



Plenary sitting

B9-0593/2021

13.12.2021

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 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation at the Ukrainian border and in Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine
(2021/3010(RSP))

Mick Wallace
on behalf of The Left Group

B9-0593/2021

European Parliament resolution on the situation at the Ukrainian border and in Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine (2021/3010(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Charter of the United Nations,
 - having regard to UN Security Council resolution 2202, which called on all parties to fully implement the ‘Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements’, adopted on 12 February 2015 in Minsk, Belarus, as the way to find solutions for the conflict in eastern regions of Ukraine,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the current crisis stemming from the conflict in Eastern Ukraine and tensions between Russia and Ukraine presents a severe security crisis for Europe; whereas there is no military solution for this crisis, but negotiation and dialogue are the only way to prevent further escalation which risk to result in a military conflict with the possible involvement of nuclear weapon states;
- B. whereas the current security crisis is triggered by the ongoing conflict in Eastern Ukraine on the one hand and an escalation in rhetoric between NATO, Russia and Ukraine on the other; whereas the recent deployment of around 100 000 Russian troops on its territory along the border between Russia and Ukraine have resulted in concerns about an invasion by Russia into Ukraine;
- C. whereas Russia, Ukraine and all NATO Member States, including the EU Member States and the United States, are members of OSCE, which defines itself as a forum for political dialogue on a wide range of ‘security issues’;
- D. whereas conflicts and serious problems in the relations between Russia and Ukraine remain unresolved; whereas despite a ceasefire in 2015 that suspended full-scale war in the east of Ukraine, probing attacks and retaliations by both sides have led to repeated violent clashes, as in March and April of this year; whereas the UN does not recognise Crimea as part of the Russian Federation;
- E. whereas tensions and a lack of trust between NATO, some of its Member States and Russia have been increasing in recent years, exacerbated by a growing deterioration of bilateral US-Russian relations and encroachment by NATO on Russia; whereas both, Russia and NATO and its Member States have hardened their stance against each other, reflected by the change of military doctrines, sanctions policies and hostile rhetoric against each other;
- F. whereas Russia and NATO define each other as enemies; whereas the 2021 NATO summit reiterated that Russia represents one of the most serious threats to EURO-Atlantic security; whereas the recently updated National Security Strategy of Russia

defines military build-up of NATO's military infrastructure next to the Russian borders and exercises that practice the use of nuclear weapons against Russia a threat to Russia;

- G. whereas years-long escalation of the confrontation between Russia and the NATO/EU resulted in a military build-up at both sides of the border between EU Member States, associated countries and Russia; whereas 4 500 NATO troops are currently deployed in these countries; whereas the Biden administration is considering bolstering the US military presence there; whereas NATO deployed US-led missile defence components in Eastern Europe and has frequent missions by NATO ships near Russian waters in the Baltic and Black Seas;
- H. whereas since 2014 the United States has provided USD 600 million annually in development and military aid; whereas in 2022 the Biden administration boosted its military assistance to Ukraine to USD 400 million, including 80 tonnes of munition and presence of military training personnel;
- I. whereas NATO implements the Comprehensive Assistance Package for Ukraine adopted at the 2016 Warsaw Summit which already in 2018 had a budget of more than EUR 2 618 000; whereas NATO allies hold yearly joint military exercises with Ukraine; whereas in 2020 Ukraine became one of just six enhanced opportunity partners, a special status for close NATO allies;
- J. whereas United States, the European Union and other countries have imposed unilateral coercive measures on hundreds of Russian individuals, including government officials and parliamentarians, as well as parts of the Russian economy, including defence, energy, and financial sectors; whereas new sanctions are being prepared against Russia;
- K. whereas the July 2021 Joint Statement of the United States and Germany on Support for Ukraine included the threat that 'Should Russia attempt to use energy as a weapon or commit further aggressive acts against Ukraine, Germany will take action at the national level and press for effective measures at the European level, including sanctions, to limit Russian export capabilities to Europe in the energy sector, including gas, and/or in other economically relevant sectors';
- L. whereas NATO partner Turkey and Ukraine have been developing military cooperation, implementing more than 30 agreements, including on delivery of drones, special military advisors and military training;
- M. whereas the domestic political situation in Ukraine is unstable, with many parties not necessarily acting in concert with the wishes and agenda of the central government; whereas nationalist volunteer units have been openly undermining the authority and orders of the central government, simultaneously undermining Zelensky's ability to negotiate for peace;
- N. whereas despite Ukraine's push for NATO and EU Membership, recent polls by the Kiev International Institute for Sociology indicate that public opinion on these matters remain mixed; whereas half of those surveyed by the Kiev International Institute for Sociology support EU membership and 40 % are in favour joining NATO;
- O. whereas Russia insists on legally binding guarantees that NATO will not expand further

east, including into Ukraine, and that weapons systems posing a threat to Russia will not be deployed in close proximity to Russian borders; whereas Russia is preoccupied at the possible deployment in the territory of Ukraine of strike systems with flight time of 7-10 minutes to Moscow, or 5 minutes in the case of hypersonic systems; whereas in response to these demands, US and NATO officials does not rule out Ukraine's and other Eastern European countries future Membership in the North Atlantic Alliance;

1. Expresses deep concern at the military confrontation at the border between Russia and EU and NATO Member States and countries associated; is deeply concerned at the apparent lack of political will to stop the spiral of conflict escalation;
2. Expresses its solidarity with the people of Ukraine, who have suffered since 2014 years of low-intensity war, accompanied by a severe economic crisis, and are now living under the threat of a full-scale war threatening the lives of all its citizens;
3. Reminds Russia, Ukraine, NATO and EU Member States that the UN Charter obliges all UN Member States to settle international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered; reminds that the UN Charter also stipulates that States shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations;
4. Reminds Russia, Ukraine, United States, NATO and all its Member States that there is no military solution for the differences and conflicts; stresses that the only way out of the current crisis is a negotiation process which on the basis of the respect of the concerns of all the actors defines solutions for the problems; takes the view that the most appropriate forum for such a dialogue is OSCE, as it involves both Russia, Ukraine and all NATO Member States;
5. Calls on Russia and other parties concerned to stop fuelling the conflict in Eastern Ukraine with provision of arms and military assistance;
6. Calls on the Presidents of Russia and Ukraine to restart a result oriented bilateral dialogue and negotiations on the solutions of the different serious problems and conflicts in their relations; stresses that solutions can only be found on the basis of the respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states and concerns of different partners involved; calls on Russia, the US, the EU and NATO member states to respect the right of the Ukrainian people to deal with their own affairs
7. Expresses concern that the recent dialogue between President Putin and President Biden did not result in reducing the tensions; underlines the need to pursue dialogue based on mutual respect; calls on Russia to restrain its military activities on its territory near Ukraine's borders as not to escalate tensions in the region; calls for enhanced cooperation and transparency between Russia and regional powers in the military sphere wherever possible; calls on NATO following a proposal of the Biden administration to start high level talks to discuss the Russia's concern about NATO; rejects any enlargement of NATO; welcomes the establishment of a regular US-Russia strategic stability dialogue, which is a long term process; however stresses, that urgent negotiations are needed to prevent the conflict escalating into a war;

8. Stresses that a formula for peace between Russia, the West and Ukraine exists in the form of Minsk II of 2015; stresses that fulfilling this agreement negotiated between France, Germany, Ukraine and Russia and endorsed by the USA and the UN should be the goal of all parties concerned and that their policy should reflect this objective; reminds that this roadmap was established by the UN Security Council resolution 2022 with the three key elements - demilitarisation, restoration of Ukrainian sovereignty, including control of the border with Russia and providing for autonomy for a demilitarised Donbas within Ukraine but guaranteed by international treaty; acknowledges that pressure on Russia and the Russian separatists to withdraw their forces in the Donbas must be accompanied by simultaneous pressure on the Ukrainian parties to cease offensives and incursions into grey areas; notes the readiness of Russia expressed by Foreign Minister Lavrov to establish a new negotiation format with a view to achieve progress;
9. Believes that hastening energy transition towards renewable energy production in the Union and its Member States would reduce the geopoliticisation of energy;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Government and Parliament of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the UN and NATO.