

26 September 2016

His Excellency Mr. Pedro Agramunt
President
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
Plaza de la Marina Española 8
Madrid 28071, Spain
pedro.agramunt@senado.es

Dear Mr. President:

Re: Re-engagement of Russian Federation in PACE

I wish to express the serious concern of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) about your most recent position regarding the re-engagement of the Russian Federation in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

As you are aware, the UWC is the international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians in over 50 countries, and our priority over the past almost three years has been to actively support the Ukrainian people in their struggle to protect Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity in accordance with the fundamental principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. This includes ensuring peace, security and stability in Eastern Europe, including full compliance with the Minsk agreements, and safeguarding European values including fundamental freedoms and basic human rights.

In your remarks to the press following a two-day working visit to Moscow on 5-6 September 2016, in reference to the Russian Federation, you stated:

[...] I can see that we pursue the same objective – ensuring that the Assembly fulfills its role of pan-European political forum for all 47 members of the Organisation. We have to work together to achieve this, and I look forward to the continuation of our discussions so as to make progress together [...].

You also made reference to the [Declaration](#) of the PACE Bureau from 24 June 2016 *Reaffirming the role of the Assembly as a pan-European forum for inter-parliamentary dialogue and co-operation* which reads in part:

As a statutory organ of the Council of Europe, the Assembly promotes co-operation among parliamentarians to achieve the goals of the Organisation to unite democracies, around common values and on the basis of their common heritage. [...]

[...] Our common interests in protecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law, both at national and international level, are stronger than the issues that divide us.

With the emphasis on common objectives, values and heritage, and mutual respect, the UWC draws your attention to PACE Resolutions [1990 \(2014\)](#), [2034 \(2015\)](#) and [2063 \(2015\)](#) specifically related to the actions, as well as inactions of the Russian Federation.

With these resolutions, PACE has urged Russian authorities to:

- reverse the illegal annexation of Crimea;
- refrain from exerting pressure and threatening to close independent media outlets;
- reverse the closure of the Crimean Tatar television channel, ATR;
- refrain from harassing, and putting pressure on, Crimean Tatar institutions and organisations; and
- take all necessary measures to ensure the continued availability of education in the Ukrainian language.

PACE Resolution 1990 (2014) also states:

The Assembly is extremely concerned about the developments in eastern Ukraine and condemns Russia's role in instigating and escalating these developments, including with arms supplies to insurgent forces and covert military action by Russian troops inside eastern Ukraine, which are a gross violation of international law, including the Statute of the Council of Europe as well as of the Minsk Protocol to which Russia is a party. [...]

PACE Resolution 2063 (2015) reads:

Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and military intervention in eastern Ukraine demonstrate its clear lack of willingness to honour its accession commitments with regard to its relations with neighbouring States.

PACE Resolution 2063 (2015) further calls upon the Russian authorities to:

- fully implement the Minsk Agreements and the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements, to which the Russian Federation is a party, and use its influence on the pro-Russian illegal armed groups to do the same;
- immediately reverse the illegal annexation of Crimea;
- withdraw all its troops from Ukrainian territory; [...]

There has been no attempt on the part of the Russian Federation to address any of the concerns raised in the PACE Resolutions and there has been no demonstration on the part of the Russian Federation of any common interest in protecting human rights, democracy or the rule of law. This was evident once again in Crimea where elections to the State Duma of the Russian Federation were held in four constituencies.

The UWC maintains the position that there can be no constructive dialogue based on mutual respect until the Russian Federation fully implements the Minsk agreements, returns the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and city of Sevastopol to Ukrainian control, withdraws its troops from the Eastern territories of Ukraine, and addresses all of the issues that continue to be consequences of these blatant violations of international law and agreements.

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I would appreciate an opportunity to meet with you to discuss this position on the re-engagement of the Russian Federation in PACE at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS



Eugene Czolij
President

c.c.: Mr. Mark Neville, Head of the Private Office of PACE
 Mr. Axel Fischer, Chairperson of the Group of the European People's Party in PACE
 Mr. Michele Nicoletti, Chairperson of the Socialist Group in PACE
 Mr. Jordi Xuclà, Chairperson of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe in PACE
 Mr. Ian Liddell-Grainger, Chairperson of the European Conservatives Group in PACE
 Mr. Tiny Kox, Chairperson of the Group of the Unified European Left in PACE
 Mr. Volodymyr Arieu, Chairperson of Ukrainian national delegation in PACE
 Ms. Yuliya L'Ovchukina, First Vice-Chairperson of Ukrainian national delegation in PACE
 Mr. Georgii Logvynskyi, Vice-Chairperson of Ukrainian national delegation in PACE
 Mr. Serhiy Sobolev, Vice-Chairperson of Ukrainian national delegation in PACE
 Mr. Oleksandr Bilovol, Member of Ukrainian national delegation in PACE
 Mr. Mustafa Dzhezhiliev, Member of Ukrainian national delegation in PACE
 Ms. Iryna Gerashchenko, Member of Ukrainian national delegation in PACE
 Mr. Oleksii Goncharenko, Member of Ukrainian national delegation in PACE
 Ms. Nadiia Savchenko, Member of Ukrainian national delegation in PACE
 Ms. Olena Sotnyk, Member of Ukrainian national delegation in PACE
 Mr. Viktor Vovk, Member of Ukrainian national delegation in PACE
 Mr. Leonid Yemets, Member of Ukrainian national delegation in PACE

The UWC is the international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians. The UWC has a network of member organizations and ties with Ukrainians in 50 countries. Founded in 1967, the UWC was recognized in 2003 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council as a non-governmental organization with special consultative status.

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