



Plenary sitting

B10-0439/2026

5.10.2026

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 136(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the 2026 undemocratic elections to the Russian State Duma and their implications for civil society
(2026/2907(RSP))

Danilo Della Valle
on behalf of The Left Group

**European Parliament resolution on the 2026 undemocratic elections to the Russian State Duma and their implications for civil society
(2026/2907(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Articles 1(2), 2(1), 2(4) and 2(7) thereof,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 21 thereof, and to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which the Russian Federation is a party, in particular Articles 19, 21, 22 and 25 thereof,
 - having regard to the 1990 Copenhagen Document and the 1991 Moscow Document of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE),
 - having regard to the statement by the High Representative on behalf of the EU of 21 September 2026 on Russian State Duma elections held on 18-20 September 2026 and their non-applicability on Ukrainian territory;
 - having regard to Rule 136(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas elections were held in Russia from 18 to 20 September 2026 to elect all 450 seats of the ninth State Duma;
- B. whereas according to the Central Election Commission, United Russia received 349 seats, the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF) 37, the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia 23, New People 19 and A Just Russia 17; whereas Putin's party, United Russia, made further gains compared with the 2021 elections; whereas independent analysts have questioned the official turnout figures and results;
- C. whereas Yabloko was excluded from the party-list ballot by the Russian Supreme Court in August, reducing the range of political options available to voters and excluding one of the few anti-war voices; whereas several CPRF candidates were excluded from running, including Nikolai Bondarenko;
- D. whereas Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has been accompanied by an intensification of domestic repression, including restrictions on freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, the criminalisation of anti-war dissent and increased pressure on independent media, civil society, trade unionists and political opponents;
- E. whereas no political force opposing the war is represented in the newly elected State Duma, as the only registered party campaigning for peace and all candidates who opposed the war were excluded from the ballot;
- F. whereas remote electronic voting was used in 33 regions without independent verification mechanisms;

- G. whereas the organisation of elections by the Russian Federation in the occupied territories of Ukraine is incompatible with international law;
- H. whereas independent election monitors and civil society organisations have been subjected to sustained repression by the Russian authorities; whereas Grigory Melkonyants, co-chair of the Golos election-monitoring movement, was sentenced in 2025 to five years' imprisonment;
- I. whereas the regularity of the September 2026 vote was also contested by parties represented in the Duma; whereas concerns about the transparency of elections in Russia are long-standing; whereas after the 2011 Duma elections, allegations of fraud led to the largest street protests in the country since the 1990s; whereas after the 2021 Duma elections, the CPRF refused to recognise the electronic voting results in Moscow, demanded their annulment and organised protests; whereas this mobilisation shows that the demand for fair and transparent elections originates within Russian society itself;
- J. whereas the principle of non-intervention in matters essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of a country is a cornerstone of international law and of peaceful relations among peoples; whereas the choice of political system and representatives belongs to the Russian people alone; whereas the right to determine the political future and institutions of the Russian Federation belongs to its citizens, who must be able to exercise that right through genuine periodic elections guaranteeing the free expression of their will; whereas it is not for the EU, its Member States or any third country to choose Russia's government;
- K. whereas the Russian Federation has freely accepted international obligations on civil and political rights, including within the OSCE;
- L. whereas the Russian Federation has freely subscribed to international commitments on electoral standards, which it is therefore bound to honour irrespective of any external assessment; whereas, as a party to the ICCPR, it has undertaken, under Article 25 thereof, to guarantee genuine periodic elections by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors; whereas under the OSCE 1990 Copenhagen Document, Russia committed to ensure free and fair elections, to respect the right of citizens and parties to seek office without discrimination and to invite observers from other participating States; whereas, under the OSCE 1991 Moscow Document, it accepted that such commitments are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to its internal affairs; whereas it also signed the 2002 Convention on the Standards of Democratic Elections, Electoral Rights and Freedoms in the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States;
- M. whereas the credibility of the EU's external action depends on applying the same standards to all non-EU countries; whereas the EU maintains close energy, commercial or strategic relations with countries in which meaningful political participation is restricted or serious concerns have been raised regarding fundamental freedoms or electoral integrity; whereas differences in the political scrutiny applied to such partners and to geopolitical adversaries risk creating the perception of double standards with regard to the EU's application of the principles of democracy, the rule of law and fundamental human rights and weakening the credibility of the EU's external action;

1. Stresses that respect for the principle of non-intervention does not preclude scrutiny of compliance with international obligations and OSCE commitments freely undertaken by the Russian Federation; recalls that such commitments are a matter of legitimate international concern; notes with concern that the 2026 elections fell far short of the standards of the ICCPR and of the OSCE commitments to which Russia has subscribed;
2. Highlights that independent analyses on the 2026 Russian State Duma elections point to widespread manipulation of the results through voter coercion, manipulation of electoral reports and downright falsification; notes that protests have been announced in at least five Russian cities in connection with the elections; condemns, furthermore, the fact that the vote took place in a tightly controlled and repressive environment;
3. Regrets the exclusion of the few remaining candidates and parties critical of the war and the current government, including Yabloko, and the lack of independent and credible election observation, both domestic and international;
4. Notes the concerns expressed about the transparency of remote electronic voting and calls for the publication of verifiable data;
5. Underlines that allegations of irregularities have also been raised by parties represented in the State Duma, including the CPRF; considers that these complaints, coming from within Russia's own institutional framework, should be addressed through transparent procedures, including public access to precinct-level protocols;
6. Recalls that elections organised in the occupied territories of Ukraine cannot be recognised under international law;
7. Takes note of the election to the new State Duma of 46 veterans of the war against Ukraine, 41 of whom were elected for United Russia; notes that this is in line with the policy of integrating war veterans into a new political elite, in particular through President Putin's 'Time of Heroes' programme, which trains veterans for political and administrative positions; is concerned that this contributes to a growing militarisation of political life in Russia;
8. Expresses deep concern over restrictions affecting civil society, trade unions, independent media and election observers;
9. Condemns the legislation introduced in 2022 criminalising the dissemination of information deemed 'false' concerning the Russian armed forces and public statements deemed to 'discredit' them, which is incompatible with Article 19 ICCPR; deplores the use of these provisions to prosecute and silence elected representatives, activists, including trade unionists and left-wing anti-war activists, journalists and citizens for opposing or publicly criticising Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine; stresses that these laws have contributed to the systematic suppression of anti-war political dissent and pluralism in Russia;
10. Calls on the Russian authorities to release people detained for peacefully exercising their rights, including Grigory Melkonyants and Boris Kagarlitsky;
11. Stresses that the Russian people must not be equated with their government; rejects any

measure amounting to collective punishment of the population;

12. Stresses that EU support should serve to strengthen civil society, human rights defenders, independent trade unions and independent media, and should be allocated in a transparent and non-partisan manner, while fully respecting their independence and autonomy, guided by the objective of strengthening civic space and fundamental rights, rather than broader geopolitical considerations;
13. Calls on Russia to cooperate with UN and OSCE human rights mechanisms;
14. Reiterates its call for Russia to end its war of aggression against Ukraine and respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity; recalls that only an end to the war, through negotiations and a just and lasting peace based on international law and the UN Charter, can create conditions for a democratic opening; calls for the EU to make diplomacy its priority;
15. Warns against the militarisation of EU foreign policy and against the use of the Russian elections as a pretext for further increases in military spending at the expense of social cohesion;
16. Calls on the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to apply the same standards on electoral integrity consistently to all non-EU countries, including partners of the EU; deplores the selective application of the EU's stated commitment to democracy and electoral integrity;
17. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the UN Secretary-General, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the President, Government and State Duma of the Russian Federation.