R9 A15: On solidarity with Ukraine

Proposers DWARS, GroenLinkse Jongeren

Motion text

Insert after line 77:

Solidarity with the Russian people

We call for the support, financially, politically and otherwise, of independent civil society in Russia by any means possible. Every individual has a right to peacefully demonstrate. We ask the EU and its Member States to therefore:

- Support the anti-war protesters, human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists in Russia,
- Demand the immediate release of the hundreds of anti-war protesters that have been unjustly detained or imprisoned,
- Facilitate the issuing of emergency entry visas to activists and human rights defenders fearing persecution from the Russian state.

Furthermore, we plead the EU and its Member States to ensure that the sanctions enacted are essential in targeting the Russian regime broadly and Putin and the Russian political elite and oligarchy specifically; the financing of intelligence services and the military; and the oil and gas sector. We strongly urge the government to especially minimise or avoid sanctions that unnecessarily hurt the Russian people.

Regarding the UN

Acknowledging the principles of the UN enshrined in Article 2 of the UN Charter, reiterated throughout the Charter, of note here being in Articles 4 on membership criteria, 11 and 14 on the powers of the General Assembly, 23 and 24 on the composition and powers of the Security Council, and Chapters VI and VII, that being the promotion of international peace and security, as well as the procedure to expel a member state from the UN enshrined in Article 6 based on persistent violations of these principles, we call for the expulsion of the Russian Federation from the United Nations.

Reason

Solidarity with the Russian people

The posts from Ukraine have made one thing clear: this is a war nobody wanted but one that Putin has instigated, the consequences of which are the lives of hundreds of

innocent civilians and the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands more. Solidarity with Ukraine must mean solidarity with the people.
Therefore, we must stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people, with the refugees fleeing the war, but also with the civilians fighting a war they do not understand, with the families who have lost their loved ones, with the activists standing up against tyranny – with all the victims of this war who will unfortunately bear its costs, also those that are in Russia.
Now more than ever must the global community stand up in solidarity, prioritising humanity and the fundamental rights of man. The EU and its Member States must do everything in her power to ensure the utmost protection of humanitarian law in Ukraine and of human rights in Ukraine, Russia, and the EU. Now more than ever must we protect and support the victims of this invasion in Ukraine and the opposition voices in Russia.

Regarding the UN
Whilst we acknowledge the importance of the UN as an organ for international dialogue, we must prioritise its most important purpose, that being the promotion of international peace and security. This is clearly not possible when one of the permanent members of the Security Council itself is committing acts of warfare and the most egregious violations of human rights and humanitarian law, as well as continuing to veto any attempt to implement measures to protect civilians or push for a peaceful resolution of the war in any way. Its expulsion from the UN would finally enable the SC to make decisions regarding Russia, including the enforcement of a no-fly zone, a ceasefire, UN aid and/or implementation of a peace enforcement force. Although Russia may not be removed from the SC as a permanent member, theoretically it may be expelled from the UN altogether by the UN General Assembly for constant violations of the Charter. Although conventional interpretation would allude to the fact that Russia can't be expelled based on veto immunity, a close reading of articles 4 and 6 of the Charter would indicate it being possible for the GA to vote on this regardless of the SC, and that the SC purely provides a recommendation rather than the necessary authorisation.