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## **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 110(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on Russian pressure on Eastern Partnership countries and in particular destabilisation of eastern Ukraine  
(2014/2699(RSP))

**Helmut Scholz, Marisa Matias, Patrick Le Hyaric, Jiří Maštálka,  
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on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

**European Parliament resolution on Russian pressure on Eastern Partnership countries and in particular destabilisation of eastern Ukraine (2014/2699(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the recently revived geopolitical rivalry between Russia and the EU, the US and NATO has put the countries of the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood in the difficult situation of having to choose between one or the other; whereas frozen conflicts in the region have not been solved because of this geopolitical rivalry;
- B. whereas, despite the year-long negotiations on a partnership agreement and cooperation in different European and international fora, the Russian Federation, the EU and its Member States and the US failed to overcome their differences on international problems and political and economic perspectives, as well as on democracy, political, social and human rights questions; whereas, as a result of these failed policies, the citizens of the EU, the Russian Federation, the countries of the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhoods and the US are now involved in another dangerous escalation of political and military tensions between Russia and the EU, NATO and the US;
- C. whereas strict respect for the Charter of the United Nations and other instruments of international law by all sides and dialogue are the only way to solve the serious problems in relations between Russia, neighbouring countries, the EU and its Member States and the US;
- D. whereas the political changes following 22 February 2014 in Kyiv did not result in a policy change; whereas the socio-economic demands of the Maidan movement have been replaced with the neoliberal agenda of the new government; whereas the official programme of action of the government presented to the parliament declares the need for 'unpopular decisions' on prices and tariffs and its readiness to accept all the conditions of the loan from the International Monetary Fund, including cuts to vital energy subsidies, public employment and public sector pensions and deep cuts to social security;
- E. whereas state-society relations in Ukraine are very weak; whereas over the past 20 years a revolving door has developed between business and politics in Ukraine; whereas oil and gas traders have become ministers or heads of major Ukrainian institutions; whereas this political system is one of the main reasons for the current political crisis in Ukraine; whereas the main state and democratic institutions – the parliament, the judiciary and the executive branch of the government – are not fulfilling their basic functions of proper representation, defence and governance of the interests of Ukrainian society;
- F. whereas the protests on the Maidan started as pro-EU demonstrations but their focus later switched to more domestic issues – corruption, the economic crisis, distrust in

politics and disillusionment with the political system of Ukraine; whereas on the other hand the Ukrainian oligarchs, who opposed the policy of President Yanukovich, used these protests for their own interests; whereas Ukrainian oligarchs created, own and finance media holdings and NGOs, including Hromadske.tv, the Channel 5 television station and the NGO Centre UA, which was founded by Oleh Rybachuk and which strongly influenced the developments on the Maidan; whereas foreign actors, American tycoons – such as Soros and Omidyar – and foreign foundations, such as the National Endowment for Democracy, financed the protests; whereas foreign donations also came from state actors, including the Dutch embassy; whereas these facts show that the protests on the Maidan were not only an expression of citizens' protest against state policies and the situation in the country;

- G. whereas the level of representation of extreme right-wing nationalist and xenophobic parties in the new Ukrainian Government is extremely worrying; whereas the xenophobic Svoboda party controls the posts of deputy prime minister, the ministers for defence, ecology and agriculture, and the prosecutor-general's office and it heads the national security and defence council;
- H. whereas the new government failed to investigate the tragic events on the Maidan in a transparent manner; whereas it is still unclear who were the murderers on the Maidan;
- I. whereas the new security council has decided to launch a 'large-scale anti-terrorist operation' against the protesters in the eastern parts of Ukraine; whereas the protests are described as 'Russian aggression' against Ukraine; whereas the reaction of the new government to the protests calls to mind the reaction of the former government against the protests on the Maidan;
- J. whereas the new government is failing to control the extreme right-wing paramilitary groups; whereas, in particular and more and more frequently, members of the Verkhovna Rada and members of other democratic institutions who are members of the Communist Party of Ukraine are victims of right-wing attacks in which they are blackmailed, intimidated, and have their property seized or destroyed; whereas the central office of the Communist Party of Ukraine in Kyiv, which is owned by the Communist Party, as well as the property and personal belongings of employees who worked in the building, were confiscated and the building was burned; whereas many offices of the Communist Party in all Ukrainian regions have been attacked and destroyed; whereas even in the parliament political debates result in violent attacks against the opposition;
- K. whereas Ukraine was one of the main battlefields of World War II and millions of Ukrainian people became victims of this war; whereas nationalist groups destroyed hundreds of monuments commemorating this tragic chapter of Ukrainian history;
- L. whereas widespread poverty remains one of the most acute socio-economic problems in Ukraine; whereas according to a recent UN report the poverty rate in Ukraine is now at around 25 %, with 11 million people earning less than local social standards;
- M. whereas the ongoing political and economic crisis will, according to estimates by the World Bank, result in a 3 % decline in real GDP, driven by a fall in both consumption

and fixed investment and inflation; whereas this crisis is severely affecting the most vulnerable parts of Ukrainian society; whereas the recent decisions by the new government on energy, public employment and social security will further aggravate the situation and could lead to an additional financial burden on citizens, representing about 10 % of the average income;

- N. whereas Ukraine is a highly centralised country; whereas according to a recent OECD report the inter-regional disparities are large by OECD standards and continue to increase; whereas the human development index deteriorated in most Ukrainian regions during the 2000-2010 period, and only 12 % of the population lived in regions where it improved; whereas sub-national governments tend to depend heavily on central transfers, the allocation of which they find to be both unpredictable and less than transparent; whereas there is evidence of significant disparities in access to basic services, especially education; whereas the serious corruption at all levels has its roots in this system of central distribution and dependence on the authorities in Kyiv; whereas the new government has never expressed any intention of changing this situation;
- O. whereas, during the last two decades, Ukrainian society respected ethnic and linguistic diversity, but the current political, economic and social crisis in Ukraine has precipitated the dangerous process of constructing an ethnic and language division in the country; whereas both Russia and the EU are fuelling this division by supporting different parts of Ukrainian society;
- P. whereas Russia has held several military drills during recent months near the Ukrainian border, including in Transnistria; whereas currently there is evidence of a concentration of Russian troops along the border with Ukraine;
- Q. whereas the Russian military doctrine, which states that ‘the Russian Federation considers it legitimate to utilise the Armed Forces and other troops in order to... ensure the protection of its citizens located beyond the borders of the Russian Federation in accordance with generally recognised principles and norms of international law and international treaties of the Russian Federation’<sup>1</sup>, is of great concern for neighbouring countries;
- R. whereas NATO acts according to the logic of military confrontation with Russia and is using the current situation, which is in violation of existing international agreements, to reinforce its presence in Russia’s immediate neighbourhood; whereas NATO airborne warning and control system (AWACS) surveillance patrols are flying over Poland and Romania and the number of fighter aircraft allocated to the NATO air policing mission in the Baltic states has been doubled; whereas NATO has suspended cooperation with Russia;
- S. whereas as a result of IMF and EU policies gas prices for domestic consumers will rise by 50 % on 1 May 2014 and further increases are scheduled until 2018; whereas gas prices for district heating companies will also rise by 40 % from 1 July 2014; whereas instead of negotiating solutions to the existing problems with the implementation of the

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<sup>1</sup> [http://carnegieendowment.org/files/2010russia\\_military\\_doctrine.pdf](http://carnegieendowment.org/files/2010russia_military_doctrine.pdf)

agreements between Russia and Ukraine, both sides are escalating the gas dispute, thereby fuelling the fears and emotions of the Ukrainian population;

- T. whereas the interim President of Ukraine signed the political part of the Association Agreement with the EU without prior consultation with the people of Ukraine;
- U. whereas the Commission has agreed on a number of concrete measures for short- and medium-term assistance for Ukraine, e.g. a support package worth at least EUR 11 billion over the next few years and a support group which will identify and coordinate the technical assistance to stabilise the fragile financial, economic and political situation in Ukraine, to plan and implement reforms which represent the conditions of financial assistance;
- V. whereas the US, NATO and the EU reacted by suspending different meetings and cooperation mechanisms, and introduced sanctions; whereas the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution to withdraw the voting rights of Russia's 18-member delegation until the end of 2014, terminated Russia's right to participate in election observation missions and excluded the Russian delegation from its most prestigious committees;
1. Expresses serious concern over the political and military confrontation between the EU and its Member States, the US and Russia; warns that the failure to open a results-oriented dialogue could have dangerous consequences for peace and security in Europe and the world;
  2. Calls on Russia and NATO immediately to stop the spiral of military escalation and to reduce military presence in the region;
  3. Expresses deep concern at the launch of the so-called 'anti-terrorist operation' against the protesters in the eastern parts of Ukraine; deeply deplores the loss of life as a result of the violence in Luhansk; stresses that the unity and territorial integrity of the country cannot be secured by force, but only by concrete actions to meet the concerns of citizens; notes the announcement to hold a referendum on the future shape of Ukraine together with the presidential elections on 25 May 2014, but takes the view that the timeframe is too short, since such a question needs a comprehensive and in-depth public debate;
  4. Expresses deep concern at the destruction of the dialogue fora with Russia; underlines the fact that there is no alternative to dialogue and negotiation to overcome the current crisis and differences; calls on all sides to stick to the agreement reached to start negotiations;
  5. Stresses that the current deep political crisis in Ukraine cannot be solved by foreign powers, military means or the decisions of national authorities or institutions, but needs a profound national debate on the future of the country; stresses that sustainable solutions can be found only by the peoples of Ukraine itself, who should decide, free from foreign interference, on the necessary political and economic reforms, including on a reform of the state and constitutional structures, the geopolitical orientation of the country and which international agreements and communities Ukraine should join;

6. Calls on Ukrainian politicians and the governments of the Russian Federation, the EU and the US to contribute to the creation of a new social pact between the different parts of the country recognising Ukrainian diversity as a largely positive element of Ukrainian identity, to refrain from fuelling differences and to work for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country;
7. Reiterates its strong support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine; stresses that Ukrainians share the same view about Ukraine's most important problems: corruption, the economic crisis, distrust in politics and disillusionment with the political system; expresses concern that the resolution of these problems is not on the agenda of the government or the parliament; notes with concern that international actors are also neglecting these problems and are not conditioning their assistance to the resolution thereof, which leads to the protests;
8. Expresses deep concern at the political role of the extreme right-wing nationalist and xenophobic forces in Ukrainian politics; condemns the attacks against the representatives of the Communist Party in the Verkhovna Rada and other democratic institutions, and the destruction of World War II monuments; strongly criticises the fact that the Commission, the Council and Member States are neglecting the fact that major actors in Ukraine's current ruling political scene represent national, xenophobic and neo-fascist ideologies which contradict basic EU values, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights;
9. Expresses deep concern at the proliferation of weapons and ammunition in the country and the failure of the authorities to ensure the security of citizens and the rule of law; calls on the Ukrainian authorities to ensure the handover of all illegal weapons and ammunition to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the dismantling of all paramilitary formations;
10. Expresses deep concern at the consequences of the policies which were decided by the new government following the conditions set out by the IMF and the EU; denounces that it is the peoples of Ukraine who have to pay for the failed policy of the former governments, instead of taxing the Ukrainian oligarchs;
11. Expresses deep concern at the unstable energy security policy of Ukraine and its consequences for citizens; calls on Russia and Ukraine to cooperate with a view to ensuring that energy prices are affordable for all and to refrain from using energy as a political tool;
12. Expresses concern at the fact that the interim president of Ukraine has signed the Association Agreement with the EU; takes the view that issues that have such a deep impact on the future development of a country should be subject to referendums, at least before their ratification; considers that decisions on issues as important as the geopolitical direction of a country should be made on the basis of as wide a political consensus as possible between the different political forces in the country and on the basis of extensive consultation with the population;
13. Notes that a policy-approach which separates Eastern Neighbourhood policy from the development of EU-Russia relations has failed; calls on the EU to redesign Eastern

Neighbourhood policy with a view to developing regional cooperation which does not exclude any country or which is directed against another country; calls on the Russian President, the Government and the Duma proactively to participate in such a process and to show their willingness to become part of good neighbourhood policies;

14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Parliament and Government of Ukraine and the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe.