



Plenary sitting

B9-0270/2023

12.6.2023

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 sustainable reconstruction and integration of Ukraine into the Euro-Atlantic community
(2023/2739(RSP))

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on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

European Parliament resolution on the sustainable reconstruction and integration of Ukraine into the Euro-Atlantic community (2023/2739(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Ukraine,
- having regard to the UN Charter, The Hague Conventions, Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols and to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC),
- having regard to the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other part¹,
- having regard of the 2008 Bucharest Summit Declaration,
- having regard of the Commission report of 1 February 2023 entitled ‘Analytical report following the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council - Commission Opinion on Ukraine’s application for membership of the European Union’ of 1 February 2023 (SWD(2023)0030),
- having regard to the statement by Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell and the Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič on the destruction of the Kakhovka dam of 6 June 2023,
- having regard to the statement to the United Nations Security Council by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator of 6 June 2023,
- having regard to the Atlantic Council memo to NATO leaders of 19 April 2023,
- having regard to the G7 Japan 2023 Foreign Ministers’ Communiqué of 18 April 2023,
- having regard to the second Ukraine Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment: February 2022 - February 2023 of 20 March 2023 by the World Bank, the Government of Ukraine, the European Union and the United Nations,
- having regard to the joint statement following the 24th EU-Ukraine Summit of 3 February 2023,
- having regard to the UN General Assembly resolution ES-11/5 of 14 November 2022 entitled ‘Furtherance of remedy and reparation for aggression against Ukraine’,

¹ OJ L 161, 29.5.2014, p. 3.

- having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Russian Federation launched an unprovoked, unjustified and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine on 24 February 2022; whereas Russian aggression against Ukraine started in 2014 with the occupation of parts of the Donbas Region and the occupation and annexation of Ukraine’s Autonomous Republic of Crimea;
- B. whereas on 6 June 2023, at the outset of Ukrainian counter-offensive, Russia attacked the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant dam located in the Russian-occupied part of Ukraine, resulting in a massive breach that caused water to surge uncontrollably, creating an ecological disaster with incalculable long-term consequences; whereas Russia raised the water level in the Kakhovka reservoir to a record high before blowing up the dam; whereas the dam’s structure is likely to deteriorate further in the near future, which will cause additional flooding; whereas Ukrainian dam operator Ukrhydroenergo stated that the Nova Kakhovka station had been ‘completely destroyed’ and could not be restored;
- C. whereas the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator reported at the Security Council that the destruction of the Kakhovka dam is one of the most significant instances of damage to civilian infrastructure since the start of Russia’s full scale invasion of Ukraine and warned that it will have grave and far-reaching consequences for thousands of people in southern Ukraine; whereas the destruction of the dam is a war crime according to Geneva Convention causing massive destruction;
- D. whereas both Ukraine and Russia have so far reported several deaths as a result of the flooding; whereas thousands of people have been evacuated despite ongoing targeted shelling of the affected area by Russian forces; whereas Ukraine has estimated that tens of thousands of people remain stranded in the affected area and hundreds of thousands have been left without access to safe drinking water;
- E. whereas tens of thousands of hectares of agricultural land have been destroyed, ruining this year’s crops; whereas hundreds of thousands of hectares of land is now at risk of desertification; whereas the Dnipro river has been contaminated with 150 tonnes of industrial lubricant and another 300 tonnes was at risk of leaking, continuing the trend of Russian-caused ecocide in Ukraine; whereas the destruction of the dam is expected to flood 55 000 hectares of forest and destroy 80 000 hectares of protected natural areas; whereas an unknown number of wild life, pets, and livestock, including hundreds of animals in the ‘Fairytale Díbrova’ zoo, have perished as a result of the flooding;
- F. whereas landmines have been dislodged by the force of the flooding, prompting serious concerns for people’s safety in the region, with the Red Cross reporting that it has lost track of the location of landmines;
- G. whereas Ukraine’s state nuclear power company, Energoatom, reported that the decrease in water levels in the Kakhavka reservoir as a result of Russia’s destruction of the dam poses an additional threat to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (NPP); whereas International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) experts on the ground are closely monitoring the situation and report that they need wider access to the plant to check ‘a significant discrepancy’ in data on the levels of water used for cooling the plant’s reactors from the breached Kakhovka dam;

- H. whereas the second Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment estimates that the cost of reconstruction and recovery in Ukraine has grown to at least EUR 383 billion; whereas the Multi-agency Donor Coordination Platform to support Ukraine's repair, recovery and reconstruction process was launched on 26 January 2023;
- I. whereas the loss of life, livelihoods, incomes and assets has pushed 7.1 million people into poverty and reversed 15 years of development progress; whereas the war has exacerbated inequalities, in particular affecting women, children and people with disabilities and resulted in dramatic setbacks in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially those related to poverty, health, education, economic growth, energy, peace and justice; whereas reconstruction needs will continue to grow as long as the war continues;
- J. whereas Ukraine applied for accession to the European Union on 28 February 2022; whereas despite the Russian aggression and precarious socioeconomic situation, the Government of Ukraine has managed to achieve some success in continuing reforms to promote decentralisation and democratisation; whereas the Commission is set to provide an oral update on the assessment of Ukraine's EU integration reform process ahead of the enlargement package expected in autumn 2023;
- K. whereas Ukraine applied to participate in the NATO Membership Action Plan in 2008; whereas in 2008 in Bucharest NATO members agreed that Ukraine could join NATO; whereas Ukraine formally applied to join NATO on 30 September 2022; whereas on 19 April 2023 the North Atlantic Council called for eventual NATO membership for Ukraine, preceded by interim steps to improve cooperation and Ukraine's long-term capacity to defend itself;
1. Reiterates its condemnation of Russia's continued war of aggression against Ukraine, as well as of the involvement of Belarus in this war, and its demands that Russia immediately terminate all military activities in Ukraine and unconditionally withdraw all forces and military equipment from the entire internationally recognised territory of Ukraine;
 2. Expresses its unwavering solidarity with the people of Ukraine, fully supports Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders and underlines that this war constitutes a serious violation of international law;
 3. Condemns the Russian Federation in the strongest possible terms for its destruction and consequent breach of the Nova Kakhovka dam in the Russian-occupied area of southern Ukraine, using a human-induced disaster as a weapon of war; stresses that this atrocious act of aggression by Russia constitutes ecocide as its consequences are already showing signs of mass damage and destruction of ecosystems;
 4. Emphasises that the Russia's destruction of the dam is a clear attack on critical civilian infrastructure and thus amounts to a war crime; recalls that international law specifies that installations containing dangerous forces must receive special protection precisely because their destruction can cause severe loss for the civilian population;
 5. Condemns, further, the reported continuation of shelling by Russian forces of Kherson, targeting rescuers and evacuation shelters and seriously endangering humanitarian

evacuation efforts;

6. Welcomes the Commission's swift response via its Civil Protection Mechanism; calls on the Commission, Member States and the broader international community to provide immediate humanitarian aid in response to the disaster, including shelter, food and safe drinking water, as well as provide targeted long-term assistance to mitigate the long-term ecological impact as much as possible; calls, further, on the Commission and the Member States to do all they can to protect Ukraine from further acts of ecocide by the Russian Federation;
7. Expresses its continued concern about the situation at the Zaporizhzhia NPP; demands immediate access for IAEA personnel to relevant facilities at the Zaporizhzhia NPP to allow them to clarify the reasons for the discrepancy in water levels of the Kakhovka reservoir; supports efforts to maintain a continued IAEA presence at the Zaporizhzhia NPP in order to support Ukraine and create a nuclear safety and security protection zone around the Zaporizhzhia NPP; underlines the importance of reinforcing the international framework on the protection of nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes, including in armed conflicts;
8. Reiterates its deep concern about the broader long-term environmental impact of the conflict; recalls and condemns Russia's previous acts of ecocide against Ukraine's flora and fauna through its military actions, including the logging of Ukrainian forests, the mining of large areas and the poisoning of air and water resources;
9. Reiterates that the Russian Federation will have to be held accountable for the crimes it continues to commit in Ukraine and financially compensate Ukraine for the costs of its sustainable long-term reconstruction; insists that the government officials and military leaders responsible and other perpetrators of war crimes must be held accountable; reiterates its full support for ICC's work to help end impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community;
10. Reiterates its support for the UN General Assembly recommendation to create an international register of damage to record evidence of damage, loss or injury to natural and legal persons, and of the widespread, long-term and severe damage inflicted on the natural environment and the climate, including evidence of ecocide caused by Russia, as well as to promote and coordinate evidence-gathering;
11. Stresses the importance of not just rebuilding what has been destroyed in Ukraine but also of reconstruction on the basis of a vision of a clean, sustainable and renewable-powered Ukraine in line with the goals of the European Green Deal; welcomes in this regard the already ongoing sustainable reconstruction efforts in liberated areas of the country;
12. Emphasises that to make its reconstruction sustainable, efficient and effective, Ukraine must ensure transparency in spending; points in this regard to the important role of civil society, local authorities and the social partners in the overall recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine, both in preparation now and implementation after the war has ended; stresses that involving these actors contributes to transparency and fairness;
13. Stresses that Ukraine's sustainable social and economic recovery requires the re-

establishment of social dialogue; notes that social dialogue is covered in ILO conventions and the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement;

14. Calls on the Commission to continue mobilising international partners and funds for the reconstruction of Ukraine by closely cooperating with local authorities and the central government of Ukraine, while insisting on ambitious democratic and institutional reforms, including on media freedom, the rule of law, the fight against corruption, and decentralisation; reiterates its call to consider using the frozen assets of sanctioned Russians and the Central Bank of the Russian Federation for Ukraine's reconstruction;
15. Calls on the Commission and Member States to take an inclusive and gender-sensitive approach in its plans for Ukraine's sustainable reconstruction, which should be underpinned by the principles of the EU's Green Deal and be drawn up in collaboration with the Ukrainian government and Ukrainian civil society; notes that such an approach would ensure that the needs of women, people with disabilities, the elderly, minorities and the LGBTQ+ community are taken into account when funding reconstruction projects, in particular social infrastructure facilities;
16. Calls on the Commission as well as Ukraine to also prepare for the significant (mental) healthcare needs after the war in regions that were formerly occupied, especially for those who were detained, tortured, raped or otherwise abused by the Russian occupying forces, including in Crimea; demands in this regard that Russia immediately releases all political prisoners in the occupied territories of Ukraine;
17. Commends Ukraine on the progress made with its reforms following the Council decision granting candidate status, in line with Article 49 TEU and as the start of a merit-based process; calls on Ukraine to continue implementing the necessary reforms, in particular on the rule of law, democracy, fundamental freedoms, human rights and the fight against corruption ahead of the Commission's enlargement package to be published in autumn;
18. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to continue preparing internal structures while providing additional resources, as well as increased technical assistance and political support, in order to meaningfully engage with Ukraine on its path towards EU accession and promote its integration;
19. Looks forward to the Commission's oral update on the implementation of the seven required reforms as well as to the enlargement package slated for the autumn of this year;
20. Calls on the Member States to muster the political will to re-energise the enlargement process and to deliver on their promises through concrete positive steps in the accession processes of countries that aim to join the Union and deserve to be part of the European family;
21. Stresses that there can be no alternatives to the accession process, as any such alternatives would risk undermining the EU's commitment to enlargement and stalling the legitimate aspirations of countries that are striving to become Member States of the Union;

22. Stresses that every European democracy has the right to choose its alliances; notes that Ukraine has applied for NATO membership and that, since 2008, NATO members have in principle agreed that Ukraine could join NATO; underlines that due to the ongoing armed conflict caused by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, immediate membership is not expected by NATO's North Atlantic Council; stresses the need to prepare for an accelerated procedure after the war, if both sides agree on this;
23. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the President, Government and Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, as well as the President, Government and Parliament of the Russian Federation.