

European Parliament

2019-2024



Plenary sitting

14/02/2023

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 132 of the Rules of Procedure

on one year of Russia's invasion and war of aggression against Ukraine

European Parliament resolution on one year of Russia's invasion and war of aggression against Ukraine

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Ukraine and on Russia, in particular since the escalation of Russia's war against Ukraine in February 2022;
 - having regard to the Association Agreement and 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, Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols, and the Rome Statute,
 - having regard to the application for EU membership by Ukraine on 28 February 2022, and the consequent granting of candidate status by the European Council on 23 June 2022 based on a positive assessment by the European Commission and in line with the views expressed by the European Parliament;
 - having regard to the joint statement following the 24th EU-Ukraine Summit of 3rd February 2022;
 - having regard to the conclusions of the Special European Council of 9-10 February 2023;
 - having regard to the visit of President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy to the European Parliament on 9 February 2023 and the speech he delivered in the hemicycle;
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure;
- A. whereas the Russian Federation has been carrying out an illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine since 24 February 2022; whereas this war of aggression constitutes a blatant and flagrant violation of the UN Charter and of the fundamental principles of international law; whereas Ukraine has suffered from Russian aggressions ever since protests broke out in November 2013 against the decision by the then President to suspend the signing of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement; whereas Russia's actions in Ukraine over the past year continue threatening peace and security in Europe and worldwide;
- B. whereas Russia's forces have conducted indiscriminate attacks against residential areas and civilian infrastructure; whereas thousands of civilians, including hundreds of children, have already been murdered and many more have been tortured, harassed, sexually assaulted, kidnapped or forcibly displaced; whereas this inhumane conduct by the Russian forces and their proxies is in total disregard of international humanitarian law; whereas on 30 September 2022, Russia unilaterally declared its annexation of the partly Russian-occupied Ukrainian oblasts of Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia, in addition to its previous annexation of the Crimean peninsula; Whereas Russia's attempt to ethnically cleanse occupied parts of Ukraine has included mass atrocities; and aims to destroy Ukraine's national identity and to erase Ukrainian culture and statehood;

- C. whereas millions of Ukrainians have been displaced in and outside of Ukraine as they fled from Russia's aggression; whereas Russia's continued aggression against Ukraine will continue forcing people to flee their homes; whereas Russia's war crimes will leave a generation of Ukrainian children traumatised and millions of Ukrainian civilians and service people require treatment for mental distress, depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD);
 - D. whereas the liberation of Ukrainian territories has led to the discovery of overwhelming evidence of the structural and widespread human rights violations and war crimes committed by Russian forces and their proxies, such as summary executions and mass graves, rape and other sexual violence, torture, using civilians as human shields, forced displacement of civilians to Russia (including children), destruction of ecosystems, the use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects, including illegal cluster bomb ammunition, in densely populated areas and targeted destruction of civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, homes and schools;
 - E. whereas women and girls are particularly at risk during humanitarian and displacement crises, as they continue disproportionately to be the victims of gender-based violence;
 - F. whereas the Russian blockade of Ukraine's grain exports during the last year created the risk of famine for many millions of people in and outside of Ukraine reminiscent of the Holodomor;
 - G. whereas Russia's war of aggression shows Moscow's colonial attitude towards its neighbours; whereas as long as Russia remains an imperial state it will maintain efforts to rebuild the ever looming threat of aggression on the European continent; Whereas numerous international actors have recognized Russia as state sponsor of terrorism and a state which uses means of terrorism, which should now be followed by concrete measures;
 - H. whereas Ukraine now is a recognised candidate for membership in the European Union and has received massive support in all areas from the European Union, including unprecedented military support; whereas since February 2022 the overall assistance pledged to Ukraine by the EU, its Member States and European financial institutions amounts to at least EUR 67 billion, including military assistance;
 - I. whereas the Russian war of aggression is the largest military conflict on the European continent since the end of World War II and reflects the increasing conflict between authoritarianism and democracy;
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 recognized borders;
 2. reiterates its strongest condemnation of Russia's illegal, unprovoked and unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine as well as the involvement of the regime in Belarus; demands that Russia and its proxy forces cease all military actions, in particular the attacks against residential areas and civilian infrastructure, and that Russia withdraw all military forces, proxies and military equipment from the entire internationally recognized

territory of Ukraine, and end forced deportations of Ukrainian civilians and release all detained Ukrainians;

3. Pays tribute to the brave people of Ukraine, righteous laureates of the 2023 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, who are courageously defending their country, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and they are also defending freedom, democracy, the rule of law and European values against a brutal regime that seeks to undermine our democracy, weaken and divide our Union;
4. Expresses its deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of courageous defenders who sacrificed their life in defence of Ukraine, its people, freedom and democracy; calls for continuous and increased EU and its Member States supports for treatment and rehabilitation of injured defenders of Ukraine;
5. states its resolve to contribute to maintaining the Ukrainian people's spirit of resilience and faith in a better future where peace will reign in Ukraine and Europe, where no part of Ukrainian territory will be under Russian occupation, and where no Ukrainian or other citizen will feel threatened or under attack for their wish to live in peace, safety and prosperity and in respect of European values and principles;
6. Praises the solidarity shown by EU citizens, civil society, Member States and the EU itself towards Ukraine and its people; supports continuous extension of the Temporary Protection Directive for persons fleeing Ukraine as a consequence of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine;
7. Believes that the outcome of the war and the stance taken by the international community will be crucial to future action by other authoritarian regimes, which are closely observing the course of the war;
8. underlines that the main objective for Ukraine is to win the war against Russia, understood as its ability to push out all Russian, proxy and allied forces out of the internationally recognised territory of Ukraine; considers that this objective can be met only through continued, sustained and steadily increasing supply of all types of weapons to Ukraine, without exception;
9. Demands that Russia permanently cease violating or threatening the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine and other neighbouring countries; stresses that Russian aggression is not limited to Ukraine, but has a detrimental security and economic impact on all the EU's Eastern Partnership countries, in particular the Republic of Moldova, which is constantly confronted with Russian political blackmail, security threats and provocations aimed at destabilizing the government, undermining democracy and threatening to derail the country's European path; takes note of the recent statement by President Sandu of the Republic of Moldova concerning a risk of a coup d'état in the country; calls on the EU and its Member States to continue supporting the Republic of Moldova as its vulnerabilities could weaken Ukraine's resilience and affect Europe's security; calls on the EU and its Member States to promote solidarity and cooperation under the EU's Eastern Partnership Initiative, using all necessary resources to respond adequately to emerging threats and to ensure the stability and prosperity of the region;
10. underlines that President Putin, other Russian leaders and their Belarusian allies who planned and gave relevant orders to start this war of aggression against Ukraine must be held accountable for the crime of aggression they have committed;
11. reiterates its call on the European Commission, the High Representative and the Member States to support accountability for the crimes committed during Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, especially the crime of aggression, war crimes and crimes

against humanity and alleged genocide; in this sense, repeats the call on the European Commission, the High Representative 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;

12. calls on the High Representative, the EEAS and the Member States and their diplomatic services to continue working as closely and intensely as possible with international partners to increase the unity of the international community on condemning and countering Russia's war of aggression and establishing accountability for the war crimes, the crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression; reiterates its full support for the work of the ICC in helping end impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community;
13. Condemns in the strongest terms the use of sexual and gender-based violence as a weapon of war and stresses that this constitutes a war crime; calls on the EU and host countries to guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health and rights services, particularly emergency contraception, including for survivors of rape, and to support to provision of these services in Ukraine;
14. underlines the continued need to provide humanitarian aid to Ukraine, as well as to address the needs of the millions of displaced persons from and within Ukraine, in particular vulnerable groups; Reiterates that the continued forced relocation and deportation of Ukrainian children, including those from institutions, to the Russian Federation and their forced adoption by Russian families is in breach of Ukrainian and international law; underlines that forcibly transferring children of the group to another group constitutes the crime of genocide according to the Article II of Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide; in this regard, calls on international community to support the efforts by the Ukrainian authorities to collect, document and preserve evidence of the human rights violations committed in the context of the Russian war against Ukraine;
15. welcomes and fully endorses the statement by President Zelenskyy in his address to the European Parliament that "This is our Europe. These are our rules. This is our way of life. And for Ukraine, it's a way home."; reaffirms its commitment to the membership of Ukraine in the European Union; repeats its call for an innovative, complementary and flexible interaction between the on-going work on the implementation of the Association Agreement in force and the accession negotiation process, thus allowing for Ukraine's gradual integration into the EU single market and sectoral programs including access to EU funds in the respective areas, enabling Ukrainian citizens to reap the benefits of accession throughout the process and not only upon its completion;
16. underlines that the Russian war of aggression has fundamentally changed the geopolitical situation in Europe, which necessitates bold, brave and comprehensive political, security and financial decisions by the EU; reiterates in this context its support for the decision of the European Council's to grant EU candidate status to Ukraine; calls on Ukraine, the Commission and the Council to work towards the start of accession negotiations this year; believes that Ukraine's membership in the EU represents a geo-strategic investment in a united and strong Europe and that it equates to showing leadership, resolve and vision;
17. Welcomes the European Council's decision to grant EU candidate status to Ukraine; Underlines that accession to the EU must take place in accordance with article 49 TEU, based on respect of the relevant procedures and conditional upon the fulfilment of the established criteria, in particular the so-called Copenhagen criteria for EU membership,

- and remains a merit-based process that requires adoption and implementation of relevant reforms, notably in the areas of democracy, rule of law, human rights, market economy and implementation of EU acquis; 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;
18. reaffirms its support to providing military support to Ukraine for as long as it is necessary; recognizes the efforts made, in particular by the Member States in providing and by the High Representative in coordinating, military support to allow Ukraine to exercise its legitimate right to defend itself against Russia's war of aggression; reiterates nevertheless 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 regain full control over its entire internationally recognised territory; calls on Member States, the US, the UK and Canada to swiftly deliver on their pledge to provide Ukraine with modern battle tanks; underlines the importance of maintaining close coordination and unity among Ukraine's allies on the analysis of critical requests by the Ukrainian authorities for the provision of heavy weaponry and advanced air-defence systems; calls for serious consideration to be given to delivering Western fighter jets and helicopters, appropriate missile systems and substantial increase in munitions delivery;
 19. calls on the Council to maintain its sanctions policy against the Russian Federation and Belarus, but to monitor, review and enhance its effectiveness and impact; calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure swift implementation and strict enforcement of all sanctions; calls on the Council to adopt its tenth sanctions package by the end of February 2023 and to substantially broaden the scope in particular in the economic area and the energy sector by prohibiting imports of Russian fossil fuels, uranium and diamonds as well as of the sanctions against persons and entities and to sanction all persons associated with the so-called Wagner Group as well as other Russian-funded armed groups, militias and proxies such as those active in the occupied territories of Ukraine; calls on all Member States to remain united in their response to the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and on all EU candidate countries and potential candidates to align with the EU's sanctions policy;
 20. asks the Commission for an impact assessment on the effectiveness of sanctions on the Russian war effort and on the circumvention of sanctions; recalls that the violation of the restrictive measures has been added to the list of criminal offenses of the EU;
 21. is deeply concerned about reports that several third countries are collaborating with Russia to help it circumvent sanctions, including reports that Iran and North Korea are continuously supplying military equipment to Russia, that Chinese state-owned defense companies shipping dual-use equipment, navigation equipment, jamming technology and fighter aircraft parts to Russia, reports on "shadow tankers" activities and asks the European Commission to guarantee that no gas imports from third countries, such as Azerbaijan, could be whitewashing Russian gas under European sanctions; urges the EU, the Member States and the Allies to strengthen the effectiveness of the sanctions already decided, to take urgent steps to block any attempt to circumvent these sanctions and to work on a secondary sanctions mechanism that would close these loopholes; condemns those states which help Russia to avoid the effects of the sanctions imposed and calls on the EU to very strictly prosecute companies, associations or individuals who participate in the circumvention of sanctions;
 22. calls on the Commission and the co-legislators to complete the 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 Ukraine and compensation for the victims of Russia's aggression; underlines the conviction that Russia once the war ends will have to be subject to severe reparations that will be enforced on it in order to substantially contribute to the reconstruction of Ukraine;
23. reiterates its condemnation of the recent decision of the International Olympic Committee to allow Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete in qualifications for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games under a neutral flag, which runs counter to those countries' multifaceted isolation and will be used by both regimes for propaganda purposes; calls on Member States and international community to undertake a pressure campaign to influence the IOC to reverse this embarrassing decision for the international world of sports and to adopt similar position on any other sport, cultural or scientific events;
 24. urges the EU and its Member States to actively support the diplomatic efforts made by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which proposes to set up a nuclear safety and security protection zone around Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant; stresses the importance of preserving the integrity of infrastructures and ensuring easy access to nuclear sites for the IAEA mission; Calls on the EU institutions and EU Member States to ban Rosatom from ongoing investments in critical infrastructure in the EU and for all its activities in the EU to be stopped.
 25. calls on the EU institutions to extend the opportunities for Ukrainian elected representatives and officials to study and observe the work of the EU institutions; calls for the launching of procedures for the establishment of the Eastern Partnership Academy for Public Administration;
 26. calls on the EU and its Member States to work strategically and proactively to counter hybrid threats and to prevent Russia's interference in the 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; calls on the EU and its Member States to increase resilience against disinformation and disruptive campaigns designed to undermine democratic processes and create divisions in Ukraine and in the EU and to close the gap by ensuring that European broadcasting companies and TV channels do not provide services to any sanctioned Russian TV channels nor contribute to the spread of Russian disinformation content;
 27. calls on the United Nations General Assembly to keep Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine on its agenda and calls on the EU's partners around the world to uphold political and humanitarian support for Ukraine as it defends its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity; calls on the EEAS and EU Member States to increase engagement with world leaders from other regions on support for Ukraine and to strengthen international pressure on the Russian regime;
 28. Expresses gratitude to countries which have shown unprecedented unity, solidarity and support for Ukraine since the first hours of the war and continue to do so;
 29. Expresses solidarity and support for those courageous people in Russia and in Belarus protesting against Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine;
 30. 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, to the United Nations, the International Olympic Committee and the Russian and Belarusian authorities.