



Plenary sitting

B10-0484/2026

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 ECR 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’s war of aggression against Ukraine, the security of the EU’s eastern flank and Russian drone incursions into EU airspace, and for the designation of the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism,
 - having regard to the UN Charter and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS),
 - having regard to Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, prohibiting the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state,
 - having regard to the statements by the European Union condemning attacks against civilian shipping in the Black Sea and their consequences for global food security,
 - having regard to Rule 136(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Russian Federation constitutes the most significant and direct threat to European security and the Euro-Atlantic order, pursuing an openly aggressive and imperialist policy; whereas the Russian Federation’s war of aggression against Ukraine constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and its continued attacks on civilians and critical infrastructure demonstrate a persistent disregard for a peaceful resolution; whereas the Member States must strengthen their collective defence, resilience and support for Ukraine while maintaining a united response to Russian aggression;
- B. whereas Russia’s ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine has been deliberately expanded to threaten civilian maritime traffic, port infrastructure and commercial shipping in the Black Sea, including through attacks on Ukrainian ports and grain-export facilities thereby undermining security and economic stability across the wider Black Sea region and beyond, with far-reaching consequences for global food security, particularly in the Global South;
- C. whereas recent drone attacks against merchant vessels in the Black Sea, including in and near Bulgarian and Romanian territorial waters, have resulted in vessels being struck or sunk, with more than 20 civilian crew members killed or missing, demonstrating the growing danger to international maritime navigation posed by Russian attacks and Russia’s blatant disregard for human life; whereas attacks against civilian vessels, especially in the context of an armed conflict, cannot be excused as accidents or errors; whereas such attacks also pose a serious threat to the security and sovereignty of EU Member States and, when carried out within their territorial waters, constitute a violation of their territorial sovereignty; whereas, on 13 October 2026, two merchant vessels were struck by drones in the Black Sea off the Bulgarian coast, in the

immediate vicinity of EU and NATO territory; whereas the cargo vessel *Chelsea-3* was struck by three drones, resulting in all 15 crew members having to be rescued, with five requiring medical assistance; whereas the cargo vessel *HS Dignity* was struck shortly afterwards and sank approximately 17 nautical miles east of Shabla, Bulgaria, leaving 11 crew members missing after 5 were rescued; whereas this act can only be understood as a deliberate act of armed intimidation directed at the EU;

- D. whereas, on 6 October 2026, the cargo vessels *Alfa Watan* and *Able* were struck by drones in Bulgaria's exclusive economic zone in the Black Sea; whereas the *Alfa Watan* sank and the *Able* caught fire, requiring the evacuation of its crew and the hospitalisation of two seriously injured seafarers; whereas, on 5 October 2026, the merchant vessel *Royad Mammadov* carrying grain from the Ukrainian port of Izmail, was struck by a drone and sank in Romania's exclusive economic zone; whereas the incident killed two crew members, injured others and prompted a major search-and-rescue operation, demonstrating the lethal consequences of the growing threat to civilian shipping; whereas all these attacks point to a clear pattern of intensified attacks by Russia in the Black Sea;
- E. whereas the Black Sea is a vital trade corridor connecting Europe with the Caucasus, Central Asia and global markets, and the systematic disruption of maritime traffic threatens the economic security of the region and the livelihoods of millions of people;
- F. whereas Ukraine is a major global exporter of agricultural products, particularly of grains, and the disruption of its grain exports at the hands of Russia threatens food availability and affordability, especially in vulnerable countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, potentially resulting in severe food crises and famines;
- G. whereas, according to Ukraine's Ministry for Communities and Territories Development, in July 2026 alone, Russia launched 67 attacks on seaport infrastructure, 35 attacks on civilian vessels in ports, and 22 attacks on vessels navigating the Ukrainian Maritime Corridor;
- H. whereas Russian strikes against Ukrainian ports, the Danube corridor, warehouses, energy facilities and other critical infrastructure have compounded the risks to civilian shipping and increased the costs of maritime trade, including through higher insurance premiums and operational uncertainty;
- I. whereas the activities of Russia's shadow fleet, including deceptive registration practices and sanctions evasion, pose additional risks to maritime safety, the marine environment and critical infrastructure;
- J. whereas Romania and Bulgaria, both EU and NATO Member States, face direct security risks from incidents in the Black Sea, including drone incursions, airspace violations and debris falling on their territory; whereas Russian drone incursions into the Republic of Moldova's airspace are increasingly frequent;
- K. whereas the security of the Black Sea and the eastern flank is inseparable from the security of the EU as a whole and requires close coordination, solidarity, strong deterrence and a robust collective response by Member States, NATO allies and regional partners;

- L. whereas Russia's hostile activities extend across the EU's eastern flank, from the Baltic Sea and the Nordic region to the Black Sea, and include airspace violations, drone incursions, electronic interference, assassinations, sabotage operations and other hostile kinetic actions, as well as disinformation and intimidation intended to test European and allied preparedness; whereas NATO fighter jets shot down drones over Lithuanian and Latvian airspace; whereas NATO intercepted a Russian military aircraft that was in violation of international flight procedures on its flight from Kaliningrad; whereas, on 30 July 2026, a Russian Kh-101 cruise missile equipped with an explosive warhead violated Polish airspace and struck near the village of Tarnawa-Kolonia in eastern Poland; whereas, according to the Commander of the Polish Armed Forces Operational Command, the missile's trajectory and advanced guidance system strongly suggest that the strike on Polish territory was intentional, constituting a serious violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of an EU and NATO Member State and posing a direct threat to civilian lives; whereas a Russian drone was recovered from the Baltic Sea off the coast of Poland; whereas the recent arson attacks at Starlink ground stations in Poland and Bulgaria and an attempted explosive-drone attack on a Ukrainian cargo aircraft in Germany were conclusively attributed to Russia; whereas all those developments combined with recent events in the Black Sea and the general rhetoric from the Kremlin are evidence that Russia has moved on from 'hybrid' warfare to direct attacks on European soil;
- M. whereas Russia's actions, in particular the deliberate targeting of civilians, civilian vessels, ports, energy infrastructure and food supplies, the campaign of sabotage and assassination on EU territory and the mass abduction of Ukrainian children, amount to the systematic use of terrorist means by a state;
1. Condemns Russia's attacks in the Black Sea, expresses its deepest solidarity with Romania and Bulgaria and other Black Sea littoral states, as well as EU Members affected by reckless, brutal and escalatory attacks conducted by Russia; calls for thorough investigations into the attacks on the *Royad Mammadov*, *Alfa Watan* and *Able*, and full accountability for those responsible;
 2. Condemns the further escalation of drone attacks against commercial shipping in the Black Sea on 14 and 15 October 2026, including the attacks that set two tankers ablaze, among them the Comoros-flagged *Yara J*, and the San Marino-flagged *Wine Trader*, which caught fire near the mouth of the Sulina Canal located within Romanian territorial waters, with seven crew members of the *Wine Trader* reported missing and rescue operations hampered by adverse weather conditions; condemns prior incidents involving drone strikes against commercial vessels in the Black Sea off the Bulgarian coast, resulting in the sinking of a cargo vessel and leaving 11 crew members missing, while other vessels sustained damage; emphasises that these attacks pose a grave threat to civilian seafarers, freedom of navigation and maritime security, risk further escalation and spillover into the territory of the EU and NATO allies, and threaten vital commercial shipping routes and global food supply chains, including grain exports on which vulnerable countries in the Global South depend; calls for an immediate cessation of attacks against civilian and commercial vessels and related maritime infrastructure, a thorough and independent investigation into these incidents, and strengthened EU–NATO cooperation to protect maritime traffic and ensure the security and resilience of the wider Black Sea region;

3. Condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's continuing war of aggression against Ukraine and its systematic attacks on Ukrainian ports, agricultural infrastructure and commercial shipping;
4. Calls on the Commission, the Council and the Member States to strengthen maritime surveillance, early-warning systems, information-sharing and counter-drone capabilities in the Black Sea; supports stronger cooperation between NATO and regional partners, in accordance with international law and their respective commitments;
5. Welcomes Romania's and Bulgaria's efforts in close cooperation with regional partners (such as the Republic of Moldova) and the Commission to ensure safe and reliable transit routes for Ukrainian grains, including through the Port of Constanta and the Danube;
6. Strongly condemns Russia's continued attacks on Ukrainian Danube ports and the resulting risks to the security, environmental integrity and economic stability of the wider Danube delta region;
7. Welcomes NATO's plans to adjust its deterrence and defence posture in response to recent Black Sea attacks;
8. Welcomes the Victory Strategy presented in Warsaw by NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Alexus G. Grynkewich, as a firm response to Russia's escalating provocations and hybrid threats; underlines the importance of translating this strategy into concrete measures to strengthen allied deterrence and defence, particularly along NATO's eastern flank, including in the Baltic Sea and Black Sea regions;
9. Calls for enhanced support for Romania in strengthening airspace surveillance, early-warning systems and civil protection in the Danube delta, as well as environmental monitoring and measures to safeguard its unique biodiversity and local communities against the spillover effects of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine;
10. Calls on the Member States and the Commission to improve emergency response, search-and-rescue preparedness and assistance to civilian seafarers affected by attacks; urges authorities to develop coordinated procedures for maritime incidents, including the rapid exchange of threat intelligence and the protection of crews and vessels;
11. Calls for the EU and its Member States to work through the International Maritime Organization and other relevant international bodies to document attacks, strengthen maritime safety and promote accountability; stresses that freedom of navigation and the protection of civilian vessels must be upheld in accordance with international law, including UNCLOS;
12. Calls on the Member States to treat Russia's shadow fleet as an instrument of war, sanctions evasion and sabotage, and accordingly to deny port access, bunkering, crewing, classification and insurance services to any vessel unable to produce verifiable proof of valid insurance and genuine flag-State registration, and to board, inspect and, where the law so permits, detain such vessels;
13. Calls on the Commission and the Council to ensure that the EU's Black Sea strategy is

supported by clear priorities, adequate resources and measurable results, with particular attention being paid to the protection of civilian shipping and the resilience of the Danube corridor; welcomes the Commission's additional EUR 130 million announced on 13 October 2026 for drone and counter-drone measures at the EU's external borders and calls for effective implementation in the most exposed Member States;

14. Strongly condemns Russia's systematic and escalating pattern of airspace violations, drone incursions, Global Navigation Satellite System jamming and spoofing, shadow fleet sabotage, acts of sabotage, assassination attempts, and propaganda operations against EU Member States, and characterises this pattern as a coordinated strategy of hostile actions against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and democratic resilience of the EU and its Member States; underlines that each violation of EU airspace constitutes a violation of international law, including Article 1 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation and Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, and must be treated as such;
15. Calls for urgent actions to safeguard commercial shipping and Ukrainian agricultural export routes, by pressuring Russia to accept a ceasefire / moratorium in the Black Sea; welcomes the efforts made by Türkiye, India, Egypt and other regional and international actors in this regard;
16. Underlines the importance of enhancing regional cooperation, including through the Romania-Bulgaria-Türkiye trilateral mine-countermeasure initiative, which is also supported by like-minded partners;
17. Reiterates that a durable peace in Ukraine must be based on respect for its sovereignty and territorial integrity and must not reward Russia's aggression; underlines that sustained military, economic and diplomatic pressure on the Kremlin, alongside continued support for Ukraine's ability to defend itself, remains essential to deterring further attacks and restoring security in Europe;
18. 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 European External Action Service, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the democratically illegitimate authorities of the Russian Federation.