



Plenary sitting

B9-0156/2024

26.2.2024

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

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 Renew 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, in particular since the escalation of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine in February 2022,
 - having regard to the loss of human life and the destruction in Ukraine,
 - having regard to the widespread international condemnation of Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine,
 - having regard to the unprecedented support and assistance provided by the EU and the Member States to Ukraine,
 - 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 joint statement of 16 January 2024 by the leaders of five political groups in the European Parliament on military support to Ukraine, and to their statement of 31 January 2024 calling on EUCO to deliver on Ukraine,
 - having regard to the EU's unity and policies in response to the war in Ukraine,
 - having regard to Ukraine's aspirations to join the European Union, to its candidate status and to the Association Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other part¹, and the accompanying Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area between the European Union and Ukraine,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas two years have passed since Russia re-launched its unprovoked, unjustified and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine on 24 February 2022, fundamentally changing the geopolitical situation and threatening the security architecture in Europe, with far-reaching implications for the European Union itself; whereas Ukraine has suffered from Russia's aggression for 10 years, starting with the occupation of Crimea in February 2014 and the subsequent occupation of parts of the Donetsk and Lugansk regions later that year;
- B. whereas Ukraine and its citizens have shown unwavering determination in their resistance against Russia's war of aggression, successfully defending their country, despite the high cost in civilian and military casualties, together with the destruction and weaponisation of civilian and public infrastructure, the natural environment and cultural

¹ OJ L 161, 29.5.2014, p. 3.

heritage; whereas the brave people of Ukraine were awarded the 2022 Sakharov price as a tribute to their courage and their resilience;

- C. whereas Russia's forces have been continuing to carry out indiscriminate attacks on residential areas and civilian infrastructure, resulting in the deaths of thousands of Ukrainian civilians, forced deportations and disappearances, the illegal imprisonment and torture of Ukrainian citizens in Russia and the Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine, and acts of terror throughout the country, including the use of sexual violence and mass rape as a weapon of war;
- D. whereas the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment has been alarmed by reports and testimonies pointing to inhumane detention conditions of the Ukrainian civilians and prisoners of war held by Russia, including torture and the lack of medical care, resulting in permanent damage to their health; whereas there are known cases of the Russian military killing Ukrainian soldiers instead of taking them prisoner, including those most recently reported on 24 February 2024 in the Bakhmut area; whereas in 2022 more than 50 Ukrainian prisoners of war, mostly members of the Azov Battalion, were deliberately killed in a premeditated explosion at the prison in Olenivka;
- E. whereas, according to the conservative estimates of the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, almost two years into Russia's large-scale invasion of Ukraine, more than 10 000 civilians have been killed and nearly 20 000 injured, with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) believing that the actual figures are considerably higher;
- F. whereas, according to the Kyiv School of Economics, as of January 2024, the direct documented damages inflicted upon Ukraine's infrastructure by Russia stands at USD 155 billion; whereas according to the same estimate, at USD 58.9 billion, the housing stock remains in first place in terms of damage, with almost 250 000 buildings damaged or destroyed, while the damage to infrastructure has reached USD 36.8 billion and the direct damage to industry and businesses has reached USD 13.1 billion;
- G. whereas Russia has forcibly transferred thousands of Ukrainian children to areas under its control, assigned them Russian citizenship, forcibly had them adopted into Russian families and created obstacles to reuniting them with their parents and homeland; whereas on 17 March 2023, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova, Russia's Commissioner for Children's Rights, alleging responsibility for the war crime of unlawful deportation and transfer of population (children) from occupied areas of Ukraine to Russia;
- H. whereas Russia is also waging its war on the information battlefield, seeking to justify it by rewriting history and spreading baseless lies to vilify Ukraine and question its right to exist outside Russia's sphere of influence; whereas the Russian authorities have deployed unprecedented means to disseminate these false narratives, as well as deceitful accounts of military developments in Ukraine and Russian-occupied Ukrainian territory, in purposeful attempts to manipulate public opinion in Europe and in Russia;
- I. whereas the European Union and many of its members have taken measures to rein in disinformation and hybrid threats, notably by adopting a ban on broadcasting in the EU

by state-owned Russian outlets, some of which, however, still use European satellite service operators; whereas Russia has enforced a domestic crackdown to silence any discussion of its illegal war of aggression within its own population, so as to stifle internal opposition to it;

- J. whereas Ukraine, as an independent and sovereign state, enjoys the fundamental right to determine its own future, including the freedom to choose its alliances and policies, and to pursue its national interests in accordance with the will of the Ukrainian people;
- K. whereas a strong, democratic, stable and independent Ukraine is vital for the stability of the Euro-Atlantic area and crucial for fostering global peace and stability, and upholding the principles of democracy and international legality;
- L. whereas Russia's war of aggression has only brought Ukraine closer to the European Union, with Ukraine now a candidate country for membership in the EU and having received massive support across various sectors from the EU, including unprecedented military assistance;
- M. whereas the EU has adopted 13 packages of sanctions since the onset of the war and has created a new role of International Special Envoy for the Implementation of EU Sanctions, specifically tasked with tackling the evasion and circumvention of sanctions targeting Russia and Belarus as its proxy;
- N. whereas the EU institutions have recently reached an agreement to establish an EUR 50 billion Ukraine Facility, which will provide stable and sustainable financing for the period 2024-2027 to support Ukraine's recovery, reconstruction and modernisation, including key reforms necessary on its path towards EU accession;
- O. whereas Ukraine has demonstrated significant progress in advancing crucial reforms and exhibits a clear commitment to EU and NATO integration and to fundamental European values;
- P. whereas the commitment made in Versailles by the Heads of State or Government on 11 March 2022 to strengthen European defence capabilities in the light of Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, following a strategic course of action aimed at enhancing the Union's ability to act autonomously in the field of defence in complementarity to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the recent declarations by the members of the European Council and the Commission, notably in the context of the recent Munich Conference on Security, on the imperative for a European leap in the light of the Kremlin regime, the need to strengthen the European pillar of NATO and to jointly develop our defence industries over the long term call for a broad mobilisation of European will and resources;
- Q. whereas on 13 February 2024 Maksim Kuzminov, a former Russian helicopter pilot who defected to Ukraine in 2023, was found dead in Spain, murdered by gunmen reportedly sent by the Russian Government; whereas over the last few decades, the Russian intelligence services have carried out a number of brazen covert operations, including assassinations, on EU territory;
- 1. Reiterates its solidarity with and pays tribute to the brave people of Ukraine, who are

courageously continuing to defend their country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity; acknowledges and commends Ukraine's significant contribution to the security of the Euro-Atlantic area and the defence of its values by resisting Russia's war of aggression;

2. Reiterates its condemnation in the strongest terms of Russia's unprovoked, illegal and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine and calls on Russia to immediately terminate all military activities in Ukraine and unconditionally withdraw all forces and military equipment from the entire internationally recognised territory of Ukraine;
3. Reaffirms its determination to continue supporting Ukraine until the full restoration and control of its internationally recognised borders and throughout the process of Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction;
4. Acknowledges the resilience and determination demonstrated by the Ukrainian people in their pursuit of democratic values, reform efforts and aspirations for integration into the Euro-Atlantic community of nations;
5. Encourages the EU and the Member States to provide increased support and assistance to Ukraine on its path to accession, including technical expertise, capacity-building and institutional reforms necessary to meet the membership criteria;
6. Reiterates its call on the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Member States to support all measures, including the establishment of a special tribunal, to secure full accountability for the crimes committed during Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, especially the crime of aggression, war crimes and crimes against humanity; welcomes the establishment of the International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression in Ukraine (ICPA) in The Hague; welcomes the cooperation between Eurojust, Europol, Member States and the Ukrainian authorities to assist the efforts in evidence-gathering and the investigation of war crimes committed by Russian forces on Ukrainian territory;
7. Reiterates its condemnation of the forcible deportation of Ukrainian civilians to Russia, territories of Ukraine temporarily occupied by Russia, and Belarus; calls on all states and international organisations to press Russia to return all forcibly deported and illegally imprisoned Ukrainian civilians, especially children, including the remains of all those who died in captivity; urges the EU and its Member States to intensify the search for mechanisms to facilitate the release of Ukrainian civilians illegally detained by Russia, including through UN mechanisms;
8. Reiterates its condemnation of the forced abduction of thousands of Ukrainian children to Russia, territories of Ukraine temporarily occupied by Russia, and Belarus; strongly condemns the illegal assignment of Russian citizenship to those children and their illegal adoption; urges the EU and its Member States to intensify their efforts to facilitate the return of those children; calls for the EU and the Member States to support efforts to hold all those responsible for organising the illegal deportation and forcible transfer of Ukrainian children accountable in accordance with international law; calls on the Council and the European External Action Service (EEAS) to impose targeted

sanctions under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime² against the individuals responsible for the forcible transfer and illegal adoption of Ukrainian children;

9. Condemns the deliberate torture and killing of Ukrainian prisoners of war by the Russian side; calls for an independent investigation into and the prosecution of such crimes, and calls for increased efforts to exchange prisoners between Ukraine and Russia;
10. Reiterates its continued concern about the situation at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (NPP), which is illegally occupied and controlled by the Russian Federation, and serves as a site for Russia's military deployment; supports efforts to maintain a continued International Atomic Energy Agency presence at the Zaporizhzhia NPP; underlines the importance of reinforcing the international framework for the protection of nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes, including in armed conflicts; recalls and condemns Russia's actions which have inflicted severe harm 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;
11. 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;
12. Reiterates its call on the Member States to adopt further substantial sanction packages against Russia and its allies, particularly Belarus, in order to strategically weaken Russia's war capacity; calls for prompt and comprehensive restrictions on the import of Russian oil, nuclear fuel and gas, including liquefied natural gas; condemns the behaviour of the states, entities and individuals that help Russia to circumvent EU sanctions; reiterates its call on the Commission, the EEAS and the Member States to develop a sanction circumvention prevention mechanism; reiterates its call for European companies to withdraw their operations from Russia; calls on the Member States to take particular measures to prevent advanced technology products that are being exported to non-EU countries from ending up in Russia; calls on the Member States to very strictly prosecute individuals or entities participating in the circumvention of EU sanctions;
13. 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 consequence of the EU's restrictive measures; reiterates, however, its call for the EU and its Member States to find legal avenues allowing for the confiscation of frozen Russian assets and for their use for the reconstruction of Ukraine and compensation for the victims of Russia's aggression;
14. Reaffirms its commitment to Ukraine's membership of the European Union, which represents a geostrategic investment in a united and strong Europe; repeats its call for Ukraine's gradual integration into the EU single market and sectoral programmes, including access to EU funds in the respective areas; supports the Commission proposal to renew the suspension of import duties and quotas on Ukrainian exports to the EU;

² Council Regulation (EU) 2020/1998 of 7 December 2020 concerning restrictive measures against serious human rights violations and abuses (OJ L 410 I, 7.12.2020, p. 1).

urges the Commission to address any reports of market disruption caused by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the trade benefits conceded to Ukraine; calls on the Commission and the Member States to prevent any unilateral actions, such as border blockades, which would limit Ukraine's access to the EU single market;

15. Underlines that the accession process will be merit-based, and that the renewed 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 from the very start; strongly believes that a firm, merit-based prospect of EU membership for Ukraine is in the Union's own political, economic and security interests;
16. Calls on the Council and the Commission to set out a clear pathway for the accession negotiations, focusing on providing tangible benefits for Ukrainian society and citizens from the start of the process; invites the Council to task the Commission with immediately submitting proposals for the relevant negotiating framework and to adopt it once the relevant steps set out in the respective Commission recommendations of 8 November 2023 have been taken;
17. Underlines that the EU must continue and strengthen its financial, technical and political support to Ukraine in order to assist with its EU integration and that the Union itself must undertake the necessary reforms in view of future enlargements;
18. Welcomes the agreement on the establishment of the Ukraine Facility and calls for its rapid deployment; highlights the need for the EU and the Member States to continue to explore additional avenues of support for Ukraine; regrets the unnecessary delay by the United States in approving the next tranche of urgently needed assistance to Ukraine;
19. Calls for the EU, the Member States and like-minded partners to provide comprehensive and coordinated political, economic, technical and humanitarian assistance to support the sustainable and inclusive post-war reconstruction and recovery of Ukraine, with a particular emphasis on the restoration of essential infrastructure, healthcare, education and social services; calls for the EU and the Member States to continue to provide medical treatment and rehabilitation, including psychological support, to injured and bereaved Ukrainian soldiers and civilians; calls for continuous attention and increased support for demining activities in Ukraine and for a long-term demining programme;
20. Considers that the military support to Ukraine from the EU and the Member States, although it amounts to around EUR 28 billion, has not been sufficient in quality and volume to allow Ukraine to defeat Russia; urges the EU and the Member States, therefore, along with its like-minded partners, to increase the production, joint procurement and delivery of the weapons and ammunition necessary for Ukraine, including air defence equipment, and to enhance military cooperation with Ukraine, including through the provision of increased capabilities, tailor-made training, joint production and capacity-building; reiterates its support for the substantial expansion of these measures and for the need to make full use of the European Peace Facility (EPF) which needs long-term funding; denounces the fact that since August 2023, one Member State has been blocking since the eighth tranche of military aid to Ukraine, via the EPF; urges the EU and the Member States to explore additional ways to mobilise

EU financial resources for defence; calls for the EU and the Member States to significantly increase their efforts to develop the EU's strategic autonomy, particularly in strengthening EU defence capabilities in cooperation with NATO and developing a more coherent and impactful EU foreign policy; calls for the EU and the Member States to sanction circumventions of military and dual-use goods export controls more effectively;

21. Reiterates its position that representatives of local self-government and civil society in Ukraine must be actively involved in the recovery and reconstruction process and that this process must meet the highest standards of transparency and accountability;
22. Calls on the Commission, the EEAS and the Member States to strengthen strategic communication and provide relevant information on the mutual benefits and opportunities of enlargement both in Ukraine and in the Member States in order to further increase support and improve understanding of the accession process; calls on the Commission, the EEAS and the Member States to improve the visibility of EU funding and its tangible results in Ukraine; insists that the EU and Ukrainian civil society play an active role in the implementation of these objectives;
23. Calls for the EU and the Member States to work strategically and proactively to counter hybrid threats and to prevent interference by Russia and its agents in the West 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;
24. Condemns the assassination of Maksim Kuzminov in Spain; calls on the Member States to respond promptly and with resolve against disruptive actions by the Russian intelligence services within the EU's territory; recommends that the Member States enhance counterintelligence cooperation and information-sharing;
25. Notes that, notwithstanding the Russian leadership's assertion of openness to negotiations, Russia's blatant disregard for and violation of established norms and agreements to which it had committed has significantly undermined the trustworthiness of the current regime in Moscow and, as a result, the feasibility of engaging in meaningful negotiations with it;
26. 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, and the President, Government and Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.