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DRAFT REPORT

on the state of EU-Russia political relations
(2018/2158(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

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MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

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The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 10 June 2015 on the state of EU-Russia relations¹,
 - having regard to the agreements reached in Minsk on 5 and 19 September 2014 and on 12 February 2015²,
 - having regard to the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions on Russia of 14 March 2016,
 - having regard to Rule 52 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (A8-0000/2018),
- A. whereas the EU is a community based on a key set of common values that include peace, freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and human rights;
- B. whereas those values form the basis of the EU's relations with third parties;
- C. whereas the EU's relations with Russia must be based on the principles of international law and credible deterrence, and on a principled approach in areas of common interest as defined in the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of 14 March 2016;
- D. whereas the EU remains open to such a stronger relationship and to dialogue leading thereto, and wishes to return to cooperative relations with Russia, should the Russian authorities meet their international and legal obligations;
- E. whereas the implementation of the Minsk Agreement remains a precondition for closer cooperation with Russia;
- F. whereas new areas of tension between the EU and Russia have arisen since 2015, including: Russian intervention in Syria; large-scale military exercises (*Zapad 2017*); Russian interference aimed at influencing elections and stoking tensions in European societies; restrictions on fundamental freedoms and extensive human rights violations in Russia, including the systemic targeting of human rights defenders and civil society in Russia, discrimination against the Tatar minority in occupied Crimea, and the politically motivated persecution of Alexei Navalny and many others; cyber attacks and assassinations on European soil carried out by Russian intelligence agents using chemical weapons; the intimidation, arrest and imprisonment of foreign citizens in Russia in breach of international law, including Oleg Sentsov and many others; the organisation of illegal and illegitimate elections in the Donbas; flawed presidential elections lacking any real choice and with restrictions on fundamental freedoms;

¹ OJ C 407, 4.11.2016, p. 35.

² 'Protocol on the results of consultations of the Trilateral Contact Group', signed on 5 September 2014, and 'Package of measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements', adopted on 12 February 2015.

violations of arms control agreements;

- G. whereas the EU's dependency on Russian gas supplies has increased since 2015;
- H. whereas Russia's polycentric vision of the concert of powers contradicts the EU's belief in the multilateral rules-based order;

Challenges and shared interests

1. Underlines that Russia's direct and indirect involvement in armed conflicts and its illegal annexation of Crimea and violation of the territorial integrity of Georgia constitute a deliberate violation of democratic principles and fundamental values;
2. Believes therefore that the EU-Russia relationship requires a new framework of cooperation only in those areas that are necessary and in a common interest, and with a view to guaranteeing security in the EU's neighbourhood and a European peace order; is of the view that the PCA should be discontinued;
3. Believes that non-implementation of the Minsk Agreements demonstrates Russia's lack of good will; asks for consultations to be advanced within the Normandy format;
4. Believes in the importance of finding ways to de-escalate current tensions and of engaging in consultations with Russia to identify measures aimed at reducing the risk of misunderstandings and miscalculations;
5. Believes, however, that the Skripal case and cyber attacks orchestrated by the Russian intelligence services show an interest on the Russian side to further increase tensions in relations with the EU and its Member States;
6. Emphasises that increased mutual transparency in military and border guard activities is important in order to avoid further tensions; calls for a clear code of conduct concerning airspace used by military and civilian aircraft;
7. Highlights that the global challenges of climate change, energy security, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the fight against terrorism and organised crime call for selective engagement with Russia;
8. Highlights in this context that there is no place, space or time for new major initiatives;
9. Reiterates that while the EU's stance is firm, coherent and concerted with respect to EU sanctions on Russia, further coordination and coherence is required in its foreign and security policy approach to Russia; calls, in this context, on Member States to end 'golden visa/passport' programmes;
10. Underlines, in this regard, that the deepening of EU integration and coherence between its internal and external policies is the key to a more coherent, effective and successful EU external and security policy, including vis-à-vis Russia;
11. Condemns Russia's violation of the territorial integrity of neighbouring countries through the illegal kidnapping of citizens of those countries so that they can be charged before a Russian court;

Areas of common interest

12. Reiterates its support for the five principles guiding the EU's policy towards Russia, and calls for further definition of the selective engagement principle; recommends that the focus be placed on issues relating to the MENA region, terrorism, non-proliferation, arms control and climate change; calls for a high-level dialogue between EU, EEU and AA/DCFTA countries; reiterates that while consultations between the EU and Russia on cyber terrorism and organised crime need to continue, Russia's systematic hybrid threats require strong deterrence; calls, in this context, for the initiation of a high-level EU-EEU-China-Central Asia dialogue on Belt and Road Initiative and connectivity;
13. Underlines that Russia and the EU will remain key economic partners in the foreseeable future, but Nord Stream 2 reinforces EU dependency on Russian gas supplies, threatens the EU internal market and is not in line with EU energy policy, and therefore needs to be stopped;
14. Notes that EU-Russia Cross-border cooperation programmes bring tangible benefits to the citizens of cross-border areas and support the sustainable development of these areas;

Recommendations

15. Stresses the importance of continued political and financial support for civil society activists, human rights defenders, bloggers, independent media, investigative journalists, outspoken academics and public figures, and NGOs; calls on the Commission to programme more ambitious financial assistance to Russian civil society from the existing external financial instruments;
16. Calls for more people-to-people contacts and student exchanges also in the Erasmus Mundus framework; notes that the EU provides the highest number of academic mobility opportunities to Russia in comparison with other international partner countries;
17. Calls for the EU institutions and Member States to make greater efforts to build resilience, particularly in the cyber and media fields; calls for EU-wide support for the European cyber-security industry and a stronger engagement in research; encourages, in this context, the promotion of European values in Russian by East Stratcom;
18. Believes that the EU should stand ready to consider adopting further sanctions, including targeted personal sanctions, in response to Russia's continued actions;
19. Calls for a European version of the Magnitsky Act;
20. Encourages confidence-building measures in the Donbas;
21. Condemns the arbitrary measure of banning EU politicians, among them current and former Members of the European Parliament, and EU officials from access to Russian territory; calls for the immediate and unconditional lifting of the entry ban;
22. Calls on Russia to cooperate fully in relation to the international investigation into the

downing of flight MH17, which could possibly constitute a war crime; condemns any attempt or decision to grant amnesty to, or delay the prosecution of, those identified as responsible, as the perpetrators should be held to account;

23. Supports the swift completion of an integrated European Energy Union that would in future include the Eastern Partners;
24. Supports increased funding for the European Endowment for Democracy and other instruments to advance democracy and human rights;
25. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.