

## **R9 Protecting International law against modern empires**

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Agenda item: 8. Resolutions

### **Motion text**

1 International law exists to protect everyone, people and states, especially in  
2 an asymmetric geopolitical landscape where many small actors are challenged by  
3 few powerful empires.

4 Nevertheless, the effectiveness of international law is inversely proportional  
5 to the aggressiveness of imperial powers.

6 In fact, many promoted the illusion that modern empires will mutually balance  
7 their influence, resulting in a global state of substantial peace.

8 However, reality is different: while super powers will not engage in direct  
9 confrontation, they will express their violent imperialistic attitude against  
10 their neighbours.

11 In their eyes, international law is not valid within their regional sphere of  
12 influence, areas where they feel they can play with their own rules.

13 We can see the actualization of such tendency on all fronts:

- 14 • Russia invading Ukraine and claiming it does not even have the right to  
15 exist and dreaming of a Belarus-style subordinate regime, while  
16 interfering with democratic processes all over Europe, especially in the  
17 East
- 18 • The US taking Venezuela overnight, threatening to do the same with Cuba  
19 and arbitrarily targeting boats in the Caribbean, while aggressively  
20 undermining the sovereignty of historic allies such as Canada and Europe's  
21 Greenland.

22 • We can see Israel, with the United States' support and accordance, commit  
23 the barbaric destruction of Gaza and unlawful occupation of Transjordan  
24 and south Lebanon, including the violent strikes on Iran and central  
25 Lebanon.

26 • China, far from being the peaceful super power they claim to be, has  
27 already extended their sovereignty over Hong Kong and poses increasing  
28 pressure on Taiwan, with the explicit goal of annexation. It also commits  
29 severe human rights violations such as the persecution of Uyghurs with the  
30 EU turning a blind eye.

31 The pattern is clear: modern empires want to delegitimize international law and  
32 multilateral institutions with the goal of presenting themselves as the only  
33 legitimate authorities capable of providing security.

34 It's a geopolitical oligarchy.

35 They want to create a world dominated by a few super powers, instead of an  
36 international community governed by law.

37 Today, reality suggests that they managed to break international law.

38 We have to fight this trend and call our governments to engage in the active  
39 protection of multilateral institutions.

40 In the end, international law is as effective as we allow it to be. In fact,  
41 although we might think international law is just an illusion, as Europeans, we  
42 are the living proof that sovereign states can coexist in harmony within a  
43 shared framework of norms and values.

44 Let's acknowledge our privilege and let's fight for a world where this is no  
45 longer a privilege, but rather the legal foundation of peaceful coexistence.

46 Nevertheless, when it comes to Europe, it should be noted that our continent  
47 plays a key role in the global political system. In this sense, Europe actively  
48 decides to be subordinated to the imperialist system led by major powers, such  
49 as the US and Russia. This can be seen when we purchase gas, oil and nuclear  
50 energy to the aforementioned countries.

51 Neocolonial powers, including Europe, get the raw materials that they need from  
52 other countries while exploiting them and their natural resources, while at the  
53 same time externalising the management of migratory fluxes.

54 **When Human Rights are enforced within our continent but not outside, the**  
55 **hypocrisy of the EU emerges, for instance regarding Afghanistan's women rights.**  
56 **Protecting international law also means protecting AFAB.**

57 **Finally, imperialism finds a non-regional dimension in the competition for**  
58 **space, replicating the East-West blocs opposition, perpetuating a climate of**  
59 **tension, and precluding real global safety and security.**

60 **In this competition, traditional state actors are joined by private**  
61 **corporations: so much power in the hands of individuals, rather than accountable**  
62 **institutions, is cause for concern, especially where a capacity to enact mass**  
63 **remote surveillance is concerned.**

64 **Therefore, as Young European Greens, we demand:**

65 **= The EU end all economic and political relations with states that violate human**  
66 **rights. We call on the EU to completely repeal the EU-Israel Association**  
67 **Agreement.**

68 **= Strengthen relations and unity within the EU and also paneuropean countries**  
69 **and strategic democratic partners to have a more powerful voice in the**  
70 **international scenario**

71 **= Enforcing a swift transition from fossil fuels to end reliance on**  
72 **authoritarian countries and guarantee energy independence**

73 **= Develop EU-technology, (explore the possibility of higher public ownership or**  
74 **control in these areas)**

75 **= International law has to be binding for every country. Democratic countries**  
76 **should explore measures to enforce it. For instance: protecting ICC officials**  
77 **from US sanctions.**

78 **= Strategic autonomy, we shouldn't rely on weaponry and external forces**

79 **= we urge European governments to refrain from engaging in the Board of Peace, a**  
80 **unilateral organisation created with the only aim of boosting a man's ego and**  
81 **wallet**

82 **= that all political leaders face equal accountability for war crimes. ICC**  
83 **arrest warrants must be enforced without geopolitical bias, and any sanctions or**  
84 **pressure to obstruct the Court must be abolished.**

85 =a fundamental reform of the UN Security Council, specifically the abolition of  
86 the Veto Power under Article 27 of the UN Charter. The veto must never be used  
87 to obstruct justice for war crimes or genocides. We support the "Veto  
88 Initiative" (UNGA Res 76/262) to ensure transparency and accountability.

89 = that all European states, immediately ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of  
90 Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). We insist that nuclear-armed states fulfill their  
91 disarmament obligations under Article VI of the NPT, moving beyond deterrence  
92 toward total elimination.

93 = absolute adherence to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional  
94 Protocols.

95 = The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) must remain the non-negotiable  
96 legal floor, and all states must comply with the rulings of the European Court  
97 of Human Rights (ECtHR) without exception.

98 = the universal abolition of the death penalty. We call on all states to ratify  
99 the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, using European diplomatic and trade  
100 relations as leverage to end this violation of the fundamental right to life.

101 = the legal recognition of the Right to Food and Clean Water under the ICESCR.  
102 We condemn starvation as a method of warfare (Art. 8, Rome Statute) and demand  
103 the strict regulation of commodity trading hubs to end neocolonial extractivism  
104 that exploits the Global South.

105 = that international law applies equally to all, regardless of power. We demand  
106 full support for the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Rome Statute,  
107 including the protection of its officials from external sanctions and political  
108 interference.

109 = that states fulfill their obligation to protect human rights from climate  
110 change. Following the ECtHR ruling in KlimaSeniorinnen v. Switzerland, we affirm  
111 that Article 8 of the ECHR protects the right to a safe climate and demand  
112 science-based, legally binding targets for all.

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118 For consultation. Last year's resolution on Defense and Security.

[R3: Updated Young Green vision on European defense policy](#)

### Reason

The rationale behind this resolution is rooted in the transition from a rules-based international order to "**geopolitical oligarchy**." Imperial powers (specifically Russia, the US, Israel and China) are systematically eroding international law by creating spheres of influence where they operate with impunity.

This resolution serves as a strategic demand for Europe to end its energy dependency on authoritarian regimes, abandon neocolonial trade practices, and champion the reform of multilateral institutions (such as the UN Security Council) to ensure that accountability is not a privilege, but a global legal foundation.