This week we mark the seven years anniversary of the events that led to the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol by the Russian Federation.

We reiterate our unwavering commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, and condemn this violation of international law. The illegal occupation remains a direct challenge to international security, with grave implications for the international legal order that protects the territorial integrity, unity and sovereignty of states. We will continue supporting the internationally coordinated sanctioning of the Russian authorities for undermining Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Since the occupation of Crimea the human rights situation on the peninsula has deteriorated sharply, serious violations and abuses committed against Crimean residents have been reported regularly by civil society and international organisations. Suppression of dissent and oppression of minorities on the peninsula has become systemic and alarming.

We also condemn the accelerating militarisation of the peninsula and the Azov-Black Sea region that also risks irreversible and irreparable damage to the natural and cultural heritage of the peninsula.

We call on the Russian Federation to ensure full compliance with its obligations as an occupying power according to international law, fully implement the EU demands regarding Crimea, including those contained in the recent European Parliament resolution of 11 February 2021 on the implementation of the EU Association Agreement with Ukraine, fully implement the UN General Assembly resolutions on Crimea, as well as relevant decisions of other international organizations.

We urge the Russian Federation to release illegally detained citizens of Ukraine, who are held under politically motivated charges in Crimea and Russia. Furthermore, we call on the Russian Federation to ensure safe and unfettered access for international human rights mechanisms to the temporarily occupied peninsula to monitor and report on the situation in accordance with their mandate.

We express our full support to Ukraine’s recent initiative of establishing an International Crimean platform and hope that this new consultation and coordination format can bring about tangible results in broadening the international response to the occupation of Crimea and related breaches of international law, as well as the final objective of achieving the eventual de-occupation of Crimea.
Background
In numerous resolutions the European Parliament have repeatedly condemned the Russian occupation and de facto authorities for the large-scale and systemic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of expression, religion or belief and association, as well as the right to peaceful assembly, forced conscription, deportation, illegal and forceful passportisation, restrictions on education and language rights, arbitrary detention, torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, including harsh detention conditions and denied access to UN and humanitarian missions.

For further information contact:
Office of Mr Witold Jan WASZCZYKOWSKI, tel. +32 2 28 45284, e-mail: witoldjan.waszczykowski@europarl.europa.eu

Eastern Partnership and Russia Unit, tel. +32 2 28 31464, e-mail: D-UA@europarl.europa.eu