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))

on behalf of the PPE Group
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 its previous resolutions on Russia and Ukraine,

– having regard to the UN Charter, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,

– having regard to the Helsinki Final Act of 1 August 1975 and subsequent documents,

– having regard to the Charter of Paris for a New Europe of 19-21 November 1990,

– having regard to the package of measures for the implementation of the Minsk Agreements, adopted and signed in Minsk on 12 February 2015, and endorsed as a whole by UN Security Council resolution 2202 (2015) of 17 February 2015,

– having regard to the Association Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other part, and in particular Title II thereof on political dialogue and convergence in the field of foreign affairs and security¹,

– having regard to the first EU-Ukraine dialogue on cyber security held on 3 June 2021,

– having regard to the US-Ukraine Charter for Strategic Partnership signed on 10 November 2021 by US Secretary of State Anthony Blinkin and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba,

– having regard to the statement of the Spokesperson of the European External Action Service of 24 November 2021 on the Russian decree on simplified trade measures in violation of Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity,

– having regard to the remote meeting between President Biden and President Putin of 7 November 2021, at which the issue of the mass military build-up of Russian troops on the border with Ukraine was discussed,

– having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the Russian Federation has again been steadily increasing its military presence on its southern and western borders with Ukraine and in occupied Crimea, amassing a current total of around 100 000 troops; whereas the recent build-up is considered to be

¹ OJ L 161, 29.5.2014, p. 3.
more substantial than the previous military build-up of spring this year;

B. whereas it has been over six years since the adoption of the Minsk Agreements and over seven years since the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula by the Russian Federation and the start of the war in Ukraine;

C. whereas the destabilisation of eastern Ukraine by the Russian Federation via its proxy forces in the Donetsk and Luhansk so-called People’s Republics has been ongoing since 2014; whereas the conflict has claimed the lives of more than 14 000 people and resulted in close to two million people becoming internally displaced persons (IDPs);

D. whereas the European Union deplores the Russian decree signed by President Putin on 15 November 2021 on simplified trade rules to allow access measures to increase access of goods to and from the temporarily non-government-controlled Donetsk and Luhansk areas of Ukraine; whereas the decree aims to further separate the temporarily non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk from Ukraine, in contradiction with the objectives of the Minsk Agreements;

E. whereas the US-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership stipulates that the United States and Ukraine intend to continue a range of substantive measures to prevent external direct and hybrid aggression against Ukraine and hold Russia accountable for such aggression and violations of international law, including the seizure and attempted annexation of Crimea and the Russian-led armed conflict in parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, as well as its continuing malign behaviour;

F. whereas on 1 December 2021 President Putin said that he expects legally binding guarantees from NATO that it will not conduct any further eastern enlargements; whereas on 7 December 2021 Presidents Biden and Putin held a remote meeting, during which President Biden warned that if Russia invaded Ukraine, the United States would impose strong economic sanctions and increase military support to Ukraine;

1. Supports Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders; reiterates its strong support for the EU’s policy of non-recognition of the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol;

2. Condemns the current large Russian military build-up at the border with Ukraine; recalls that this is the second such occurrence this year, and notes that reports suggest the assembly of approximately 100 000 troops, as well as significant numbers of tank and artillery units; underscores that this military build-up has been accompanied by a dramatic increase in belligerent rhetoric on the Russian side;

3. Considers that the EU must draw conclusions about the deeply concerning Russian military build-up on the Ukrainian border; demands that Russia immediately end the practice of unjustified military build-ups designed to threaten its neighbours, stop all ongoing provocations and refrain from future ones, and de-escalate the situation by withdrawing its forces to their permanent bases, in line with its international obligations;

4. Reiterates that the Russian military build-up also presents a threat to European stability,
security and peace, which is why an EU security dialogue with Ukraine should be ambitious and contribute to a convergent assessment of the security challenges on the ground; stresses that friendly countries should step up their military support to Ukraine and their provision of defensive weapons, which is in line with Article 51 of the UN Charter that allows individual and collective self-defence; demands that Russia remove its troops from the so-called People’s Republics of Luhansk and Donetsk and return control of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol to Ukraine;

5. Underlines that regular Russian military build-ups at the Ukrainian border are a tool to extract political concessions from the West at the expense of Ukraine; reiterates its strong belief that all countries have the right to choose, independently and free from external interference, their political and military alliances, also in line with the Charter of Paris for a New Europe provisions; is of the opinion that no demands for concessions on the Russian side at the expense of Ukraine will be met by the European Union; recalls that acts of compromise or appeasement by the West would be perceived as weakness by the Russian side and only embolden it to further escalate its aggressive approach;

6. Highlights that the Russian military build-ups also form part of a wider hybrid warfare strategy waged by Russia against the European Union, by causing chaos and confusion in its neighbourhoods, at its borders and within the European Union; reiterates that Russia is using a confluence of threats, such as military, digital, energy and disinformation, taking advantage of the open system of the EU to weaken it, while knowing that in a direct confrontation, be it economic or military, its capacity is several fold smaller than that of the combined Euro-Atlantic community; believes that the EU needs to be aware of its own vulnerabilities and those of its partners in the neighbourhood, and to strengthen resilience in order to be able to effectively counter any hybrid attacks;

7. Underlines that the European Union must be ready to send the Russian Federation a very stark warning that military hostilities will not only be unacceptable, but also come at a high economic and political price; calls for the Council to start pre-emptive preparation of a new package of sanctions aimed at the Russian Federation, individuals in its armed forces officer corps and flag officers involved in the planning of possible invasion operations, as well as the immediate circle of the Russian President and oligarchs linked to the regime and their families; demands that such sanctions entail the freezing of financial and physical assets in the EU, travel bans and the exclusion of Russia from the SWIFT payment system, thereby excluding Russian companies from the international financial market and prohibiting the purchase of Russian sovereign debt on the primary and secondary markets; urges that these sanctions be introduced in coordination with the US, UK and other like-minded democratic states;

8. Welcomes all of the restrictive measures taken by the EU as a consequence of the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol; calls for the immediate release of all illegally detained and imprisoned Ukrainian citizens in the Crimean peninsula and in Russia, and deplores the continued human rights violations perpetrated in Crimea and the occupied territories in eastern Ukraine, as well as the large-scale conferral of Russian nationality (passportisation) among citizens in those areas; believes that sanctions should remain in place until Russia fulfils conditions for
their lifting;

9. Underscores the importance of taking resolute measures to deter Russia from circumventing existing EU sanctions; believes that, to this end, the EU should review and update its applicable regulations to close multiple loopholes in order to render sanctions more efficient and make Russia pay a genuinely higher price for its unfriendly acts;

10. Demands that the EU reduce its dependence on Russian energy, and therefore urges the EU institutions and all Member States to make sure that in the event of an armed attack on Ukraine the Nord Stream 2 pipeline is not operationalised, regardless of whether it at some point fulfils the provisions of the EU Gas Directive\(^2\), and the construction of controversial Rosatom-built nuclear power plants is stopped;

11. Underlines that the Member States should no longer be welcoming places for Russian wealth and investments of unclear origin, but should properly apply the existing anti-money-laundering directives; calls on the Commission and the Council to increase efforts to curb the Kremlin’s strategic investments within the EU for the purposes of subversion, undermining democratic processes and institutions, and spreading corruption;

12. Urges Russia and Russian-backed separatists to adhere to the ceasefire agreement; calls on Russia to engage constructively in the Normandy Format and the Trilateral Contact Group and to implement its international obligations, particularly under the Minsk Agreements and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea; encourages the Council to also broaden the scope of its sanctions to cover ‘passportisation’ and the organisation of illegal elections in Crimea and to increase the price Russia pays for blocking the implementation of the Minsk Agreements and the Normandy Format talks; invites the International Criminal Court to investigate the crimes committed by the Russian side and its proxies in the Crimean peninsula and in eastern Ukraine; highlights the role that the International Court of Justice and universal jurisdiction cases can play in this regard; considers that the political and military leadership of the de facto authorities of the Luhansk and Donetsk so-called People’s Republics should be sanctioned in the framework of the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime;

13. Reiterates its support for the international investigation into the circumstances of the tragic downing of the Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17, which might possibly constitute a war crime, and reiterates its call to bring the people responsible to justice;

14. Urges the EU to strengthen its cooperation with the US and other like-minded partners and to establish an alliance to defend democracy globally and propose a democracy defence toolkit, which should include joint actions on sanctions, policies to counter illicit financial flows, strict rules on the conditionality of economic and financial assistance, international investigations, and an ambitious agenda to support freedom and democracy, human rights activists and defenders of democracy;

15. Condemns the signing by President Putin of the decree on simplified trade rules to

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allow access measures to increase access of goods to and from the temporarily non-
government-controlled Donetsk and Luhansk areas of Ukraine; stresses that such
unilateral measures violate Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, including
with regard to customs control;

16. Welcomes the establishment of the International Crimea Platform; considers it an
important tool to keep the topic of the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula high
on the international agenda; expresses satisfaction at the strong EU support for this
initiative and the presence of high-ranking EU and Member State representatives during
its inauguration;

17. Calls on the Russian people not to believe in the omnipresent official propaganda
depicting the West as enemies of the Russian people and the Russian State; recalls that
democracy and freedom are a threat only to corrupt Russian elites and not to the people;
expresses a wish to engage in dialogue and build future relations with a democratic
Russia; recalls that the externally and internally aggressive policy of ‘Kremlin first and
foremost’ victimises the Russian people; reiterates that democracy and freedom are the
most effective responses to authoritarian and aggressive forms of government;

18. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the
Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security
Policy, the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member
States, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in
Europe, the President, Government and Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and the President,