

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

2023/2558(RSP) - 16/02/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 444 votes to 26, with 37 abstentions, a resolution on one year of Russia's invasion and war of aggression against Ukraine.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled by the EPP, S&D, Renew, Greens/EFA, ECR groups and Members.

Russia has been carrying out an illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine since 24 February 2022 resulting in millions of Ukrainians being displaced inside and outside Ukraine. 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.

Firstly, Parliament reiterated 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. It, on the other hand, reiterated its strongest condemnation of Russia's illegal, unprovoked and unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine. It demanded that Russia and its proxy forces cease all military actions, in particular their attacks against residential areas and civilian infrastructure, 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.

While expressing 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, the resolution called for continuous and **increased support from the EU** and its Member States for the treatment and rehabilitation of injured defenders of Ukraine.

Parliament also expressed its solidarity and support for the courageous people in Russia and Belarus protesting Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and demands that Member States protect and grant asylum to Russians and Belarusians being persecuted for speaking out against or protesting the war, as well as Russian and Belarusian deserters and conscientious objectors.

According to Parliament, the main objective of winning the war against Russia can be met only through the **continued, sustained and steadily increasing supply of all types of weapons** to Ukraine, without exception.

The resolution demands that Russia permanently cease violating or threatening the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine and other neighbouring countries. It also condemned in the strongest possible terms, the use of sexual and gender-based violence as a weapon of war and stressed that this constitutes a war crime.

EU accession

The resolution stated that Ukraine is now a recognised candidate for membership of the European Union and has received massive support in all areas from the EU, including unprecedented military support. 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.

Parliament reaffirmed its commitment to Ukraine's membership of the European Union. It called on Ukraine, the Commission and the Council to work towards the start of accession negotiations this year. Members believe 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. However, Parliament underlined that accession to the EU remains a **merit-based process** that requires the adoption and implementation of relevant reforms, in particular in the areas of **democracy, the rule of law, human rights**, a market economy and implementation of the EU acquis. Ukraine is called on 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.

Military support

The resolution reaffirmed its support for providing military aid to Ukraine for as long as necessary. It called on 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. The Member States, the US, the UK and Canada are all urged to swiftly deliver on their pledge to provide Ukraine with **modern battle tanks**. Parliament called for serious consideration to be given to supplying Ukraine with Western fighter jets, helicopters and appropriate missile systems and to substantially increasing munitions deliveries.

The EU is called on 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.