



Plenary sitting

B10-0441/2026

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))

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on behalf of the S&D 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 its previous resolutions on Russia, including those on Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine,
 - having regard to the statement of 21 September 2026 by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on behalf of the EU on the Russia State Duma elections held on 18-20 September and their non-applicability on Ukrainian territory,
 - having regard to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,
 - having regard to the 1990 Copenhagen Document of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE),
 - having regard to the statement of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of 6 August 2026 on the decision of the Russian Federation not to invite OSCE observers to the elections to the State Duma,
 - having regard to Rule 136(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas all OSCE participating states, including the Russian Federation, have agreed that the will of the people, freely and fairly expressed through genuine and periodic elections, is the basis of the authority and legitimacy of government;
- B. whereas OSCE participating states have committed themselves to respecting a number of principles such as those defined in the 1990 Copenhagen Document, in order to ensure, inter alia, that electoral campaigning can be conducted in an open and fair atmosphere without violence, intimidation or fear of retribution against candidates, parties or voters, and to ensure that votes are cast by secret ballot and counted and reported honestly;
- C. whereas, contrary to these principles, the parliamentary elections held in Russia on 18-20 September 2026 took place in an authoritarian and highly restricted environment marked by Russia’s brutal war of aggression against Ukraine, severe domestic repression against political opposition, independent media, civil society and any critical voice, repressive legislation, politically motivated trials and arbitrary and disproportionately long prison sentences in inhumane detention conditions, serious electoral violations and systematic irregularities;
- D. whereas the Russian authorities denied registration to candidates, in particular those

opposed to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, including candidates of the Yabloko party, the only party to have denounced the war, and continued manipulating public opinion through disinformation and propaganda, thereby depriving voters of the possibility to make a choice based on accurate information;

- E. whereas so-called elections were illegally held in the territories of Ukraine currently under Russian occupation, namely in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, as well as in parts of the Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions;
 - F. whereas the Russian Federation's decision not to invite the OSCE to observe its parliamentary elections runs contrary to the country's OSCE commitments and denied its voters and institutions an impartial and independent assessment of the election;
 - G. whereas the parliamentary elections of 18-20 September 2026 were already the third consecutive nationwide electoral process to be held without impartial and independent international election observation in the country;
1. Expresses its concern about Russia's first parliamentary elections since the start of its brutal and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, which were marked by the absence of political competition, serious and systematic electoral violations, manipulation through voter coercion and falsification of turnout and results, and which deprived voters of a democratic choice as well as of the possibility of voting for the federal list of the only opposition party that openly denounced the war;
 2. Denounces the holding of Russia's parliamentary elections in a climate of fear and repression underpinned by legislation restricting freedom of expression and assembly as well as civic engagement, in obvious breach of national law and the country's international commitments;
 3. Condemns the illegal holding of so-called elections in the territories of Ukraine currently under Russian occupation in blatant violation of international law and the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine; condemns the human rights violations committed by the Russian occupation authorities who have forced Ukrainian citizens in Ukrainian territories to register and vote in the Russian State Duma elections; reiterates that, as stated by the High Representative on behalf of the EU, the EU will not recognise the holding of such 'elections' in the territories of Ukraine nor their outcome;
 4. Reiterates its strong condemnation of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and its demands that the Russian Federation immediately, completely and unconditionally cease its attacks against residential areas and civilian infrastructure, terminate all military activities in Ukraine, withdraw all military forces, proxies and military equipment from the entire internationally recognised territory of Ukraine, end forced deportations of Ukrainian civilians, release and return all detained Ukrainians, in particular children, and permanently cease violating or threatening the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine;
 5. Underlines that the refusal to allow independent international observation of the Russian State Duma elections in accordance with Russia's international commitments as an

OSCE participating state illustrates the unprecedented erosion of democracy and a critical lack of willingness to honour international commitments and respect established principles of cooperation within international institutions;

6. Notes with concern the lack of domestic electoral observation following the sustained pressure against and, ultimately, forced closure of Russian domestic election observation organisations such as Golos; calls for the release of Golos activists who have been arbitrarily detained or sentenced to unjustified prison terms;
7. Expresses its solidarity with those Russian citizens who, despite the national and transnational repression and the severe personal consequences for them and their family members, continue to find the courage to speak the truth about Russia's brutal and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, uphold human values such as dignity, respect and compassion and show the world that another Russia exists;
8. Calls for the EU to continue supporting Russia's civil society, independent media, and anti-war and reform-oriented forces among the democratic political opposition;
9. Emphasises that Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has fundamentally changed the context in which EU policy towards Russia can be discussed and determined; underlines, therefore, that any vision of this policy must be based on the firm rejection of the ongoing war of aggression, must take into account today's political reality marked by Russian military aggressions against Ukraine and other countries in the common European neighbourhood, hybrid attacks against EU Member States, Russian disinformation and interference in democratic processes, as well as unprecedented repression against civil society, independent media and political opposition in Russia, and must ensure EU preparedness in all sectors of society; notes that the return of Russia to normal international cooperation requires Russia to accept responsibility for its actions as an aggressor, a total change of Russian policy towards its neighbours and profound changes in its governance;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the President, Government and Parliament of the Russian Federation.