R9 East Shield – Protecting Eastern European Countries and the EU Border

Proposer:	Ostra Ziele? - Young Polish Greens
Agenda item:	7. Resolutions
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Motion text

FYEG reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the defence and sovereignty of the European Union, and expresses its full solidarity with the countries most exposed to Russian aggression, namely Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine as an EU candidate.

In light of increasing Russian military provocations, disinformation campaigns, sabotage operations, and hybrid warfare at the EU's eastern borders, Europe must act decisively.

The Kremlin continues to destabilise the region, most recently by engineering migrant border crises and provoking armed incidents. The threat is no longer theoretical – it is a lived reality for millions along the EU's eastern frontier, in countries most vulnerable to Russian aggression.

At the same time, the decreasing commitment of the United States to NATO and the growing hostility of the Trump administration towards the EU introduce serious strategic uncertainty. While NATO has long been the bedrock of European security, we must now prepare for a scenario in which Europe must act more independently to ensure its safety. The current geopolitical landscape demands urgent action.

The Polish "East Shield" initiative provides an example of national commitment to border defence through a combination of physical infrastructure, civil defence, and military readiness. This effort must be expanded and Europeanised. It is unacceptable that only frontline states bear the costs of defending the entire Union.

FYEG supports the creation of a joint European "East Shield" system that includes critical infrastructure investment, civil protection mechanisms, and enhanced military coordination at the EU level. This system must not only serve to deter Russian aggression, but also create the conditions for long-term regional resilience – including integration of Ukraine into the same framework.

A core component of this system must be the development of a shared European defence infrastructure outside of NATO. This includes investment in anti-missile and anti-drone systems, construction of troop-ready transport corridors, and large-scale military depots. Nature-based defence strategies, such as turning buffer zones into wetlands and dense forests, must also be part of a broader environmental and security strategy.

Additionally, we must strengthen our civilian protection capacity. This includes the construction of public shelters, especially in schools, hospitals and residential districts, the development of early warning and alert systems to ensure the safety of civilians in the event of an attack, investment in civil defence education, and the adaptation of critical infrastructure for dual-use purposes during times of conflict.

FYEG calls for increased investment in satellite intelligence and the development of a European alternative to systems like Starlink, to ensure secure and independent data and communications networks in the event of war or sabotage.

We stress the need to share the financial burden of defence equally. Western European countries must provide financial and logistical support for the frontline states that are defending the Union’s external border. Europe must also ensure better coordination of national investments to avoid redundancy and enhance interoperability.

FYEG calls on European governments and the European Union to:

Immediately expand the Polish “East Shield” into a pan-European initiative with equal financial participation from all EU member states;

Establish a European Border Defence Fund to support physical border infrastructure, troop mobility, and counter-insurgency capabilities;

Increase funding for civil defence, including public shelters, emergency training, and crisis communications systems;

Develop a European satellite and surveillance programme to ensure data sovereignty and intelligence superiority;

Strengthen EU-wide military cooperation structures independent of NATO, focused on anti-air, anti-drone, and rapid deployment capabilities;

Introduce nature-based defence strategies as part of a broader environmental security agenda;

Coordinate national border defence investments to ensure efficiency, interoperability, and full coverage of the eastern frontier.

Increase spendings on anti-drone and anti-missile defence as well as early-detection systems.

Just as Ukraine stands as a barrier between Russian imperialism and the rest of Europe, so too must the Eastern EU Member States be fortified to prevent escalations, because only by being prepared and united we can avoid further attacks on our sovereignty and deter Russia. A secure Europe begins with a secure eastern border.