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*Plenary sitting*

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**B8-0245/2017**

4.4.2017

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 135 of the Rules of Procedure

on Russia, the arrest of Alexei Navalny and other protestors  
(2017/2646(RSP))

**Charles Tannock, Karol Karski, Jana Žitňanská, Arne Gericke, Tomasz Piotr Poręba, Ryszard Czarnecki, Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Monica Macovei, Geoffrey Van Orden, Roberts Zile, Branislav Škripek, Ruža Tomašić, Urszula Krupa**  
on behalf of the ECR Group

**European Parliament resolution on Russia, the arrest of Alexei Navalny and other protesters  
(2017/2646(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to previous European Parliament resolutions on EU-Russia relations, in particular that of 10 June 2015;
  - having regard to the statement by the Spokesperson of the European External Action Service on the anti-corruption demonstrations across the Russian Federation of 27 March 2017 and on the verdict in the trial of Alexei Navalny of 08 February 2017;
  - having regard its previous resolutions on Russia and especially on the case of Alexei Navalny of 15 January 2015;
  - having regard to its previous resolutions on Russia, in particular its resolutions of 23 October 2012 on common visa restrictions for Russian officials involved in the Sergei Magnitsky case and its recommendation to the Council of 2 April 2014 on establishing common visa restrictions for Russian officials involved in the Sergei Magnitsky case;
  - having regard to its resolution of 12 March 2015 on the murder of the Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov and the state of democracy in Russia;
  - having regard to its resolution of 13 March 2014 on Russia: sentencing of demonstrators involved in the Bolotnaya Square events;
  - having regard to the commitment of the European Parliament to respecting and upholding international norms of human rights, including freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom of press and freedom of manifestation;
  - having regard to Rule 123(2) and (4) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. Whereas on March 2, 2017 Alexei Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation released the 50-minute video report, in which was alleged that Russia's prime minister, Dmitry Medvedev, had accumulated vast real estate holdings through bribery and graft; whereas this video was viewed by 15 million people;
- B. Whereas on March 26, 2017 between 92 and 150 thousand people took part in rallies, marches and demonstrations in no less than 97 cities across Russia to demand official responses to these accusations;
- C. Whereas according to a group called OVD-Info more than 1500 demonstrators were detained, 1030 of them in Moscow; whereas majority was released, but at least 120 remained in custody including Navalny, who was sentenced for 15 days imprisonment;
- D. Whereas according to media reports, detentions also took place during rallies in Chelyabinsk, Kazan, Khabarovsk, Komsomolsk-on-Amur, Krasnodar, Makhachkala, Neberezhnye Chelny, Nizhny Novgorod, Pskov, Samara, Tambov, Vladivostok, Volgograd, Yekaterinburg, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and other cities;
- E. Whereas the EU and the US state department called on Russia for immediate release without charge of all those who have been detained and dropping of charges against Mr. Navalny;

- F. Whereas Russian President Vladimir Putin has rejected Western calls for release of jailed protesters, recalled Arab Spring and overthrow of corrupt Ukrainian president Victor Yanukovich and warned that “we all know the bloody outcomes of these events”;
- G. Whereas the Russian government has opened a criminal investigation against unidentified people who have called on internet for demonstration in Moscow on April 2, demanding resignation of Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, an end to Russian military operations in Ukraine and Syria, the release of Navalny and payment of compensation to activists detained during a Moscow protest on March 26; whereas demonstration on April 2 was very small and only 31 people were detained;
- H. Whereas earlier, the European Court of Human Rights has ordered Russia to pay more than 63,000 euros in compensation to Mr. Navalny; whereas Mr. Navalny received in November 2016 pay-out from the Russian justice ministry worth about 53,000 euros in compliance with the ECHR ruling on the previous Kirovles trial;
- I. Whereas on February 27, 2015 opposition leader Boris Nemtsov, author of the report “Putin. Corruption”, was killed just outside the Kremlin walls;
- J. Whereas on March 22, 2017 Denis Voronenkov, former member of Russian state Duma and critic of Vladimir Putin was shot dead in Kiev, Ukraine what Ukraine’s president, Petro Poroshenko, called “an act of state terrorism by Russia”;
- K. Whereas on March 21, 2017 Nikolai Gorokhov, a lawyer for the family of whistle-blower Sergei Magnitsky, fell from the fourth floor of his apartment building, suffering serious injuries; whereas Mr. Gorokhov was scheduled to appear in court the next day on a matter relating to Mr. Magnitsky, who died in prison from maltreatment in November 2009 after revealing a massive tax fraud (US\$230 mln) by Russian officials cooperating with criminals;
- L. Whereas a Russian opposition politician, Vladimir Kara-Murza, who has urged the US Congress to expand the economic sanctions imposed by the Magnitsky Act, has twice become seriously ill in the past two years (last time on February 2, 2017) from a mystery ailment that his family says was caused by poisoning;
- M. Whereas on 9 January, 2017 the Obama Administration announced that it added five Russian nationals to the Magnitsky Sanctions list for human rights abuses, including Andrei Lugavoi and Dmitri Kovtun, Russian intelligence officers who British authorities accuse of poisoning the Russian spy Alexander Litvinienko in 2006 in London, and Aleksandr Batrikin, an aide who directly reports to President Putin, and who is alleged to be complicit in the case of Magnitsky;
1. Calls on the Russian authorities for immediate release of all protesters, journalists and activists detained on March 26 and April 2, 1017 and dropping of charges against Mr. Navalny and his associates;
  2. Calls for the international investigations into cases of death, serious injuries and illness of Russian whistle-blowers including Magnitsky, Nemtsov and others;
  3. Considers that the Russian leadership may be heading towards repeating political cycle, similar to the one that started with 2011-2012 demonstrations and ended with “a harsh crackdown on dissent followed by a military adventure in Ukraine”;
  4. Calls on EU institutions and Member States to take all measures to prevent any attempts to solve Russia’s internal problems on expense of its neighbours and European security;

5. Calls for international investigations into corruption accusations against Russian officials by International Criminal Court, as according of the Levada Center, “79 percent of Russians believe corruption has ‘completely infected’ or ‘significantly infected’ Russia’s organs of state power”;
6. Welcomes decision by US administration to expand Magnitsky list and calls the US Congress to further develop an economic Magnitsky Act;
7. Calls on the VP/HR Federica Mogherini and European Council President Donald Tusk to “finally bring the Magnitsky sanctions to the Council for adoption” and establishment of a common EU list of the officials responsible for the deaths of Russian whistle-blowers as well as illegal detention and sentencing of other human rights activists and protesters including Alexei Navalny, to impose and implement an EU-wide visa ban on these officials, and to freeze any financial assets that they, or their immediate family, may hold within the European Union;
8. Calls on EU and Member States broadcasters not to disseminate Russian propaganda against late Sergei Magnitsky or any other dead or alive Russian whistle-blowers;
9. Calls on Member States broadcasters to develop Strategic Communication capabilities to counter Russian attempts to interfere in elections in EU Member States and/or aimed at destabilising democratically elected governments;
10. Calls for Member States to develop, also in cooperation with Eastern neighbourhood countries, StratComm capabilities, especially on internet, to help Russian society, especially recently politically mobilised younger generation to fight for democratic values, honesty and dignity; welcomes and calls for support of existing initiatives like Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Bielsat and others;
11. Condemns plans of moving next year’s Russia’s presidential elections to March 18 as anniversary of purported annexation of Crimea in an attempt to create a myth of Russia’s imperial revival.
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President/High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Member States, the government and parliament of the Russian Federation, the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe as well as United Nations Secretary General, European Court of Human Rights as well as International Criminal Court and International Court of Justice, both in Hague.