



## NATO Parliamentary Assembly

### RESOLUTION 437

on

### STABILITY AND SECURITY IN THE BLACK SEA REGION\*

The Assembly,

1. **Recognising** the importance of the Black Sea region for Euro-Atlantic and global security as well as the need to continue to develop dialogue and cooperation among the Black Sea states and within the Alliance on Black Sea security, based on the principles of transparency, complementarity, and inclusiveness;
2. **Deeply concerned** about heightened tensions in the region, and **condemning** Russia's illegal and illegitimate annexation of Crimea, its continuing aggression against Ukraine, continuous illegal occupation of Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions of Georgia by Russia, and its military build-up as well as stated plans for further expansion of its anti-access/area denial capabilities in the Black Sea;
3. **Regretting** that these tensions hamper the prospects of genuine regional cooperation that would involve all littoral states;
4. **Welcoming** the commitment made by Allied leaders to take appropriate measures to enhance situational awareness, address the implications for NATO of developments in the region and take them into account in the Alliance's approaches and policies, as well as to support, as appropriate, regional efforts by the Black Sea littoral states aimed at ensuring security and stability and to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with the Alliance's partners Georgia and Ukraine;
5. **Highly appreciating** the contributions made by the Partnership for Peace (PfP) countries in the Black Sea region to the NATO-led operations;
6. **Reaffirming** unequivocal condemnation of Russia's continued violations of Georgian and Ukrainian territorial integrity, severe human rights violations in the occupied territories and efforts to intimidate and destabilise its neighbours that aspire to join and seek closer ties with Euro-Atlantic institutions;

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\* Presented by the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security and adopted by the Plenary Assembly on Monday 9 October 2017, Bucharest, Romania

7. **Underscoring** the importance of upholding international laws that pertain to the Black Sea, in particular the Montreux Convention;
8. **Concerned** about the state of democracy, human rights, freedom of the media and the rule of law in parts of the region, which affects regional stability;
9. **Welcoming** reform programmes in Georgia and Ukraine and their significant achievements, but **mindful** that the process of national transformation continues to face significant challenges;
10. **Recalling** the decision of the 2008 NATO Summit in Bucharest that Georgia and Ukraine will become members of the Alliance and **reaffirming** steadfast support to Georgia and Ukraine in the process of their Euro-Atlantic integration;
11. **Concerned** that despite tangible progress achieved by the Republic of Moldova in implementing its reform agenda, the outstanding challenges in tackling corruption, strengthening the rule of law and settling the Transnistrian conflict, as well as the disruptive foreign influence negatively affect the country's progress and its European integration aspirations;
12. **URGES** member governments and parliaments of the North Atlantic Alliance:
  - a. to ensure full implementation of the decisions adopted at the 2016 NATO Warsaw Summit;
  - b. to actively support NATO's agreed policy towards Russia, based on strong deterrence and defence, including in the Black Sea region, and openness to a meaningful and reciprocal dialogue, as agreed at the Wales and Warsaw Summits;
  - c. to use all available political and diplomatic means to seek de-escalation of tensions in the Black Sea region, and to support regional efforts to turn into an area of dialogue and cooperation;
  - d. to continue to promote the Alliance's presence in the region, re-assuring its regional Allies and supporting partners working towards inclusive maritime security frameworks for the region and reinforcing general adherence to international laws and norms, including the Montreux Convention;
  - e. to continue strategic discussions with Georgia and Ukraine on Black Sea security, further enhance Georgia's and Ukraine's engagement in NATO's activities aimed at strengthening security in the region and to promote political decision regarding the next steps towards the implementation of the 2008 Bucharest Summit decision;
  - f. to sustain, promote, and support regional efforts, particularly the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), emphasising the ownership of Black Sea littoral states and focusing on the areas of pan-regional concern, including trade, tourism, education, culture, environmental protection and countering trafficking of human beings, weapons, and illicit substances;
  - g. to encourage people-to-people contact across the region through the development of travel opportunities and interconnectivity as means to support the evolution of regional identity;
  - h. to continue support for reforms in Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, including security sector reform;

- i. to remain committed to promoting respect for human rights, media freedom, good governance, and the rule of law in the region, and to speak firmly and with one voice in case of backsliding on those issues;
  - j. to reaffirm non-recognition of the illegal and illegitimate annexation of Crimea, and to continue emphasising the importance of full implementation of the Minsk Agreements, as well as the development of confidence-building measures aimed at restoring the territorial integrity of Ukraine in full and re-establishing stability in the region while stepping up efforts to safeguard rights of Crimean Tatars and holding Russia to account for its destabilisation of Ukraine;
  - k. to continue insisting on restoration of Georgia's territorial integrity and call on Russia to withdraw from Georgian territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia;
  - l. to support a peaceful settlement of the Transnistrian conflict with full respect for the Republic of Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders and to encourage the Republic of Moldova to move forward on a path of progress for all its citizens;
  - m. to encourage the EU to strengthen its engagement and sharpen its policies toward the Black Sea, by including this as an action point in the next Action Plan for the EU Maritime Security Strategy.
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