



Plenary sitting

B9-0214/2022

5.4.2022

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 144 of the Rules of Procedure

on increasing repression in Russia, including the case of Alexey Navalny

(2022/2622(RSP))

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on behalf of the PPE Group

B9-0214/2022

European Parliament resolution on increasing repression in Russia, including the case of Alexey Navalny

(2022/2622(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Russia,
- having regard to the Constitution of the Russian Federation and to the international human rights obligations to which Russia has committed itself as Member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations (UN), and as signatory of other human rights treaty,
- having regard to the European Convention on Human Rights,
- having regard to the declaration by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on behalf of the EU of 17 January 2022 on the anniversary of Alexei Navalny's arrest and imprisonment,
- having regard to the declaration by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on behalf of the EU of 28 March 2022 on the Russian independent newspaper Novaya Gazeta,
- having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas until now the EU was not able to stop the autocracy in Russia and could not prevent the rise of Russia as aggressor and suppressor, and the Russian war against Ukraine is also a consequence of EU's inability to act;

B. whereas undemocratic Russia is the biggest threat to the Europe security and this threat may be eliminated only if Russia returns to the path of democracy; whereas the EU should lead this effort and stand by the people of Russia;

C. whereas Putin is afraid of the Russian people, free media and Navalny; whereas the people of Russia is a victim of Putin's aggression;

D. whereas amid the unjustified invasion of Ukraine, Russia is facing an unprecedented crackdown on opposition, NGOs and journalists with repressive laws, including the laws on "Fake news" and "Foreign agents", censoring reporting on the war, banning criticism of Russian government actions abroad and restricting access to independent news outlets;

E. whereas according to the OVD Info, the police arbitrarily detained 15,000 peaceful protesters across the country at rallies against the war in Ukraine;

F. whereas independent media is forced to suspend its activities and independent journalists

flee the country; whereas prominent outlets, including Novaya Gazeta, Radio Ekho Moskvy and Dozhd TV were accused of extremism and spread of “false” information on the war; whereas the authorities blocked foreign social media in Russia; whereas the Russian Supreme Court upheld the move to shut down Memorial under the on “Foreign agents law”;

G. whereas on 17 March 2022, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe decided to cease the membership of the Russian Federation in the Council of Europe as from 16 March; whereas the Russian government took the parallel decision to withdraw from the Council of Europe and declared its intention to denounce the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 1950;

H. whereas Putin’s aggression against the people of Ukraine is a crime against humanity and Putin should be tried by international institutions and the global community, including in a special Tribunal on the aggression crimes;

I. whereas 2021 Sakharov Prize laureate Alexey Navalny was sentenced to 3.5 years of imprisonment for violating his parole while being in hospital after his poisoning; whereas the authorities opened a new criminal case against him for “fraud on an especially large scale” and “contempt of court” and sentenced him to additional 9 years in a “strict-regime” penal colony; whereas his associates have left Russia after facing criminal charges and his Foundation for Fighting Corruption was labelled “extremist”;

J. whereas there is no rule of law in Russia, and all its decisions or proceedings regarding Navalny are null and void; whereas everyone part of these decisions or proceedings will be held accountable by international community, including by the courts of democratic Russia, and their assets shall be frozen and used for the reparations to the people of Russia;

K. whereas the EU has to make every effort possible to engage with the people of Russia and with the Russian civil society in exile to stop the Russian invasion of Ukraine;

L. whereas there is a future for Russia after Putin and the EU must swiftly accelerate its work with the Russian people; whereas the EU must demonstrate it should be ready to help future democratic Russia; whereas the Russian people in opposition face the suppression by Putin’s regime and therefore cannot continue their work for a country which is free from propaganda, intimidation and aggression; whereas the Russian people need to feel that we are ready to again invite a democratic and responsible Russia to the community of nations;

1. Strongly condemns the intensification of the unprecedented crackdown on human rights in Russia and demands the Russian authorities’ immediate and unconditional release of Alexey Navalny from prison, together with all human rights defenders, journalists, activists and peaceful protesters;

2. Denounces all legislation interfering with freedom of expression and association, including the laws on “Fake news” and “Foreign agents” and demands their repeal;

3. Recalls the importance of the unprecedented EU sanctions adopted in the context of the unprovoked war in Ukraine and believes they can be further extended and better targeted, addressing the ongoing crackdown on human rights in Russia;

4. Calls upon the EU institutions to appoint a special envoy for democratic Russia, who will be responsible for relations with the Russian people, in particular with democracy defenders in exile and the ones who remain in Russia and seek Russia will return to the democratic path;

5. Calls upon the Commission, in cooperation with EEAS to create the Democratic Russia Hub (Hub), which will be responsible for EU policy dialogue with democratic Russia community, in particular its Anti-War Committee, established by the Russian democratic opposition activists and will adopt a joint plan of action to include the following points:

- I. launching of the communication to the people of Russia strategy, which will include direct the access to the people of Russia via means, such as letters, calls, telecommunication technologies, including SMS, AI bots, messaging platforms and services, hosting in the EU of banned in Russia media teams, as well as proposing a joint platform for media in exile;
 - i. together with EU Member States and leading international companies, developing of the technology means to circumvent the internet bans in Russia, which among other things are affecting more than 50 million Russian viewers on YouTube platform and could include such actions, as unblocking of the ads and monetisation facilities for the Russian opposition channels, and other measures;
 - ii. supporting of the low-tech instruments, such as MW radio, as well as satellite TV stations;
 - iii. improving EU strategic communication and elaboration of the content to counter the Putin's war and genocide propaganda;
- II. joint work for the asylum/visa system for those Russians, who were threatened and persecuted, especially in relation with the anti-war demonstrations, which could be also integration into EU scheme for refugees fleeing from Ukraine; this scheme can be developed together with EU clearing house for granting visas to the activists, who have fled Russia;
- III. supporting the establishment of the Free Russia University in exile and of academia network outside Russia, as well as adopt EU strategy which would allow the Russian students and professors to officially continue their studies and work in the European universities, in particular in area of humanitarian disciplines, and receive corresponding diplomas;
- IV. together with EU, national and international think-tank institutions, developing of the EU strategy for the Democratic Russia after Putin, as foreseen in the European Parliament report on direction of EU-Russia political relations;
- V. preparing the annual EU Summits with democratic Russia in exile and launching of EU policy dialogue to stop the Putin's aggressive war against the countries who stand by the values of freedom and democracy;

6. 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 OSCE, and to the President, Government and the Parliament of the Russian Federation.