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RESOLUTION 445

on

UPDATING THE RESPONSES TO RUSSIA'S HYBRID TACTICS*

The Assembly,

1. **Acknowledging** that the awareness of Russia's use of hybrid tactics against the Euro-Atlantic community has grown considerably in recent years, but **mindful** that these tactics continue to pose a serious challenge to Euro-Atlantic stability, security and unity as well as to our vision of a Europe whole, free and at peace;
2. **Alerted** by the clear anti-Western agenda of the Kremlin and the complexity of its hybrid toolbox that ranges from political interference to use of force, targeted assassinations, aggressive espionage, exporting crime and corruption, weaponising information, conducting cyberattacks and applying economic pressure;
3. **Applauding** the adoption – at the 2016 Warsaw Summit – of the NATO strategy to counter hybrid threats and the subsequent decision of the 2018 Brussels Summit to establish Counter Hybrid Support Teams as well as the statement that there can be no return to “business as usual” until there is a clear change in Russia's actions that demonstrates compliance with international law and its international obligations;
4. **Welcoming** the deepening of NATO-EU cooperation in countering hybrid threats as well as important initiatives undertaken by national governments, and traditional and social media outlets as well as civil society actors to counter Russia's disinformation campaigns and cyberattacks;
5. **Condemning** in the strongest terms the use of a nerve agent in Salisbury, United Kingdom, and **praising** the unity and support demonstrated by the Allies to the British government;
6. **Denouncing** Russia's meddling in recent elections and referenda in the Euro-Atlantic area, and **deeply concerned** by the similar threat posed to upcoming elections as well as by the Kremlin's support for fringe political movements in the West;
7. **Condemning** the illegal construction of the Kerch bridge by Russia, combined with its policy of selective access denial and arbitrary detaining of Ukrainian and foreign vessels in the Azov Sea, and **deeply concerned** by new security, economic and ecological threats to the region;
8. **Reiterating** its firm support to the investigation conducted by the Dutch authorities on the downing of flight MH17 in Ukraine, and **calling on** the Kremlin to comply with UN Security Council Resolution 2166, take responsibility and fully cooperate with all efforts to establish accountability;

* Presented by the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security and adopted by the Plenary Assembly on Monday 19 November 2018, Halifax, Canada

9. **Cognisant** of Russia's continued hybrid warfare against Georgia aimed at undermining Georgia's European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations and at discrediting Western values;
10. **Believing strongly** in the resilience of democracy and the ability of open societies to prevail against hybrid threats;
11. **URGES** member governments and parliaments of the North Atlantic Alliance:
 - a. to reflect the new global security realities in the next NATO Strategic Concept and to take the Russian hybrid threat into account;
 - b. to reiterate the position that hybrid attacks can trigger the Allies' right to collective defence;
 - c. to consider discussing hybrid threats in the framework of the NATO-Russia Council;
 - d. to redouble efforts to build resilience among their civil society against any type of hybrid attack, including by revising education policies in order to promote critical thinking and cyber literacy from an early age;
 - e. to continue applying restrictive measures, such as applying fines in cases of hate speech, and encouraging social media companies to increase their capabilities in removing fake news and identifying fake or automated accounts;
 - f. to consider introducing targeted sanctions in solidarity with the United Kingdom, and other members recently targeted by Russia's hybrid attacks;
 - g. to enhance coherence and coordination between NATO civilian and military assets, as well as between NATO and the EU, in responding to hybrid threats;
 - h. to increase strategic awareness by enhancing intelligence sharing and cooperation between domestic agencies and strengthening further NATO's Joint Intelligence and Security Division;
 - i. to continue investing in the development of well-trained local Special Forces as the first port of call in scenarios involving the use of mercenaries and armed men without military insignia;
 - j. to enhance further a coordinated and comprehensive cooperation with aspirant partners in the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe on countering Russian hybrid warfare tactics;
 - k. to adopt a coherent and pro-active strategy to target the Western assets of corrupt Russian elites;
 - l. to design specific government units and support media and civil society initiatives in the field of debunking fake news and identifying hostile propaganda and to provide existing EU and NATO capabilities with additional financial, technological and human support;
 - m. to recognise the importance of developing cyber capabilities enabling Allies to impose costs on those who harm them in cyberspace and allowing NATO, where appropriate, to use these cyber capabilities to support its operations;
 - n. to identify electoral structures as strategic infrastructure and to offer assistance to political parties and candidates in protecting their data and networks;
 - o. to continue efforts to diversify energy imports and promote energy efficiency.