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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0153/2024**

26.2.2024

## 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 need for unwavering support for Ukraine, after two years of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine  
(2024/2526(RSP))

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on behalf of the PPE Group

**European Parliament resolution on the need for unwavering support for Ukraine, after two years of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine (2024/2526(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Ukraine and on Russia, in particular those adopted since the escalation of Russia's war against Ukraine in February 2022 and the annexation of the Crimean Peninsula on 19 February 2014,
  - having regard to the Association Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other part<sup>1</sup>, and to the accompanying Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area between the European Union and Ukraine, signed in 2014,
  - having regard to the UN Charter, the Hague Conventions, the Geneva Conventions and the additional protocols thereto, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,
  - having regard to the Commission proposal of 20 June 2023 for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing the Ukraine Facility (COM(2023)0338),
  - having regard to the European Council's decision of 14 December 2023 to open accession negotiations with Ukraine, following the Commission's positive recommendation of 8 November 2023 in this regard,
  - having regard to the European Council conclusions of 14 December 2023 and 1 February 2024,
  - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Russia has been carrying out an illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine since 24 February 2022; whereas Russia's war against Ukraine started in 2014 with the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula and the subsequent occupation of parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions; whereas this war of aggression constitutes a blatant and flagrant violation of the UN Charter and of the fundamental principles of international law; whereas Russia's actions in Ukraine over the past two years continue to threaten peace and security in Europe and worldwide;
- B. whereas the Russian war of aggression is the largest military conflict on the European continent since the end of the Second World War and reflects the growing conflict between authoritarianism and democracy;
- C. whereas Russia's forces have conducted indiscriminate attacks against residential areas and civilian infrastructure, such as schools and hospitals; whereas thousands of

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 161, 29.5.2014, p. 3.

civilians, including children, have already been murdered and many more have been tortured, harassed, sexually assaulted, kidnapped or forcibly displaced; whereas this inhumane conduct by Russian forces and their proxies is in total disregard of international humanitarian law; whereas Russia's attempt to ethnically cleanse occupied parts of Ukraine has included mass atrocities; whereas Russia aims to destroy Ukraine's national identity and erase Ukrainian culture and statehood;

- D. whereas millions of Ukrainians have been displaced inside and outside Ukraine, having fled from Russia's aggression; whereas Russia's war crimes will leave a generation of Ukrainian civilians and military personnel requiring treatment for mental distress, depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder;
- E. whereas the Armed Forces of Ukraine managed to withstand the Russian invasion, liberated more than 50 % of the territories temporarily occupied after 24 February 2022 and regained control of Ukraine's western access to the Black Sea, effectively pushing out the Russian Black Sea Fleet;
- F. whereas the Western countries' combined GDP is 25 times greater than that of Russia, yet in 2023 Western military assistance to Ukraine amounted to less than 0.1 % of this combined GDP; whereas in 2023, Russia spent approximately 6 % of its GDP on its war of aggression and Ukraine the equivalent of 25 % of its GDP on its defence;
- G. whereas Russia's war of aggression shows its post-colonial attitude towards its neighbours; whereas as long as Russia remains a state with an imperialistic mentality pursuing revisionist policies, it will continue its efforts to maintain the ever-looming threat of aggression on the European continent; whereas numerous international actors have recognised Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism and a state that uses means of terrorism, and this should be followed by concrete measures;
- H. whereas the European Council decided to open accession negotiations with Ukraine following the positive recommendation of the Commission, and further invited the Council to adopt the negotiating framework once the relevant Commission recommendations are met;
- I. whereas the EU has provided Ukraine with unprecedented and multidimensional support since the start of the full-scale invasion, including military support on a scale never before seen; whereas the overall assistance pledged to Ukraine by the EU, its Member States and European financial institutions since February 2022 amounts to at least EUR 85 billion, including humanitarian and emergency assistance, budget support, macro-financial assistance and military aid; whereas EUR 17 billion was provided to Member States to host some four million Ukrainian refugees, who have been offered extended protection under the Temporary Protection Directive<sup>2</sup> until March 2025;
- J. whereas the EU and its Member States have so far provided Ukraine with EUR 28 billion in military aid; whereas the European Peace Facility was used to provide EUR 5.6 billion for the transfer of military equipment to Ukraine by Member

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<sup>2</sup> Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof (OJ L 212, 7.8.2001, p. 12).

States; whereas the ammunition initiative will provide Ukraine with approximately 524 000 155 mm shells manufactured by the European defence industry by March 2024, and another 500 000 by the end of the year; whereas the EU Military Mission in Support of Ukraine has trained 40 000 Ukrainian soldiers in Germany and Poland so far, and the number is only increasing;

- K. whereas the EU institutions recently reached an agreement in principle to establish a Ukraine Facility that will offer EUR 50 billion in predictable medium-term support, in the form of grants and loans, for the repair, recovery, reconstruction and modernisation of Ukraine from 2024 to 2027;
  - L. whereas Ukrainian children are paying the ultimate price in the war, as 528 Ukrainian children have been killed and 1 226 wounded, 1.8 million have had to cross into neighbouring countries as refugees and another 2.5 million are internally displaced within Ukraine;
  - M. whereas since the beginning of the full-scale war of aggression, approximately 20 000 Ukrainian children have been forcibly deported to Russia and Belarus or detained in the occupied territories; whereas the International Criminal Court has issued international arrest warrants for Vladimir Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova in view of their responsibility for the war crime of unlawful deportation and for the unlawful transfer of children from occupied territories of Ukraine to Russia; whereas fewer than 400 deported children have been returned to Ukraine and reunited with their families;
  - N. whereas Ukraine has signed security agreements with the UK, Denmark, Italy, Germany and France in line with the G7 joint declaration of support for Ukraine, which was agreed on 12 July 2023 on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Vilnius; whereas the G7's commitment opened the door to negotiations to formalise long-term bilateral security commitments and arrangements in support of Ukraine;
1. Reiterates its unwavering solidarity with the people and leadership of Ukraine and its support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, within its internationally recognised borders;
  2. Reiterates its condemnation, in the strongest possible terms, of Russia's illegal, unprovoked and unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine, as well as of the involvement of the regime in Belarus; demands that Russia and its proxy forces cease all military actions and that Russia withdraw all military forces, proxies and military equipment from the entire internationally recognised territory of Ukraine, end its forced deportations of Ukrainian civilians and release all detained Ukrainians; demands that the settlement of Russian citizens in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine cease and be reversed;
  3. Recalls that the Russian war of aggression started with the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula in February 2014; recalls that the peninsula was turned into a military base and served as a springboard for the full-scale invasion in 2022;
  4. Pays tribute to the brave people of Ukraine, rightful laureates of the 2023 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, who continue to courageously defend their country, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, while also defending freedom,

democracy, the rule of law and European values against a brutal regime that seeks to undermine our democracy and weaken and divide our Union;

5. Expresses its deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the courageous defenders who have sacrificed their lives in defence of Ukraine, its people, freedom and democracy; calls for continuous and increased support from the EU and its Member States for the treatment and rehabilitation of injured defenders of Ukraine;
6. States its resolve to contribute to maintaining the Ukrainian people's spirit of resilience and faith in a better future in which peace will reign in Ukraine and Europe, no part of Ukrainian territory will be under Russian occupation and no Ukrainian or other citizen will feel threatened or under attack for their wish to live in peace, safety and prosperity and with respect for European values and principles; reiterates that Ukraine, as an independent and sovereign state, has the fundamental right to determine its own future, including the freedom to choose its alliances and policies and to pursue its national interests;
7. Praises the solidarity shown by EU citizens, civil society, Member States and the EU itself towards Ukraine and its people; supports the continuous extension of the Temporary Protection Directive for persons fleeing Ukraine as a consequence of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine;
8. Believes that the outcome of the war and the stance taken by the international community will play a crucial role in influencing future action by other authoritarian regimes, which are closely observing the course of the war and assessing how much space there is for them to exert aggressive foreign policies, including by military means;
9. Underlines that the main objective for Ukraine is to win the war against Russia, which entails driving all the forces of Russia and its proxies and allies out of the internationally recognised territory of Ukraine; considers that this objective can be met only through the continued, sustained and steadily increasing supply of all types of conventional weapons to Ukraine, without exception;
10. Recalls the importance of liberating and de-occupying the Crimean peninsula, which has been occupied by Russia for a decade now; recalls that citizens of the peninsula who are loyal to Ukraine, in particular the indigenous Tatars, face repression, arrest and torture; recalls that the Russian occupying forces have made every effort to erase Tatar heritage and the memory of Ukrainian presence from the peninsula; supports Ukraine's efforts to reintegrate Crimea, in particular the Crimea Platform;
11. Reaffirms its support for consistently providing military aid to Ukraine for as long as necessary and in whatever form necessary for Ukraine to win; recognises the efforts made by the Member States in providing and by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) in coordinating military support to Ukraine to date; reiterates its call on the Member States to substantially increase and accelerate their military support with a view to not only allowing Ukraine to defend itself against Russian attacks, but also to enabling it to regain full control over its entire internationally recognised territory;
12. Believes that there should be no self-imposed restriction on military assistance to

Ukraine; points to the huge divergence in the amounts of support provided by EU Member States as a percentage of their GDP; calls for the necessary investment in the European defence industrial base so as to substantially increase output in order to meet Ukrainian needs and replenish EU Member States' depleted stocks; underlines that Ukraine is in particular need of sophisticated air-defence systems, long-range missiles, such as TAURUS missiles, modern combat aircraft, various types of artillery and ammunition (155 mm shells in particular), drones and weapons to counter them; supports the proposal that all EU Member States and NATO allies should support Ukraine militarily with no less than 0.25 % of their GDP annually; calls for an overall increase in the financial ceiling of the European Peace Facility and insists that this should be used, among other things, for the single source procurement of available ammunition on the world market to meet Ukraine's needs; considers that current EU ammunition production that is committed to third countries should be redirected and that Ukraine should be given priority access to it; calls on the governments of the EU Member States and the defence industry to address the late deliveries and the reasons for these with the recipient countries; calls on the US House of Representatives to adopt the military assistance package for Ukraine without further delay;

13. Welcomes the signing of security agreements between Ukraine and the UK, Denmark, Italy, Germany and France in line with the G7 joint declaration of support for Ukraine, and calls on other like-minded partners to follow suit; underlines that these security agreements cannot be considered a substitute for future NATO membership; welcomes the progress made on the practical details and financial ceiling for a new Ukraine Assistance Fund, under the European Peace Facility, which would support the provision of military equipment to Ukraine through joint European procurement initiatives;
14. Reiterates its support for the peace formula presented by Ukraine's President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy; believes that it is a comprehensive plan to restore Ukraine's territorial integrity; recalls that the plan's 10 points were reflected in UN General Assembly Resolution ES-11/6 of 23 February 2023 on principles of the Charter of the United Nations underlying a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine;
15. Reiterates its call on the Commission, the VP/HR and the Member States to work together with Ukraine and the international community on setting up a special tribunal to investigate and prosecute the crime of aggression committed against Ukraine by Russia's leaders and their allies, such as the regime in Belarus; welcomes the establishment of the International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression in Ukraine in The Hague;
16. Expresses horror at the fact that the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has resulted in one of the fastest growing large-scale displacements of children since the Second World War; recalls that the massive targeting of civilian infrastructure has caused Ukrainian children to be severely deprived of access to basic services, such as education and healthcare, in particular mental health support;
17. Reiterates that the continued forced relocation and deportation of Ukrainian children, including those from institutions, to Russia and Belarus and their forced adoption by Russian families is in breach of Ukrainian and international law; underlines that forcibly transferring children of a group to another group constitutes the crime of genocide,



according to the Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide; demands that the Russian and Belarusian authorities ensure the immediate return of all Ukrainian children; praises the efforts of local Ukrainian organisations that, on a case-by-case basis, support parents and families in searching for their children and fighting for their safe return;

18. Condemns Russia's intention to conduct presidential elections on the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine on 15-17 March 2024 and underlines that it will not recognise the results of these illegal elections;
19. Reiterates its call for innovative, complementary and flexible interaction between the ongoing work on the implementation of the Association Agreement currently in force and the accession negotiation process, thus allowing for Ukraine's gradual integration into the EU single market and sectoral programmes, including access to EU funds in the respective areas, so that Ukrainians can reap the benefits of accession throughout the process and not only upon its completion;
20. Underlines that the Russian war of aggression has fundamentally changed the geopolitical situation in Europe and threatens its security architecture, and that the response to this necessitates bold, brave and comprehensive political, security and financial decisions by the EU;
21. Welcomes the European Council's decision to open accession negotiations with Ukraine once the Commission's recommendations are met; believes that Ukraine's membership of the EU represents a geostrategic investment in a united and strong Europe and that it equates to showing leadership, resolve and vision; calls for the swift submission of the relevant negotiating framework, and for its adoption once the relevant steps from the Commission recommendation of 8 November 2023 are taken;
22. Recalls that the EU accession process will be merit-based and that the enlargement methodology puts an emphasis on the crucial areas of respect for the rule of law, fundamental values, human rights, democracy and the fight against corruption; believes that a firmly merit-based accession process is in the best interest of both Ukraine and the EU; encourages the EU and its Member States to provide increased support and assistance to Ukraine on its path to EU accession, including technical expertise, capacity building and the institutional reforms necessary to meet the membership criteria;
23. Calls on the Ukrainian Government to continue to strengthen local self-government, a reform that has received significant national and international acclaim, and to embed the success of the decentralisation reform in the overall architecture of Ukraine's repair, recovery and reconstruction processes;
24. Welcomes the EU institutions' agreement in principle on the establishment of the Ukraine Facility that will provide predictable financial assistance to Ukraine, and calls for its rapid deployment; underlines the strengthened role of the Verkhovna Rada, the sub-national entities and civil society as relevant partners for the executive authority in identifying the priorities that will be financed via the Ukraine Plan, stressing that this also increases the oversight and monitoring of the Facility;

25. Calls on the Council to maintain its sanctions policy against Russia and Belarus, while monitoring, reviewing and enhancing its effectiveness and impact; calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure the swift implementation and strict enforcement of all 13 packages of sanctions; asks the Commission for an impact assessment on the sanctions' effectiveness in hindering the Russian war effort and on the circumvention of sanctions; recalls that the EU is working on legislation to designate the violation of restrictive measures a criminal offence; calls on the Member States to adopt further sanctions packages aimed at weakening the Russian war machine and targeting further sectors of Russia's economy, such as the nuclear sector, in particular Rosatom, metallurgy and agriculture;
26. Condemns all those countries that are supplying military equipment to Russia and assisting it in circumventing and avoiding the effects of the sanctions imposed on it, and calls for the EU to rigorously prosecute companies, associations and individuals that participate in the circumvention of sanctions; calls for the EU, the Member States and their allies to strengthen the effectiveness of the sanctions already imposed, to take urgent steps to block any attempt to circumvent these sanctions and to work on a secondary sanctions mechanism that would close any loopholes;
27. Calls for the EU and its Member States to take further action to continue Russia's international isolation, including with regard to Russia's membership of international organisations and bodies, such as the UN Security Council;
28. Underlines the urgent need to establish a sound legal regime allowing for the confiscation of Russian assets frozen by the EU and for their use to address the various consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, including the reconstruction of the country, compensation for the victims of Russia's aggression, and the purchase of military equipment for Ukraine; underlines its conviction that once the war ends, Russia must be obliged to pay the reparations imposed on it to ensure that it makes a substantial contribution to the reconstruction of Ukraine; welcomes the recent Council decision clarifying the obligations of Central Securities Depositories holding assets and reserves of the Central Bank of Russia, which are immobilised as a result of the EU's restrictive measures; welcomes the creation of the Register of Damage caused by the Russian aggression, which is the first step in the establishment of an international compensation mechanism;
29. Reiterates its concern about the situation at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which is illegally controlled by Russia; supports efforts to maintain a continued International Atomic Energy Agency presence at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant; recalls and condemns Russia's actions that have inflicted severe damage on the environment in Ukraine, including the destruction of the Kakhovka dam, the logging of Ukrainian forests, extensive mining and the contamination of air and water resources; reiterates its deep concern about the broader long-term environmental impact of the war; underlines the need to create a system for recording and assessing the environmental damage caused by Russia and to prepare legal grounds for Russia's accountability for those crimes;
30. Calls for the EU and its Member States to work strategically and proactively to counter hybrid threats and to prevent Russia's interference in political, electoral and other



democratic processes in Ukraine and in the EU, in particular malicious acts aimed at manipulating public opinion and undermining European integration, particularly in the light of the upcoming European elections;

31. Expresses concern about the restriction of foreign travel of members of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine; believes that this could be considered indiscriminate restriction of the political activity of elected members of parliament, in particular of those representing the opposition; strongly believes that in times of war, any political resource that can represent Ukraine's cause in any international forum should not be disregarded;
32. 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, the United Nations and the Russian and Belarusian authorities.