

STRENGTHENING STABILITY AND SECURITY IN THE BLACK SEA REGION FOLLOWING RUSSIA'S FULL-SCALE MILITARY INVASION OF UKRAINE RESOLUTION 485*

The Assembly,

1. **Denouncing** in the strongest possible terms Russia's unjustified, unprovoked, illegal and brutal war of aggression against Ukraine, as well as the continued illegal occupation of the Abkhazia and South Ossetia/Tskhinvali regions of Georgia, which demonstrate daily the Russian Federation's significant and direct threat to Allies' security and to peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area;
2. **Recognising** that Russia's actions highlight the increasing strategic importance of the Black Sea region to Euro-Atlantic security, as acknowledged in the 2022 Strategic Concept, and the need for the development of a comprehensive Black Sea strategy;
3. **Commending** Ukraine's courageous self-defence against Russia's aggression to protect its sovereignty and democracy, as enshrined in Article 51 of the UN Charter; **saluting** the strong Allied and partner support shown for Ukraine's heroic defence of its nation and territory, and our shared values at the Vilnius Summit; and **encouraged** by the establishment of the mechanisms necessary to continue and strengthen this support over the horizon;
4. **Praising** the continued, significant, and vital Allied and partner military, economic, political, and humanitarian support to Ukraine, including the upgrading of NATO's own political relationship and practical assistance to Ukraine;
5. **Appalled** by Russia's persistent and unconscionable attacks on Ukrainian civilian infrastructure, particularly on its electricity grid, maritime and Danube ports, and other vital-to-life critical infrastructure, many of which are launched from the Black Sea;
6. **Hyper vigilant** about the direct impact and potential for escalation that Russia's missile barrages against Ukraine have on Black Sea littoral states, particularly Romania and the Republic of Moldova, with missile attacks occurring on riverbanks opposite Romanian territory, and flagrantly violating Moldovan airspace, causing power blackouts, and producing debris falling on both countries' territory;
7. **Denouncing** that, since Russia's illegal annexation of Ukraine's Crimea in 2014, and particularly since its full-scale invasion in February 2022, Russia's military build-up on Crimea and in the Black Sea, particularly via its imposition of a naval blockade of Ukraine's coastline, to include significant sea mining in the area, contravenes international law regarding the freedom of navigation;
8. **Condemning** Russia's declared intention to build a naval base in Ochamchire, located in Georgian territory illegally occupied by Russia, threatening to further destabilise the Black Sea region;

* Presented by the Defence and Security Committee and adopted by the Plenary Assembly on Monday 9 October 2023 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

9. **Welcoming** also the EU's suspension of the broadcasting activities and licenses of several Kremlin-backed disinformation outlets that have been used by the Russian government as instruments to manipulate information and promote disinformation about the invasion of Ukraine, including propaganda aimed at destabilising the countries neighbouring Russia, as well as the EU and its Member States, and calling upon Allied states who have not done so yet to do the same;
10. **Lamenting** Russia's unilateral withdrawal from the Black Sea Grain Initiative;
11. **Recognising** Russia's crimes related to its intensive deliberate attacks on Ukraine's Black Sea and Danube ports and agricultural facilities, resulting in significant human casualties and economic destruction and undermining global food security;
12. **Applauding** NATO's Black Sea Allies for their efforts to find ways and means to facilitate Ukrainian grain exports onto world markets, in particular Türkiye for its efforts to revive the Black Sea Grain deal in a sustainable and reliable manner, and the critical role of Romania in facilitating the transit of Ukrainian grains worldwide and the additional measures to increase the capacities via its Black Sea ports and the Danube corridor;
13. **Warning** that, since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Moscow has further increased its full spectrum of military and hybrid tactics to include a systematic disinformation campaign to destabilise the government of the Republic of Moldova and to support pro-Russian candidates and pro-Russian parties, so as to increase its influence over the Black Sea Region and beyond;
14. **Welcoming** the far-reaching decisions taken at the 2022 Madrid and 2023 Vilnius Summits to establish a new baseline for deterrence and defence for NATO, which comprises a substantial strengthening of the Alliance's forward defence capabilities along the eastern flank, including the establishment of new multinational battlegroups in Bulgaria and Romania, as well as the most detailed and robust regional defence plans since the Cold War;
15. **Applauding** Türkiye's efforts to impartially implement the 1936 Montreux Convention, which is the essential element in the context of Black Sea security and a key instrument for escalation management, and its diplomatic efforts to implement the new status quo regarding the passages of warships through the Turkish Straits for the benefit of all parties;
16. **Commending** Allies' decision to establish a Critical Undersea Infrastructure Coordination Cell at NATO Headquarters and a Maritime Centre for Critical Undersea Infrastructure at NATO Maritime Command in the United Kingdom;
17. **Standing behind** Allied efforts to implement the tailored support packages for NATO's Black Sea partners most vulnerable to outside interference, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, particularly efforts to strengthen the Republic of Moldova's resilience, and the reiteration of the 2008 Bucharest Summit decision that Georgia will become a member of NATO with the Membership Action Plan as an integral part of that process;
18. **URGES** member governments and parliaments of the North Atlantic Alliance:
 - a. to develop a NATO Black Sea strategy with a tailored and structured approach, including an Action Plan, underwritten by increased Alliance support to national Black Sea strategies;
 - b. to implement fully and effectively the decisions adopted at the Madrid and Vilnius Summits to establish a new baseline for NATO's enhanced deterrence and defence posture, and anchor a strong forward defence along its eastern flank;

- c. to support fully the implementation of NATO's new regional plan south, which will focus on the Black and Mediterranean Seas, dividing its attention equally between Russia and terrorism, NATO's most significant direct and most direct asymmetrical threats respectively;
- d. to work with and encourage Black Sea Allies to increase investments in military force generation and modernisation across all domains, as well as to improve the critical infrastructure and legal frameworks necessary for effective and efficient military mobility across the region;
- e. to continue to increase and speed up Allied, NATO, EU, and partners' political, military, intelligence, financial, training and humanitarian support to Ukraine, and sustain this support for as long as it takes for Ukraine to prevail and rebuild;
- f. to continue to support Ukraine's NATO membership goal by assisting, to the extent possible, with its reform agenda;
- g. to continue to support the activities of the International Crimea Platform, including its parliamentary dimension and the Black Sea Security Conference, guided by an understanding that security in the Black Sea cannot be guaranteed without a full restoration of the territorial integrity of Ukraine, including with Crimea and the territorial waters of Ukraine;
- h. to deliver on their promise to fund the enhanced Comprehensive Assistance Package for Ukraine as a multi-year programme in a sustained and predictable way;
- i. to continue to denounce, in the strongest possible terms, Russia's attacks on Ukrainian critical and vital-to-life infrastructure, including grain export terminals;
- j. to develop measures to assist Ukraine in restoring infrastructure critical to grain export;
- k. to support the efforts of the littoral Allies in the Black Sea aimed at upholding security, safety, stability and freedom of navigation in the region, including through the 1936 Montreux Convention;
- l. to foster increased investments in regional intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets, long-range precision strike capabilities, improved coastal defence systems, new layered air and missile defences, increased air policing, and surface and subsurface naval vessels (crewed and uncrewed);
- m. to step up efforts to monitor and combat Russian disinformation and propaganda in the Black Sea region, even though resilience remains above all a national prerogative, as well as support efforts to enhance resilience to combat hybrid threats;
- n. to quickly implement the enhanced tailored support packages for Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, while continuing to actively support the Euro-Atlantic integration of Georgia, as well as support Georgia in taking steps towards eventual NATO membership through its efforts to progress its reform agenda, including key democratic reforms, and making best use of the Annual National Programme.