



Plenary sitting

B9-0432/2022

3.10.2022

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 Russia's escalation of its war of aggression against Ukraine
(2022/2851(RSP))

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on behalf of the Renew Group

**European Parliament resolution on Russia's escalation of its war of aggression against Ukraine
(2022/2851(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Russia and Ukraine,
 - having regard to the declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union of 28 September 2022 on the illegal sham ‘referenda’ by Russia in the Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia regions,
 - having regard to the statement by the members of the European Council and the message of President Charles Michel of 30 September 2022 on Russia's illegal annexation of Ukrainian regions,
 - having regard to the statement by the North Atlantic Council of 22 September 2022 on the so-called ‘referenda’ in parts of Ukraine,
 - having regard to the G7 statement of 27 June 2022 on support for Ukraine, the G7 finance ministers’ statement of 2 September 2022 on Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and the G7 foreign ministers’ statement of 30 September 2022 on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory,
 - having regard to the declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union of 28 September 2022 on leaks in the Nord Stream gas pipelines,
 - having regard to the Charter of the United Nations and the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and subsequent documents,
 - having regard to the EU's policy in response to the crisis in Ukraine, including its restrictive measures, which have been in force since 2014,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Russian Federation has continued its unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine over recent months; whereas a successful Ukrainian counteroffensive launched in early September 2022 led to Russia losing a significant part of the territories it had occupied in Ukraine's Kharkiv region and other regions of east Ukraine;
- B. whereas in its statement of 22 September 2022, NATO emphasised that Russia bears full responsibility for the war and that Russia must immediately stop the war and withdraw from Ukraine;
- C. whereas shortly after the successful Ukrainian counteroffensive, Russian-installed officials in the Ukrainian regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson announced the organisation of so-called ‘referendums’ on the annexation of those

Russian-occupied regions by Russia;

- D. whereas these hastily-organised sham ‘referendums’ took place between 23 and 27 September 2022 in the Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine and in Russia, with the Russian authorities announcing pre-ordained and unrealistically high percentages of voter turnout and approval ratings for annexation by Russia; whereas the voting process included systemic abuses of human rights and intimidation, notably the presence of armed Russian soldiers; whereas the sham ‘referendums’ mirrored the referendum organised by Russia in Crimea after it occupied the peninsula in early 2014;
- E. whereas on Friday 30 September, Vladimir Putin officially announced the formal annexation of the regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson, in clear defiance of international law; whereas Russia has reversed its decision of February 2022 to recognise the Russian-occupied Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine as ‘independent states,’ instead annexing the two ‘people’s republics’ as well as the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions that it partially occupies; whereas Russian lawmakers are poised to examine the illegal takeover of the four Ukrainian regions this week; whereas according to multiple statements by Russian officials, after these annexations Russia is intending to accuse Ukraine of aggression against Russia when attempting to regain its four territories by force of arms, with some Russian officials threatening the use of nuclear weapons;
- F. whereas as underlined by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, any annexation of a state’s territory by another state resulting from the threat or use of force is a violation of the Principles of the UN Charter and international law;
- G. whereas Putin’s threat to use nuclear weapons is a serious international crime *per se*;
- H. whereas on 21 September 2022, one day after the announcement of the ‘referendums’, president Vladimir Putin announced a troop mobilisation in Russia, calling for the mobilisation of 300 000 Russians, with reports that a secret article of the mobilisation decree would permit the drafting of 1 or 1.2 million reservists;
- I. whereas the announcement of Russia’s mobilisation led to protests, with the Russian authorities arresting more than 2 400 demonstrators so far; whereas since the announcement of mobilisation, several hundreds of thousands of Russians have fled Russia in order to avoid the draft;
- J. whereas it is Europe’s responsibility to prepare for a possible collapse of the autocratic Russian Federation and provide the vision of democracy to the people of Russia;
- K. whereas several mass graves, including one site containing at least 440 bodies, were found in the Ukrainian city of Izium after it was liberated by Ukrainian forces, with most of the dead showing signs of violent death and 30 presenting traces of torture and summary execution;
- L. whereas in the past days the site of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Europe’s largest nuclear power plant, was hit again by shelling, underlining the precarious security situation at the plant, which remains under Russian military occupation;

- M. whereas on 26 and 29 September 2022, several massive gas leaks on the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines were discovered in the Baltic Sea, within the economic zones of Denmark and Sweden; whereas the leaks appear to have been caused by deliberate explosions;
- N. whereas the EU sanctions on Russia are working and having an effect on the regime and Russia's economy, and therefore should be continued and increased with determination;
1. Continues to condemn in the strongest possible terms the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, as well as the involvement of Belarus in this war, and demands that Russia immediately terminate all military activities in Ukraine; expresses its solidarity with the people of Ukraine and fully supports Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders;
 2. Denounces the illegal sham 'referendums' organised by Russia in the territories of Ukraine it currently occupies and any attempts by Russia to annex parts of Ukraine; deplores the shameful participation of some EU citizens in the so-called observation of the 'referendums';
 3. Underlines that it will never recognise the validity of these sham 'referendums' and the Kremlin's attempts to annex parts of Ukraine, which are illegitimate and in clear breach of the UN Charter as well as Russia's international obligations;
 4. Warmly welcomes and expresses its full support for the declarations of the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the members of the European Council firmly condemning the illegal annexation of the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions;
 5. Urges all states and international organisations to adopt similar positions of rejecting these sham 'referendums' and any Russian annexations and to actively defend international law;
 6. Condemns Russia's irresponsible nuclear rhetoric and rejects as unacceptable the threats of president Putin and other Russian officials regarding the use of nuclear weapons;
 7. Calls for Russia's membership of the United Nations and its Security Council to be suspended for its war of aggression against Ukraine, the Kremlin's latest attempts to annex Ukrainian territory and Putin's public threats to use nuclear weapons;
 8. Strongly condemns the atrocities committed by the Russian forces and their proxies in Ukraine; calls for the EU and its Member States to work with international bodies to collect evidence and to support the International Criminal Court's investigation of the war crimes committed within the territory of Ukraine since 20 February 2014 onwards;
 9. Urges Russia to immediately withdraw its military forces and all other unauthorised personnel from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant so that the operator and the Ukrainian authorities can resume their sovereign responsibilities within Ukraine's internationally recognised borders;
 10. Welcomes the Commission's proposals for an eighth sanctions package against Russia;

calls on all the Member States to approve the sanctions package swiftly, avoid any self-interested delays, and thoroughly implement the sanctions; calls on the EU institutions and the Member States to maintain EU unity and to increase the pressure on the Kremlin, including through further sanctions packages, including a ban on fossil fuel imports from Russia, an export ban on any high-tech products and strategic goods and other sanctions aimed at strategically weakening the Russian economy and industrial base, in particular the military-industrial complex; supports the adoption of individual sanctions against persons and entities directly involved in the organisation and observation of the illegal sham ‘referendums’;

11. Condemns Russia’s multi-layered strategy to introduce, amplify, and spread false and distorted narratives around the world; calls for the EU and its Member States to sanction the Russian entities, individuals and other proxies spreading Russian disinformation and to take additional measures to deal with Russia’s weaponisation of information;
12. Insists that all future EU sanctions must be closely coordinated with transatlantic allies and like-minded international partners in order to maximise their effectiveness;
13. Calls on all countries to condemn unequivocally Russia’s war of aggression and its attempt to acquire territory by force; calls for the EU and its Member States to actively engage with the many governments which have adopted a neutral position regarding Russia’s aggression against Ukraine in order to build strong international opposition to any changes of Ukraine’s borders by force and in defence of international law;
14. Calls for the EU and its Member States to continue to support the Ukrainian people in the defence of their country from Russian military aggression, including through increased political, financial, military and humanitarian support, and efforts to restore critical infrastructure before winter; urges the Member States with advanced military industries to remove barriers limiting and delaying military provisions to Ukraine;
15. Calls for a thorough investigation of the sabotage of the Nord Stream gas pipelines and calls for the EU and its Member States to take appropriate measures for the protection of critical infrastructure in Europe, including offshore pipelines and cables;
16. Expresses appreciation for the Russian citizens who condemn the war, condemns the arrest by the Russian authorities of thousands of peaceful protesters and calls for their immediate release;
17. Calls on the Member States to adopt a common EU position, in line with EU and international law, regarding the Russian deserters and those fleeing the draft who request entry into the EU; notes that refugee status should be granted only after thorough vetting of claims and security checks, in line with the security interests of the Member States;
18. Calls for the creation of a democracy hub for Russia, hosted by the European Parliament as the frontrunner of the democracy agenda in Europe, to assist the EU institutions in taking an active stance, engaging in a formal dialogue with Russian democracy leaders and civil society, working as their counterpart and being instrumental in formulating a comprehensive agenda for mobilising EU assistance for the transformation of Russia from autocracy to democracy;

19. 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 International Criminal Court, the President, Government and Parliament of Ukraine, the Belarusian authorities and the President, Government and Parliament of the Russian Federation.