



Plenary sitting

B10-0480/2026

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))

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on behalf of the Renew 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 its previous resolutions on Russia and its war of aggression against Ukraine,
 - having regard to the UN Charter and to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) of 10 December 1982,
 - having regard to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and to Protocol I of 1977 thereto, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court of 1998, and the San Remo Manual on International Law Applicable to Armed Conflicts at Sea of 1994,
 - having regard to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, adopted in 2006,
 - having regard to the joint communication from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 10 March 2023 on the update of the EU Maritime Security Strategy and its Action Plan (JOIN(2023)0008), approved by the Council on 24 October 2023, and to the joint communication from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 28 May 2025 entitled ‘The European Union’s strategic approach to the Black Sea region’ (JOIN(2025)0135), endorsed by the European Council in June 2025,
 - having regard to the historic 23.1 % decrease in official development assistance in 2025 and the ongoing conflicts in the Horn of Africa,
 - having regard to Rule 136(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Russia has been conducting a sustained campaign against Ukraine’s Black Sea and Danube ports and against vessels bound for them, endangering seafarers of many nationalities;
- B. whereas Russian attacks on merchant shipping in the Black Sea have intensified sharply since mid-2026, and have spread from waters off Ukraine to the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) and territorial waters of the EU Member States and NATO members Romania and Bulgaria;
- C. whereas on the night of 20-21 July 2026 the Liberia-flagged liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tanker *Gas Lisbon*, carrying 3 790 tonnes of propane to the Ukrainian port of Reni, was struck about 20 nautical miles off the Romanian coast, injuring three crew members, an attack that Romanian President Nicușor Dan described as being part of the Russian Federation’s illegal war of aggression against Ukraine; whereas on

17 September 2026 the captain of a Tanzania-flagged vessel bound for a Ukrainian port was killed and three crew members were wounded;

- D. whereas on 5 October 2026 the Turkish-owned cargo ship *Royad Mammadov*, carrying Ukrainian grain from Izmail (Ukraine) to Italy, was hit by Russian drones and sank in Romania's EEZ, killing two crew members and injuring three;
- E. whereas on 6 October 2026, Russian drone attacks in Bulgaria's EEZ sank the Togo-flagged cargo vessel *Alfa Watan*, leaving its 10 crew members missing, and set ablaze the Palau-flagged cargo ship *Able*, en route from Galați (Romania) to Istanbul, requiring Bulgarian authorities to evacuate its 18 crew members, two of them injured;
- F. whereas on 13 October 2026 two further merchant ships were attacked in Bulgaria's EEZ, close to its territorial waters: the Guinea-Bissau-flagged general cargo ship *HS Dignity*, bound for Brăila (Romania), which sank approximately 17 nautical miles east of Krapets, with several seafarers remaining missing; and the Maltese-flagged, Ukrainian-owned *Chelsea 3*, bound for Giurgiulești (Republic of Moldova), which was struck by an aerial drone 18 nautical miles east of Byala, with all 15 crew members rescued by the Bulgarian authorities, several of them injured;
- G. whereas on 14 and 15 October 2026, two further commercial vessels were targeted near the mouth of the Danube at Sulina (Romania): the Comoros-flagged merchant ship *Yara J*, set ablaze deep inside Romania's territorial waters in a suspected drone attack, and the San Marino-flagged chemical tanker *Wine Trader*, sailing from Tunisia to Romania, struck by aerial drones 13 nautical miles east of Sulina; whereas several seafarers remain missing following search operations by the Romanian authorities; whereas, in the same period, NATO fighter jets were scrambled after Russian drones approached Romanian airspace, one of which entered it;
- H. whereas repeated incursions by Russian drones into the airspace of EU Member States and the Republic of Moldova, alongside cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns targeting democratic institutions and acts of sabotage, form part of a broader security challenge facing the EU;
- I. whereas in August 2026 Romania destroyed two drones drifting in its EEZ near the Neptun Deep natural gas project and an explosive naval drone approaching the project's main production platform, which Romanian President Nicușor Dan attributed to Russia and which Ukraine confirmed was not its own; whereas Neptun Deep, one of the largest new natural gas discoveries in the EU, is due to start production in 2027 and is expected to make Romania the EU's largest gas producer;
- J. whereas deliberate attacks on civilian vessels and seafarers that make no effective contribution to military action are in violation of international humanitarian law, and whereas attacks within the EEZs of coastal states infringe on the freedom of navigation and the rights of those states under the UNCLOS;
- K. whereas the extension of military strikes into the territorial waters and EEZs of EU Member States and NATO members dangerously escalates regional tensions, directly threatens European maritime security and increases collision and environmental risks;

- L. whereas Russia's deliberate bombardment of Ukrainian Danube ports and of its Black Sea port terminals aims to choke the corridor that carries over 90 % of Ukraine's agricultural exports;
 - M. whereas the Black Sea route, including the Danube ports, is vital for Ukrainian agricultural exports and for food-importing countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia; whereas of the total number of wheat and sunflower oil imports to Africa in 2021, those from Ukraine accounted for 16 % and 23 % respectively; whereas EU Member States, in close cooperation with the Commission and regional partners such as the Republic of Moldova, have made significant efforts to ensure safe and reliable transit routes for Ukrainian grain;
 - N. whereas Chicago wheat futures rose considerably as attacks on ports and ships intensified, inflicting further inflationary pressure on import-dependent countries;
 - O. whereas on 16 September 2026 the Joint War Committee of the London marine insurance market extended the Black Sea war-risk listed area to the whole basin, except for the territorial waters of Türkiye, Bulgaria, Romania and Georgia, sharply increasing war-risk premiums and putting pressure on freight rates; whereas these increases threaten the economic viability of commercial navigation throughout the basin;
 - P. whereas on 12 October 2026 the Council adopted its largest round of Russia-related sanctions listings to date, covering 826 companies and 743 executives of the military-industrial complex, including suppliers of ballistic missile and drone production chains; whereas this EU action stands in stark contrast with the unilateral Trump administration waivers on Russian diesel sanctions, as well as the decision to slow down the use of Starlink and Starshield satellite services in Ukraine, drastically limiting the efficiency of Ukraine's interceptor drones and leaving its territory, including its capital, exposed to attacks against civilians, and the executive order signed by President Donald Trump to waive the application of the sanctions, restrictions and duties provided for in the Graham Act;
 - Q. whereas Bulgaria and Romania have called for the operationalisation of the EU Black Sea Maritime Security Hub, and enhanced air and subsea surveillance to establish maritime domain awareness and trace drone launch locations;
1. Condemns, in the strongest possible terms, Russia's attacks on civilian shipping, seafarers, and Black Sea and Danube ports and related infrastructure, including those within the territorial waters and EEZs of Romania and Bulgaria; reiterates its strongest condemnation of Russia's illegal, unprovoked and unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine, which constitutes a blatant violation of the UN Charter and the fundamental principles of international law;
 2. Stresses that Russian aggression is not confined to Ukraine but harms the security and economy of the entire Black Sea region and beyond, including the Global South, through its impact on food security; stresses that Russia is solely responsible for destabilising security in the Black Sea, and remains the most significant threat to Euro-Atlantic peace and security;
 3. Demands that Russia immediately cease all attacks on merchant vessels and civilian

port infrastructure, respect freedom of navigation and cease its weaponisation of global food supplies; calls for urgent action to safeguard commercial shipping and Ukrainian export routes, particularly given the consequences of disrupted grain exports for food security in vulnerable countries, including by pressing Russia to accept a ceasefire in the Black Sea; welcomes the efforts of India, Türkiye, Egypt and other regional and international actors, in this regard;

4. Expresses its deep condolences to the families of the seafarers killed, and commends the rescue efforts of the Romanian and Bulgarian services;
5. Stresses that deliberate attacks on civilian vessels and seafarers may constitute war crimes, including under Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court; calls for evidence to be preserved and for those responsible to be held to account;
6. Underlines that Black Sea security is an integral part of EU security and requires a coordinated EU response, in close cooperation with NATO;
7. Calls for stronger political commitment from EU institutions and interested Member States to implement and further develop the EU Strategic Approach to the Black Sea region in all its dimensions (security, connectivity and resilience);
8. Calls on the EU and its Member States to ensure the rapid operationalisation of the EU Black Sea Maritime Security Hub, anchored in Constanța and Varna, by allocating adequate financial resources for the hub through the mobilisation of available unspent funds under the current multiannual financial framework (MFF) and by earmarking sufficient allocations under the next MFF; underlines that the EU Black Sea Maritime Security Hub is crucial for enhancing maritime security awareness and early warning of potential threats, and for monitoring critical maritime infrastructure, such as submarine cables;
9. Urges the adoption and implementation of a European Sky Shield Initiative over the Black Sea;
10. Calls on NATO to respond to the requests of Bulgaria and Romania by strengthening air, maritime and subsea surveillance under NATO's Eastern Sentry framework, deploying additional counter-drone systems along their coasts, enhancing air defence coordination to counter aerial and surface drones, linking coastal radar, naval drone reconnaissance and satellite intelligence, and intensifying joint mine clearance across the western Black Sea; underlines the importance of regional cooperation, including the Romania-Bulgaria-Türkiye trilateral initiative on mine countermeasures in the Black Sea;
11. Calls for the stronger protection of critical offshore energy infrastructure, such as the Neptun Deep project;
12. Stresses that Russia's increasingly intense and sophisticated conventional and hybrid activities heighten the risk of escalation, and calls on Russia to immediately cease all destabilising hybrid activities, including sabotage, cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns and airspace violations;

13. Welcomes the Council's sanctions listings of 12 October 2026, and calls for further targeted measures against those responsible for attacks on civilian shipping and against the suppliers of the equipment used for this, together with strict enforcement and actions against sanctions circumvention; calls for the EU and its Member States to work with partners to further strengthen measures against the Russian shadow fleet operating in the Black Sea;
14. Calls on the Commission to assess measures to mitigate the effects of war-risk costs on EU operators and ports, to support seafarers' welfare, and to maintain and strengthen export routes, including the EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes, in order to safeguard food security, particularly in vulnerable food-importing countries outside the EU where disruptions risk exacerbating hunger and conflict and driving up food prices; calls on the Commission to work towards the lifting of restrictions on Ukrainian agricultural imports imposed by Member States, and to accelerate the implementation of flanking measures under the revised EU-Ukraine Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area to facilitate Ukrainian agricultural exports;
15. Calls on the International Maritime Organization to carry out an immediate technical and legal assessment of the attacks on merchant vessels in the Black Sea, and to support international moratorium efforts to guarantee freedom of commercial navigation;
16. Reiterates the EU's commitment to continue providing comprehensive support to Ukraine until a just and lasting peace is achieved; stresses that maintaining Ukraine's export capacity is essential to its economic resilience and ability to finance its defence against Russian aggression;
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 Government, President and Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Secretary General of NATO, the Government of Türkiye, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization, the Council of Europe and the Russian authorities.