



Plenary sitting

B10-0477/2026

19.10.2026

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 escalation of Russian strikes in the EU, particularly on Black Sea shipping, threatening human life, regional stability and food security (2026/2933(RSP))

Marc Botenga

on behalf of The Left Group

**European Parliament resolution on the escalation of Russian strikes in the EU,
particularly on Black Sea shipping, threatening human life, regional stability and food
security
(2026/2933(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Charter of the United Nations,
 - having regard to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982,
 - having regard to the Montreux Convention regarding the Regime of the Straits of 20 July 1936,
 - having regard to the San Remo Manual on International Law Applicable to Armed Conflicts at Sea of 12 June 1994,
 - having regard to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea of 1 November 1974,
 - having regard to the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue of 27 April 1979,
 - having regard to the Black Sea Grain Initiative brokered by the United Nations and Türkiye in July 2022, and to its termination in July 2023,
 - having regard to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the additional protocols thereto,
 - having regard to Rule 136(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, in clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations, has entered its fifth year and continues to cause immense loss of life, destruction and human suffering;
- B. whereas the war continues to escalate, as shown by recent public statements from senior officials, including the Deputy Chair of the Russian Security Council, who named European drone-manufacturing facilities as potential legitimate targets, the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs, who stated that Europe could destroy Russian fuel refineries within six days, and the head of Germany's air force, who stated that Germany would respond swiftly with air strikes on Russia in the event of war;
- C. whereas in recent weeks, attacks on civilian merchant vessels in the Black Sea have also escalated dramatically and have extended into the waters and exclusive economic zones of EU Member States Romania and Bulgaria;
- D. whereas on 5 October 2026, a Turkish-owned cargo ship carrying grain from the Ukrainian port of Izmail sank following a drone strike in the Romanian section of the

Black Sea, killing two seafarers; whereas Ukrainian authorities attributed the attack to Russia, and the President of Romania condemned the escalation of incidents by Moscow;

- E. whereas on 6 October 2026, several merchant vessels were struck off the coasts of Bulgaria and Ukraine, killing at least one crew member and injuring others; whereas on 13 October 2026, the cargo ship HS *Dignity* was sunk east of the Bulgarian coast, with several seafarers reported missing; whereas the origin of some of these attacks has not yet been independently established;
- F. whereas on 14 October 2026, the Comoros-flagged tanker *Yara J* was struck by a drone within Romanian territorial waters near Sulina, with no casualties reported; whereas on 15 October 2026, the San Marino-flagged chemical tanker *Wine Trader* was struck by drones just outside Romanian territorial waters, with five crew members rescued and seven still missing as of 16 October; whereas two further commercial vessels were targeted overnight on 14-15 October 2026, one in Romanian territorial waters and one in the Ukrainian port of Izmail;
- G. whereas the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation has publicly claimed responsibility for strikes on cargo ships and a tanker heading to the ports of Odesa and Mykolaiv, as well as on port infrastructure in Reni on the Danube, a few kilometres from the Romanian border;
- H. whereas Ukrainian military commanders have claimed to have disabled around 300 vessels supporting Russia since 6 July 2026, 166 of which were in the Black Sea;
- I. whereas the Black Sea is a semi-enclosed sea with an extremely fragile ecosystem that has already heavily damaged by the war;
- J. whereas on 5 June 2026, a Ukrainian naval drone, which according to the Ukrainian Navy had lost control due to Russian electronic warfare, exploded in the port of Constanța near an oil terminal, forcing the evacuation of Romania's largest port; whereas on 29 May 2026, a Russian drone struck an apartment building in Galați, injuring two people; whereas drifting sea mines continue to reach the shores of EU Member States;
- K. whereas the overwhelming majority of the victims of these attacks are civilian seafarers, who are very often nationals of third countries from the Global South and who bear no responsibility for the conflict and work in precarious conditions;
- L. whereas the Russian war of aggression, and its escalation, is sharply increasing war-risk insurance premiums and freight costs and disrupting the export of grain, vegetable oils and fertilisers from both Ukraine and Russia, two of the world's largest agricultural exporters, with direct consequences for food prices and food security in the most vulnerable countries, particularly in Africa and the Middle East;
- M. whereas this adds to a context in which the illegal US-Israeli aggression against Iran has led to the total or partial closing of the Strait of Hormuz; whereas the Gulf supplies 38 % of global crude oil, 20 % of gas and 33 % of fertilisers, while countries such as Sudan, Somalia, Mozambique and Tanzania depend on Gulf fertilisers for between 50

and 60 % of their supply;

- N. whereas the World Food Programme projects that 45 million people face acute food insecurity as a result of the war against Iran, and the UN Development Programme projects that 30 million people face extreme poverty;
- O. whereas the Black Sea Grain Initiative demonstrated that negotiated, UN-led arrangements can guarantee safe shipping even in wartime; whereas the collapse of the initiative, due to Russia's decision to terminate its implementation in July 2023, has been followed by the progressive militarisation of commercial shipping routes;
- P. whereas the conflict at sea is now spilling over directly into the territory, airspace and waters of EU Member States; whereas in October 2026, within the space of a few days, several merchant vessels were sunk or struck in the Romanian section of the Black Sea and in Bulgaria's exclusive economic zone; whereas Russian strikes on the Danube port of Reni took place just a few kilometres from Romanian territory;
- Q. whereas Romania has recorded dozens of incursions into its airspace by Russian drones since the start of attacks on Ukrainian Danube ports, and drone debris of both Russian and Ukrainian origin has fallen on its territory; whereas the Russian drone that struck a residential building in Galați in May 2026 was the first such strike on a densely populated area of an EU Member State and NATO member; whereas diplomatic relations are deteriorating, as shown by the closure of the Russian consulate in Constanța;
- R. whereas NATO has strengthened its operations along its eastern flank and has announced that it will adjust its deterrence and defence posture in the Black Sea; whereas the growing concentration of naval, air and unmanned military assets in a confined maritime space, together with electronic warfare, drifting mines and drones going off course, multiplies the risk of accidents, miscalculations and mistaken attributions;
- S. whereas in recent weeks, the situation has escalated and following public statements and reported leaked plans identifying Kaliningrad, a Russian exclave situated between Lithuania and Poland and a key Russian military outpost, as a priority early target in the event of an armed conflict between Russia and NATO, Russia formally warned NATO that it is prepared to use nuclear weapons against the alliance;
- T. whereas a Russian warship fired two emergency flares at a Danish helicopter conducting surveillance, narrowly missing it; whereas an Italian fighter jet operating within NATO shot down a drone carrying an explosive device over Lithuania, an incident the EU described as reckless and dangerous behaviour on the part of Russia;
- U. whereas the increasing frequency of such incidents, and the absence of an established channel of communication with Russia, heightens the risk of miscalculation and unintended escalation;
- V. whereas military and political rhetoric on all sides is hardening, while channels of direct communication and crisis management between the parties have been largely dismantled;

- W. whereas according to Russian President Putin's own statements, Ukrainian drone strikes have caused damage to Russia equivalent to approximately 1 % of its GDP; whereas the Ukrainian authorities state that these strikes have disabled around half of Russia's oil refining capacity;
- X. whereas while Ukraine's drone campaign caused significant physical damage to Russian infrastructure, it has not so far achieved the proclaimed strategic objectives of compelling Russia to end the war or of producing political instability within Russia; whereas Ukraine has regained some territory in recent weeks, but the overall situation along the front line has not fundamentally changed;
- Y. whereas military equipment and, in certain cases, intelligence support provided to Ukraine by NATO member states contribute to Ukraine's capacity; whereas there is a risk that Russia may portray such support as direct involvement in the conflict;
- Z. whereas a poll by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, published on 6 October 2026, highlights that 75 % of Ukrainians are open to negotiations with Russia to end the war; whereas according to numbers from the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence, two million Ukrainians are currently evading mobilisation, with another 200 000 soldiers absent without official leave;
- AA. whereas in such a context, a single incident causing casualties on EU territory or involving a warship of a NATO member state could trigger mutual defence mechanisms and lead to a direct military confrontation between NATO and the Russian Federation, two nuclear-armed powers, with catastrophic consequences for the peoples of Europe and the world;
- AB. whereas proposals for a peace settlement are reportedly being discussed by a number of international actors;
- AC. whereas in sharp contrast with earlier statements, in recent weeks the intelligence services and political leaders of Finland, Denmark, Estonia and Lithuania, as well as the Secretary General of NATO, have publicly stated that there is no imminent threat from Russia to NATO territory and claim that no intelligence indicates one;
- AD. whereas every effort must be made to prevent the current escalation of rhetoric from developing into full-scale armed conflict;
1. Condemns the recent Russian strikes on commercial shipping and Ukrainian ports, which have cost the lives of seafarers and have extended into the waters of EU Member States; recalls that deliberate attacks on civilian objects and persons are prohibited under international humanitarian law; demands that Russia immediately cease such attacks; reaffirms its solidarity with the Ukrainian people and its condemnation of Russia's illegal war of aggression; reaffirms Ukraine's right to defend itself in accordance with international law;
 2. Firmly condemns all strikes, drone incursions and other hostile acts affecting the territory, airspace, territorial waters and exclusive economic zones of EU Member States, whatever their origin, as unacceptable violations of their sovereignty and of international law; opposes all attacks on civilian merchant vessels, their crews and

civilian port infrastructure in the Black Sea, the Sea of Azov and the Danube; stresses that the targeting of civilian shipping, whatever the justification invoked, endangers the lives of seafarers, threatens freedom of navigation and risks causing environmental disasters with consequences for all coastal states;

3. Expresses its full solidarity with the people and authorities of Romania and Bulgaria, who are bearing the direct consequences of a war they are not party to; commends the responsible and measured response of the Romanian and Bulgarian authorities and calls for the EU to provide them with the necessary support, including for civil protection, search and rescue at sea, pollution response, mine clearance and compensation for the economic damage suffered by their ports, fishing communities and coastal economies;
4. Expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the seafarers killed and its solidarity with those injured and those missing; pays tribute to the Romanian and Bulgarian search and rescue services;
5. Calls for independent, impartial and transparent investigations into all attacks on merchant shipping in the Black Sea, including those whose origin remains unclear, under the auspices of the United Nations and the International Maritime Organization; warns in the strongest terms against hasty attributions and against any automatic military response, given that a misattributed incident could become the trigger for a wider war;
6. Calls on all parties to the conflict to immediately declare and respect a comprehensive moratorium on attacks against merchant vessels, crews and civilian port infrastructure, as a first concrete step towards de-escalation;
7. Expresses its deep alarm at the real and growing risk of a direct military confrontation, including nuclear confrontation, between NATO or EU Member States and the Russian Federation; stresses that the current situation in the Black Sea is the most dangerous flashpoint in the war and that the logic of reciprocal escalation must be broken now, before it becomes irreversible;
8. Calls for the urgent establishment of military deconfliction and crisis communication channels in the Black Sea, involving all coastal states, including through the existing mechanisms of the Montreux Convention and with the mediation of the United Nations, to prevent incidents from escalating;
9. Calls on the Member States and NATO allies to exercise maximum restraint and to give absolute priority to diplomacy; recalls that the security of the citizens of Romania and Bulgaria is best guaranteed by de-escalation and an end to the war, not by turning the Black Sea into a zone of permanent military confrontation;
10. Commends all initiatives to advance a durable peace proposal, with the aim of bringing an end to the war in Ukraine, in line with international law; stresses that Ukraine must be fully involved in any peace negotiations and that any agreement must be acceptable to all parties concerned;
11. Calls on the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Council and the Member States to launch an

urgent diplomatic initiative, together with the United Nations, to re-establish a negotiated maritime safety arrangement for the Black Sea, based on the experience of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, with the aim of guaranteeing the safe passage of food and fertiliser exports for all;

12. Insists that the only lasting solution to the threats to human life, regional stability and food security in the Black Sea is to end Russia's aggression, through an immediate ceasefire and a just and lasting peace, negotiated in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law; calls for the EU to finally assume an active role as a mediator and to support all diplomatic efforts in this direction;
13. Rejects the use of these incidents to justify further militarisation of the Black Sea, the deployment of additional military assets in the region or new increases in military spending at the expense of social, climate and development budgets; warns that the militarisation of maritime routes and the proliferation of armed drones in the area increase, rather than reduce, the risk of an uncontrolled escalation that no party would be able to contain;
14. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to support the protection of seafarers' rights, including the right to refuse to sail into war zones without losing their jobs, adequate compensation for victims and their families, and full respect for the Maritime Labour Convention; calls for close cooperation with the International Transport Workers' Federation and the International Maritime Organization;
15. Calls on the Commission to step up environmental monitoring of the Black Sea, to support Romania and Bulgaria in pollution response and mine clearance, and to assess the long-term ecological damage caused by the war;
16. Calls on the Commission to assess the impact of the crisis on global food prices and to strengthen humanitarian and food assistance for the most affected countries of the Global South, without conditionality;
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 Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, the Secretary General of NATO, and the governments of Ukraine and the Russian Federation.