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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0160/2022**

16.3.2022

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the need for urgent EU action to ensure food security in light of Russian aggression against Ukraine, and a long-term action plan on developing EU food autonomy  
(2022/2593(RSP))

**Mohammed Chahim, Clara Aguilera**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**European Parliament resolution on the need for urgent EU action to ensure food security in light of Russian aggression against Ukraine, and a long-term action plan on developing EU food autonomy (2022/2593(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Russia and Ukraine, and in particular that of 16 December 2021 on the situation at the Ukrainian border and in Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine<sup>1</sup>,
- having regard to the statements on Ukraine by the European Parliament's leaders of 16 and 24 February 2022,
- having regard to the declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU of 24 February 2022 on the invasion of Ukraine by the armed forces of the Russian Federation,
- having regard to the statement by the President of the European Council and the President of the Commission of 24 February 2022 on Russia's unprecedented and unprovoked military aggression against Ukraine,
- having regard to the recent statements by the President of Ukraine and the President of the Commission on the situation in Ukraine,
- having regard to the G7 statement of 24 February 2022,
- having regard to the European Council conclusions of 24 February 2022,
- having regard to Article 39 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),
- having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013<sup>2</sup>,
- having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/2117 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 amending Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products, (EU) No 1151/2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs, (EU) No 251/2014 on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical

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<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted, P9\_TA(2021)0515.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 435, 6.12.2021, p. 1.

indications of aromatised wine products and (EU) No 228/2013 laying down specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union<sup>3</sup>,

- having regard to its resolution of 1 March 2022 on the Russian aggression against Ukraine<sup>4</sup>,
  - having regard to the statement by the heads of state or government of the European Council of 10 March 2022 on the Russian military aggression against Ukraine,
  - having regard to the statement of the G7 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting of 11 March 2022 on the invasion of Ukraine by armed forces of the Russian Federation,
  - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, in line with the UN Charter and the principles of international law, all states enjoy equal sovereignty and must refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state;
- B. whereas the Russian Federation launched an unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022;
- C. whereas the Council of the European Union has adopted an initial series of sanctions against Russia, including targeted individual sanctions, economic and financial sanctions and trade restrictions, and continues to prepare further sanctions in close coordination with transatlantic allies and other like-minded international partners;
- D. whereas the Black Sea ports are among the civilian infrastructure damaged, resulting in a complete blockage of trade by sea, including exports of vital agricultural products to different regions, including the European Union;
- E. whereas war on the ground in Ukraine is preventing the internal movement of goods, particularly food, feed and other agricultural products, resulting in serious food scarcity in Ukraine and a lack of stocks available for shipping to other countries;
- F. whereas the conflict has involved the targeting of critical agricultural infrastructure, including for transportation and storage, which is having significant regional impacts; whereas bombardment, shelling and cluster bombs in war situations damage agricultural land and maim those intending to return to work that land, rendering it unusable for years to come while demining is carried out and ordnance is detected and defused or destroyed;
- G. whereas the 2022 harvest in Ukraine cannot take place as farmers and agricultural workers have fled for their lives or are defending their country, and agricultural holdings are too severely damaged for this year's production to take place as normal;
- H. whereas Ukraine accounts for 11 % of the world's wheat market, 16 % of its barley,

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<sup>3</sup> OJ L 435, 6.12.2021, p. 262.

<sup>4</sup> Texts adopted, P9\_TA(2022)0052.

15 % of its maize, 16 % of its rapeseed, 50 % of its sunflower seed oil, 9 % of trade in sunflower seeds and 61 % of its sunflower cake; whereas for Russia, these figures are 20 % (wheat), 16 % (barley), 2 % (maize), 3 % (rapeseed) and 20 % (sunflower cake);

- I. whereas Ukraine has become an important supplier to the EU, being the primary supplier of maize (on average 9.2 megatonnes – 57 % of supplies), rapeseed (2 megatonnes – 42 % of European imports by volume), sunflower seeds (0.1 megatonnes – 15 %) and sunflower cake (1.3 megatonnes – 47 % of imports), and to a lesser extent wheat (1 megatonnes – 30 % of imports); whereas Russia is also, but to a lesser extent, an important supplier to the EU of wheat (0.5 megatonnes – 11 %), but mainly of rapeseed cake (0.2 megatonnes – 50 %), sunflower cake (0.9 megatonnes – 34 %) and sunflower seeds (0.3 megatonnes – 35 %);
- J. whereas since the beginning of the conflict, there has already been a sharp increase in world prices for agricultural products (between + 5 % and + 10 % depending on the product), bringing them closer to the prices of the 2007-2008 marketing year;
- K. whereas energy, input and food prices are all rising as a result of the conflict, meaning that more and more people will be at risk of poverty (in addition to the 97 million currently at risk); whereas social measures to help producers and consumers deal with these effects are therefore needed;
- L. whereas the impacts on food security of the unprovoked and unjustifiable Russian war of aggression have exacerbated the already severe situation caused by COVID-19, the exceptional droughts in the south of the EU, climate change and biodiversity loss;
- A. ***Urgent measures to deal with the impact of aggression against Ukraine on food security***
  - 1. Condemns in the strongest possible terms the Russian Federation's illegal, unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against and invasion of Ukraine, as well as the involvement of Belarus in this aggression; demands that the Russian Federation immediately terminate all military activities in Ukraine, unconditionally withdraw all military and paramilitary forces and military equipment from across the internationally recognised territory of Ukraine, and fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognised borders, in order to restore peace and thereby ensure that reconstruction of life-supporting economic, social, health and food systems can be begun in safety;
  - 2. Expresses its undivided solidarity with the people of Ukraine and its inconsolable grief about the tragic loss of life and human suffering caused by the Russian aggression and stresses that attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure as well as indiscriminate attacks are prohibited under international humanitarian law;
  - 3. Notes that these attacks, alongside the interruption of trade for reasons of war, prevent essential resources, from energy and fertilizers, to essential chemicals and agricultural products, from reaching the EU, so that solidarity shown by farmers and consumers towards people in Ukraine means making sacrifices;
  - 4. Believes that the EU, along with other international bodies, must not tolerate artificially

inflated prices and must take action to prevent speculative behaviour that endangers food security or access to food for vulnerable countries and populations, by monitoring markets affecting the food system, including futures markets, to ensure full transparency, and by sharing reliable data and information on global food market developments;

5. Calls on the Commission to identify and facilitate ways and means to address the economic and social consequences of the sanctions, not least in the areas of agricultural production in order to safeguard food security;
6. Calls for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire; demands that channels of communication with Russia remain open and that the parties concerned be prepared for dialogue and negotiations until a ceasefire is in force and the war ended, because only through such a ceasefire can normal life be rebuilt and the production of food resumed across Ukraine and its agricultural areas, and can normality resume in the flow of food, products, seasonal labour and inputs essential for agricultural and food production across borders, thereby overcoming transportation challenges in food exports and commodity production;
7. Reiterates its previous calls for the significant reduction of energy dependence, in particular on Russian gas, oil and coal, by, inter alia, diversifying energy sources and increasing energy efficiency and the speed of the clean energy transition; underlines that the sanctions may have a specific impact on European households in terms of food prices and energy costs, and that they should not be expected to pay the price of this crisis unsupported; calls on the Member States, therefore, to prepare plans and subsidies for households to address the cost of living crisis;
8. Stresses that in order to prevent the risk of plant-based protein shortages, the Commission should promptly take all necessary steps to temporarily allow the use of ecological focus areas suitable for growing protein crops for the duration of the crisis, and to consider the scope for the use of innovative and sustainable production methods in these areas;
9. Considers that immediate shifts in planting regimes to provide more home-grown produce during this year's growing season should be assessed and further developed to enhance production systems and allow an evolution towards more autonomy in the medium and long term;
10. Calls for the immediate implementation of the measures against market disturbance provided for in Article 219 of the Common Markets Organisation Regulation<sup>5</sup> in order to support the sectors most affected and, in parallel, for the mobilisation of the crisis reserve to this end;
11. Considers that while increasing production is now an urgent priority, national strategic plans should be assessed to make the necessary adaptations to the new circumstances, including the use of relevant flexibilities to increase the acreage of lands under

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<sup>5</sup> OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 671.

production;

12. Stresses that the extraordinary rural development COVID-19 measures should be extended to address the ongoing liquidity problems that put the viability of farming activities at risk and endanger the small businesses active in the processing, marketing or development of agricultural products;
13. Underlines that measures should be adopted to avoid any disruption of the EU single market and barriers to the free movement of goods, in particular with regard to the free circulation of crucial commodities such as cereals;
14. Believes that measures should be adopted to guarantee more flexibility for imports of crucial commodities (in particular cereals, soybeans and fertilizers) from non-EU countries, including the possibility to temporarily re-evaluate existing import quotas;

***B. Long-term action plan on developing EU food autonomy***

15. Calls on the Commission to prepare a detailed action plan without delay to ensure the correct functioning of our food supply chains and ensure food security within the EU in the long term, taking into account the lessons learnt from the impact of the war in Ukraine and other possible disruptions;
16. Reiterates that European strategic autonomy in food, feed and the agricultural sector overall must be reinforced, while keeping to the Green New Deal objectives, which are designed to protect our environment and the agricultural areas within it;
17. Recognises that the disruption of the trade patterns which existed prior to the invasion shows that the EU must urgently consider not only how best to provide food aid in the immediate crisis period, but also how to develop a more autonomous agricultural system producing food and feed in the long term, reducing our dependence on imports and increasing domestic production; stresses that this is particularly pressing for the products most at risk of shortages because of the suspension of Ukrainian exports, such as cereals, oilseeds, protein crops and fertilisers;
18. Calls for reinforced action at international level to ensure that policy decision-making has food security at its core, in order to avoid scarcity in the most vulnerable countries, giving priority to food uses of agricultural products and preventing obstacles in the international trade in food;
19. Believes that significant shifts in market and export models, as well as serious contingency planning, could also be needed, such as autonomy in EU feed production, alternative outlets for exports, enhanced reactive capacity, strategic stocks of basic food, feed and other agricultural products, autonomy in fertilizers and replacement products, and clear information on global transport patterns for agricultural products;
20. Calls for the acceleration and strengthening of actions to reduce food waste to maximise food availability and the use of the resources we have in the European Union, as a means to improve food autonomy;
21. Calls for measures to tackle the poverty caused by rapidly rising energy prices and the

impact of the conflict on food prices, and considers that social measures must form part of the necessary actions;

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22. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the President of the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the President, Government and Parliament of Ukraine, and the President, Government and Parliament of the Russian Federation.