, the Government and Parliament of Ukraine, the President, Government and Parliament of the Russian Federation, and the Council of Europe.