



Plenary sitting

B9-0211/2022

5.4.2022

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

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

on the conclusions of the European Council meeting of 24-25 March 2022, including the latest developments of the war against Ukraine and the EU sanctions against Russia and their implementation (2022/2560(RSP))

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on behalf of the ECR Group

European Parliament resolution on the conclusions of the European Council meeting of 24-25 March 2022, including the latest developments of the war against Ukraine and the EU sanctions against Russia and their implementation (2022/2560(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Russia and Ukraine, and in particular those of 16 December 2021 on the situation at the Ukrainian border and in Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine¹, of 1 March 2022 on Russian aggression against Ukraine² and of 24 March 2022 on the need for an urgent EU action plan to ensure food security inside and outside the EU in light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine³,
- having regard to the conclusions of the European Council summit of 24 and 25 March 2022,
- having regard to the Versailles declaration of 11 March 2022,
- having regard to the United Nations General Assembly resolutions of 2 and 24 March 2022 on Russia's invasion of Ukraine,
- having regard to the ruling of the UN International Court of Justice (ICJ) of 16 March 2022,
- having regard to the Nuremberg principles developed by the International Law Commission of the United Nations, which determine what constitutes a war crime,
- having regard to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court of 17 July 1998,
- having regard to the European Council conclusions of 24 February 2022,
- having regard to the Charter of the United Nations,
- having regard to the Helsinki Final Act of 1 August 1975 and subsequent documents,
- having regard to the Geneva Convention of 1949 and the additional protocols thereto,
- having regard to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 9 December 1948,
- having regard to the statement by NATO heads of state and government of 24 March 2022,
- having regard to the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances of 1994,

¹ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2021)0515.

² Texts adopted, P9_TA(2022)0052.

³ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2022)0099.

- having regard to statements of US President Joe Biden during his visit to Europe in March 2022,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas more than one month after Russia began its unprovoked military aggression against Ukraine, Ukrainian forces continue to valiantly defend their country and deny the invaders access to major cities and other strategic objectives;
 - B. whereas Russian soldiers continue to commit war crimes by looting, raping and executing members of the civilian population and targeting civilian structures, including hospitals, medical facilities, schools and shelters, as well as ambulances, and shooting at civilians trying to flee conflict areas via pre-established humanitarian corridors;
 - C. whereas Russia is using the illegally occupied territory of Crimea and the breakaway territories in Luhansk and Donetsk, as well as air and ground bases in Belarus, to conduct its ground offensives, missile attacks and air campaign against Ukraine;
 - D. whereas the Russian army continues to carry out indiscriminate shelling and aerial attacks against residential areas, which have led to the complete or almost complete destruction of Mariupol, Volnovakha and other cities and villages; whereas the building housing the EU Advisory Mission headquarters in Mariupol was also hit;
 - E. whereas as of 30 March 2022, the official number of civilian casualties in Ukraine reported by the UN was 1 232 killed (including 112 children) and 1 935 wounded (including 149 children); whereas the actual number is likely many times higher than official estimates; whereas after liberating territories in the Kyiv district, Ukrainians soldiers found evidence of mass executions of civilians in Bucha, Irmin, Hostomel and other towns and villages, which amount to genocide;
 - F. whereas on 28 February 2022, Ukraine submitted an official request to gain ‘immediate’ membership of the EU under a special fast-track procedure; whereas the European Council and the European Parliament acknowledged the European aspirations and the European choice of Ukraine and invited the Commission to submit its opinion on granting Ukraine candidate status;
 - G. whereas on 16 March 2022, the UN’s highest court ruled in a binding verdict that Russia ‘shall immediately suspend the military operations that it commenced on 24 February’, consequently rejecting Russia’s justification of the war;
 - H. whereas the Russian Federation used its veto power to block the UN Security Council resolution with the aim of defending its unconscionable aggression, violating Rule 20 of the Security Council’s Provisional Rules of Procedure, as the Russian delegation should not preside over issues directly connected to the Russian state;
 - I. whereas the democratic world has demonstrated unprecedented unity, solidarity and support for Ukraine and in defending the core principles of the rules based international order, humanity and peace, with only the dictatorships of North Korea, Belarus, Eritrea and Syria openly supporting Russia’s actions;

- J. whereas the EU, together with the US, the UK, Canada, Australia, Japan and other countries, imposed a wide array of sanctions on Russia and Belarus; whereas, however, these sanctions contain numerous loopholes, omissions and exceptions that allow Russian authorities and oligarchs to circumvent them, and whereas they have been insufficient to stop Russia's war machine;
- K. whereas one of these omissions concerns the exchange of goods transported by Russian and Belarusian lorries and vessels, allowing Russian and Belarussian transport companies to continue their economic activities in the EU common market and to provide Russia with goods and resources;
- L. whereas many EU Member States continue to import oil, gas and coal from Russia, and have spent approximately EUR 24 billion since the beginning of the aggression (over EUR 600 million per day), thus feeding the Russian war machine;
- M. whereas as part of the sanctions, the UK has frozen over EUR 307 billion in Russian bank assets; whereas the US and the EU have frozen EUR 285 billion and EUR 46 billion respectively;
- N. whereas almost 500 international companies and corporations have chosen to suspend their operations in Russia or completely withdraw from the Russian market; whereas some, such as Acer, Asus, Auchan-Retail, Cersanit, Eutelsat, Huawei, Intermedia, Koch Industries, Korn Ferry, Lenovo, Leroy Merlin, Metro, MOLGroup, MSI, Reiffeisen Bank International, Societe Generale, Tencent, Titan International and Xiaomi, continue to conduct business as usual in Russia;
- O. whereas democratic countries have provided generous financial, material and humanitarian support, including in the form of lethal weapons and equipment for the Ukrainian army;
- P. whereas according to latest polls, a large majority of the Russian population supports the attack on Ukraine;
- Q. whereas over 4 million people have left Ukraine since the beginning of the conflict, seeking refuge mainly in Poland, Romania, the Republic of Moldova, Hungary and Slovakia; whereas there are almost 6.5 million internally displaced persons in Ukraine;
- R. whereas NATO reacted quickly to the Russian aggression and repositioned troops and air assets in eastern Europe, while the EU failed to deliver a proper response in its areas of competence;
- S. whereas Russia remains a Member of important international law enforcement institutions such as Interpol, which cooperate effectively with the EU and its Member States and where cooperation is based on trust; whereas this trust relies on the swift tackling of problems with countries seeking to misuse Interpol systems for political ends; whereas Interpol's systems must respect human rights and the rule of law and uphold the organisation's commitments regarding political, religious or military abuse;
- 1. Condemns in the strongest possible terms the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine and reiterates its call on the Russian Federation to immediately terminate all

military activities in Ukraine, unconditionally withdraw all military and paramilitary forces and military equipment from the entire internationally recognised territory of Ukraine, and fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognised borders;

2. Underlines that the ICJ ruling makes it virtually impossible for anyone, including Russia, to deny the illegality of the war and that rejection of a ruling of the highest UN court by a permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) would be a dangerous precedent which should be met with strong consequences, including the suspension of Russia's veto power as a permanent member of the UNSC and a thorough assessment of the legality of the Russian Federation's continued membership of the UNSC;
3. Is appalled by the war crimes committed by the Russian Federation in Ukraine, which amount to genocide, including those revealed after the liberation of Bucha and other places in Kyiv district, namely executions, rapes, abductions, forced displacement and looting, as well as indiscriminate shelling of civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, ambulances, schools, kindergartens and shelters; calls on the international community to continue documenting all instances of such crimes and to do whatever is necessary to bring those responsible to justice; recalls that in the event of war crimes and genocide, the international community is obliged to act and should use all tools at its disposal; calls for an urgent meeting of the European Council to discuss Russia's war crimes and a new effective package of sanctions;
4. Strongly condemns the role played by Belarus in facilitating Russian aggression against Ukraine; at the same time praises parts of Belarusian society for acts of civil disobedience, including derailing trains transporting Russian reinforcements;
5. Expresses its unfettered solidarity with the people of Ukraine, who have already suffered through eight years of war in their country, and pays tribute to the tremendous courage shown by the people of Ukraine, their heroic president Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the brave soldiers who are defending their country against the Russian invaders; praises the visits by the leaders of Poland, Slovenia and Czechia, as well as the recent visit of the President of the European Parliament, to Kyiv;
6. Expects the Commission to submit a positive opinion on granting Ukraine candidate status as a matter of the utmost urgency, and expects the European Council to agree to do so immediately afterwards; calls on the Member States that are hesitant regarding Ukraine's EU accession, mainly Germany and the Netherlands, not to block this historic move;
7. Welcomes the sanctions introduced so far against Russia and Belarus by the international community; underlines the need for further coordination between the EU and the G7 in order to close any existing loopholes and target actual and possible circumvention of sanctions, as well as to move quickly with further coordinated, robust and severe sanctions against Russia's economic sectors, including those that account for the main sources of state budget revenues, the targeting of which would undermine Russia's ability to wage further war against Ukraine and prevent future aggressions by the Kremlin; calls on the democratic world and in particular candidate countries and

states benefiting from privileged economic agreements with the EU to join the EU and US sanctions; regrets, in this regard, the fact that the Serbian authorities have disregarded commitments made as an EU candidate and calls for further accession negotiations with Belgrade to be suspended and for trade and partnership agreements with those countries that have decided to maintain their relations with the aggressor in spite of the barbaric invasion of Ukraine to be reviewed; insists that all sanctions imposed in connection with Russia's military aggression against Ukraine should also be imposed on Belarus;

8. Stresses the utmost importance of the immediate cessation of imports of oil, gas and coal from Russia by EU Member States; is appalled by the fact that the EU pays over EUR 600 million per day to the Russian Federation; regrets the fact that the EU has so far failed to follow the United States in banning Russian oil and gas, mostly owing to opposition from Germany, which relies heavily on hydrocarbons from Russia; commends the decisions taken by states that have already introduced embargoes on Russian oil, gas and coal;
9. Joins the calls to establish a tax on Russian hydrocarbons so that commerce and economic rules in the EU single market can function in an equitable manner from the point of view of market competition and will not profit those who continue to buy Russian hydrocarbons at an advantageous price; is of the opinion that the revenues from such a tax should be used to support those who have been harmed by Russia's aggressive policies in Georgia, Ukraine, Syria and elsewhere;
10. Calls on EU leaders and the leaders of other states to exclude Russia from the G20 and other multilateral cooperative organisations, such as the United Nations Human Rights Council, Interpol, the World Trade Organization, UNESCO and others, which would be an important sign that the international community will not return to business as usual with the aggressor state; reiterates its call on cultural organisations and sports federations to further suspend Russia's participation in their events; is of the opinion that the Russian Federation cannot be considered a reliable partner, having lost any credibility, which is crucial for diplomacy; supports calls, in this regard, for the diplomatic isolation of Russia and the reduction of diplomatic relations with the aggressor;
11. Stresses that an integral part of the EU action plan to ensure EU energy security must be a strategy to increase EU energy independence from Russian supplies, including the complete abandonment of the Nord Stream and Nord Stream 2 projects, while maintaining EU energy security;
12. Calls on the Council to take additional necessary steps at EU level and to adopt new sanctions prohibiting road freight transport from and to the territories of Russia and Belarus and to block Russian and Belarusian vessels from entering EU ports; believes that such measures in road and maritime transport have to be adopted simultaneously at EU level in order to be truly effective and to avoid having disproportionate negative effects on some EU countries; believes that the above-mentioned measures in the transport sector would further limit the capability of the Russian Federation to sustain its aggression;

13. Calls for the EU, the US, the UK and other members of the international community to devise legal means of confiscating all the frozen assets of banks and oligarchs from the Russian Federation and Belarus, which should then be used in full to support the post-war reconstruction of and the provision of reparations for Ukraine;
14. Calls for the introduction of a complete ban on sales of military and dual use goods, products and services to Russia and Belarus; is of the opinion that only life-saving cooperation in space should be allowed with the Russian Federation; insists on disconnecting all Russian and Belarusian banks from SWIFT, first and foremost Sberbank and Gazprombank, freezing all correspondent accounts in hard currency of all Russian banks and large Russian companies, and enhancing sanctions on crypto-currency assets; calls, furthermore, for all Russian banks to be blocked from the European financial system, for Russia's banks and banking system to be prohibited from raising funds or borrowing on European markets from secondary capital markets, for a ban on exports of any high-tech products or strategic goods to the Russian market, and for Russian-controlled investment funds and banks such as the International Investment Bank to be immediately banned from operating in the EU;
15. Recalls that tax revenues from Russia's largest foreign companies make up a significant part of Russia's budget and are estimated to account for a third of military spending; welcomes, in this regard, the decision by more than 500 western companies to refuse to work in Russia or to cooperate with it and its citizens, as well as refusing to supply their products and services there; encourages private businesses to withdraw their investments, relocate production sites from Russia, and cut running contracts; calls on large IT companies to significantly or completely restrict users in Russia from accessing their products, services and operating systems;
16. Calls on Member States to close and ban state-affiliated institutions, such as the network of the Russian Centres for Science and Culture or Russian diaspora organisations and associations which operate under the auspices and leadership of Russian diplomatic missions and promote Russian propaganda and spread disinformation;
17. Calls for the EU and its Member States to continue providing lethal weapons and protective equipment to the Ukrainian army; underlines the need to send sophisticated medium- and long-range air defence systems, as well as more anti-tank weapons and ammunition;
18. Calls for the creation of safe humanitarian corridors allowing for the evacuation of civilians from areas where heavy fighting continues; condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's forced deportation of over 45 000 civilians from Mariupol to Russia; calls for the EU to immediately provide financial support to countries that are the first destination of Ukrainian refugees;
19. Commends the support provided by the Member States to Ukrainian refugees, in particular by Poland, which is hosting more than 2 million Ukrainians, providing them with shelter, education, medical treatment and the possibility to join the labour market;
20. Welcomes the declarations of many European cities that have ended their cooperation and partnership schemes with Russian cities and organisations; calls on local

governments and cities to terminate their partnerships with the cities of the Russian Federation, and in return to establish cooperation with Ukrainian sister-cities, which would also support their reconstruction after the war;

21. Notes that according to the Levada Center, 83 % of Russians support Putin's actions, while the percentage of Russians who say the country is moving in the right direction has increased from 52 % to 69 % since the war began, the highest level recorded since 1996; is all the more appreciative, in this regard, of those brave individuals who openly protest and oppose Russian imperialism in its newest form, namely the invasion of Ukraine, despite the brutality of the riot police, criminal sanctions and media and social pressure; urges the Member States not to issue Schengen visas to Russian citizens, with the exception of humanitarian visas;
22. Welcomes the strengthened NATO presence in the territory and airspace of its central and eastern European allies; invites the US to consider relocating larger military bases from Germany to Poland, the Baltic States and Romania;
23. Takes note of the announcement by the Secretary General of Interpol of the implementation of enhanced monitoring measures to identify and prevent further abuse of the organisation's systems by Russia; believes, nevertheless, that monitoring alone will not fully mitigate the risk of abuse by Russia and stresses that Interpol should take immediate steps to exclude the Russian Federation;
24. 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 United Nations, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the President, Government and Parliament of Ukraine, the President, Government and Parliament of the Russian Federation and the President, Government and Parliament of Belarus.