



Plenary sitting

B9-0482/2022

16.11.2022

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 recognising the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism
(2022/2896(RSP))

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on behalf of the Renew Group

European Parliament resolution on recognising the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism (2022/2896(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Russia and Ukraine, including its resolution of 25 November 2021 on the human rights violations by private military and security companies, particularly the Wagner Group¹,
 - having regard to the international legal framework for preventing and fighting terrorism,
 - having regard to the EU legal framework against terrorism, including Common Position 2001/931/CFSP and Council Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 of 27 December 2001 on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism²,
 - having regard to the remarks by the European Council President Charles Michel at the extraordinary debate of 1 March 2022 at the European Parliament on Russian aggression against Ukraine,
 - having regard to the statement of 14 March 2022 made by Zbigniew Rau, the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), who qualified the attacks by the Government of the Russian Federation against innocent civilians and civilian infrastructure in Ukraine as ‘state terrorism’,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Russia under the dictatorial regime of Vladimir Putin has continued its illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine;
- B. whereas Russian forces and paramilitary units have consistently targeted civilians in Ukraine, including the massacres of civilians in cities such as Bucha and Irpin, the deliberate attack on a theatre in Mariupol which killed hundreds of people, the attack against the Kramatorsk train station which killed 60 civilians, the attack on a shopping centre in Kremenchuk which killed 19 civilians, and the attack on a convoy of civilian cars in the Zaporizhzhia region which killed at least 30 people;
- C. whereas Russia’s missile and artillery strikes have damaged or destroyed 60 982 civilian infrastructure facilities across Ukraine to date, including 42 818 residential buildings and houses, 1 960 educational institutions, 396 medical institutions, 392 cultural and 87 religious buildings;
- D. whereas since the beginning of its war of aggression, the Russian Federation has

¹ OJ C 224, 8.6.2022, p. 104.

² OJ L 344, 28.12.2001, p. 70.

committed 457 crimes against journalists and media in Ukraine, according to monitoring data gathered by Ukraine's Institute of Mass Information; whereas up until October 2022, the Russian occupiers killed more than 40 Ukrainian and foreign journalists;

- E. whereas Russian forces continue to deliberately target Ukrainian critical infrastructure all over the country in order to terrorise the population and cut its access to gas, electricity, water, the internet and other basic goods and services, which is particularly devastating with winter on its way;
- F. whereas Russia has occupied the Zaporizhzhia power plant since March 2022, which is seriously threatening the plant's safety and security; whereas Russia has kidnapped the workers of the power plant and forced them to work; whereas Russia has stored military equipment in the power plant and has opened fire on the immediate vicinity of the power plant; whereas Russia has also jeopardised the safety and security of the Chernobyl power plant;
- G. whereas human rights groups and international observer missions have thoroughly documented the numerous atrocities committed by Russian armed forces and their proxies against Ukrainian civilians, including women and children, such as summary executions, torture, rape and mass detention in so-called filtration centres, as well as forced adoptions of Ukrainian children and forced deportations; whereas the number of documented war crimes in Ukraine is nearing 40 000 and is expected to increase after war crimes are documented in the recently liberated parts of Kherson oblast;
- H. whereas Russia has repeatedly failed to respect its commitments to comply with international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Convention, and continues to treat prisoners of war inhumanely, including by torturing them and denying them medical treatment, and is preventing access to international humanitarian organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross;
- I. whereas Russian officials have repeatedly threatened to use nuclear weapons to defend Russia's interests in Ukraine;
- J. whereas the Russian armed forces and Russian state-controlled groups such as the Wagner Group have repeatedly targeted civilians in several other locations, including during the Second Chechen War, the 2008 Russia-Georgia war, and the Syrian Civil War, as well as during the ongoing conflicts in the Central African Republic and Mali; whereas the Wagner Group receives significant political, economic and logistical support from the Russian authorities, in particular the Russian Ministry of Defence;
- K. whereas for many years Russia has supported and financed terrorist regimes and organisations, being the largest arms supplier to the Assad regime in Syria, and has carried out attacks in sovereign countries and on its own territory, including the poisoning with nerve agents of the Skripal family in the United Kingdom, the poisoning of Alexei Navalny and the 2014 bombing of ammunition depots in the Czech Republic;
- L. whereas Russia is also waging an active information war, spreading disinformation about Ukraine, conducting special operations to destabilise society in Ukraine and discrediting relations with Ukraine's international partners;

- M. whereas the Russian state continues to deny its responsibility for shooting down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, which caused 298 fatalities, and refuses to collaborate with international justice bodies;
- N. whereas the EU maintains a list of persons, groups and entities involved in terrorist acts which are subject to sanctions but does not have a legal framework for designating a state as a sponsor of terrorism, unlike countries such as the United States and Canada;
- O. whereas over the past months, the parliaments of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, the Polish Senate and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe have adopted resolutions either declaring Russia to be a state sponsor of terrorism or declaring the current Russian regime to be a terrorist regime;
- P. whereas the US Senate Resolution of 27 July 2022 and the US House of Representatives Resolution of 12 May 2022 called upon the Department of State to designate the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism;
1. Condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the war crimes and acts of terrorism committed against civilians by the Russian Federation and its proxies in pursuit of its destructive political aims in Ukraine and on the territory of other countries, and recognises Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism and as a state which uses means of terrorism;
 2. Denounces the Russian occupation of the Zaporizhzhia power plant aimed at terrorising the Ukrainian population and condemns Russia for making power plants military targets;
 3. Expresses its solidarity with the Ukrainian people and other victims of Russia's aggression;
 4. Calls on the Council to include the Wagner Group as well as other Russian-funded armed groups, militias or proxies on the EU list of persons, groups and entities involved in terrorist acts;
 5. Calls on the EU and its Member States to develop an EU legal framework for the designation of states as 'sponsors of terrorism', which would trigger a number of significant restrictive measure against those countries and would have profound restrictive implications for EU relations with those countries; calls on the Council to subsequently consider adding the Russian Federation on such an EU list of state sponsors of terrorism;
 6. Notes that states, non-state actors and individuals supporting and enabling Russia's military aggression, as well as reinforcing Russia's military power, must be held accountable; reiterates its call on the Commission and the Member States to support all legitimate international and national processes that investigate the crimes committed as part of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, with a view to holding all perpetrators accountable and providing the appropriate support for the establishment of a special tribunal dealing with the crime of aggression by Russia against Ukraine; calls on the Member States that have not yet done so to include the crime of aggression in their national law; calls on the EU and the Member States to continue providing support

for ongoing investigations within the remit of the International Criminal Court; stresses the need for the EU to ensure the inclusion of a gender perspective in these investigations, including the prosecution of crimes of sexual violence against women, which can also constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity;

7. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to work towards the establishment of a comprehensive international compensation mechanism, including an international register of damage, and actively cooperate with the Ukrainian authorities on this matter;
8. Calls on the EU and its Member States to prohibit the public use and display of symbols connected with Russia's military aggression and war crimes in a way that expresses support for or justifies those activities;
9. Commends the work of Ukrainian and international journalists who tell the world the truth about the war in Ukraine, often while risking their own lives; calls for the investigation of Russian crimes against journalists in Ukraine and of the activities of those involved in criminal disinformation campaigns forming an integral part of the full-scale war against Ukraine;
10. 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 International Criminal Court, the President, Government and Parliament of the Russian Federation, as well as the President, Government and Parliament of Ukraine.