Resolution on Georgian occupied territories ten years after the Russian invasion

2018/2741(RSP) - 14/06/2018 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Georgian occupied territories 10 years after the Russian invasion. The resolution was tabled by the EPP, S&D, ECR, ALDE, and Greens/EFA groups.

Parliament demanded that the Russian Federation **cease its occupation** of the Georgian territories of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia and fully respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, and that it stop the de facto integration of both regions into Russian administration. It also demanded that the Russian Federation **reverse its decision to recognise the so-called independence** of the Georgian territories of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, and condemned the few states that had done so.

Members noted that 10 years after the Russian military aggression in Georgia of August 2008, the Russian Federation still continues its illegal occupation of these Georgian territories, reinforcing its illegal military presence in Georgia's occupied territories by constructing new bases, bringing in new troops and equipment, and conducting military exercise. The 2008 invasion was **Russia's first major open attack on the European order**, and was later followed by others, including the annexation of Crimea and the war in Eastern Ukraine. Parliament reiterated that Russia continues to be in breach of its international obligations and refuses to fully implement the EU-mediated ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008. Furthermore, it continues to isolate Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia from the rest of the country by closing additional crossing points, putting in place physical barriers along the administrative boundary line (ABL) and conducting a campaign aimed at eradicating Georgian culture;.

Parliament called on the Russian Federation to **cease further borderisation of the ABL**, which it is seeking to achieve by installing barbed wire fences and other artificial barriers. It stressed the need for Russia to unconditionally fulfil all the provisions of the ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008, in particular the commitment to **withdrawing all its military forces from the territory of Georgia**. Russia must also allow:

- the safe and dignified return of **internally displaced persons** and refugees to their homes;
- the **EU Monitoring Mission** (EUMM), which is the only permanent international presence on the ground, unconditional access to the Georgian territories of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia as per its mandate. .

Parliament confirmed the EU's strong commitment to contributing to the **peaceful resolution** of the Russia-Georgia conflict, by using all the instruments at its disposal as part of a comprehensive approach, including its Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, its co-chairmanship of the Geneva International Discussions, the EUMM in Georgia and the policy of non-recognition and engagement.

Lastly, Members called for the EU institutions to adopt an approach consistent with that of the European Parliament and the policies of the national parliaments of the Member States by **using more precise terms** in defining Russian aggression in Georgia as occupation by the Russian Federation of the Georgian territories of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia.