



1 **On Russia**
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3 The recent actions taken and language adopted by Vladimir Putin's government on the global
4 stage raise concerns not only regarding the rule of law and respect for human rights in
5 Russia, but also about the country's political intentions abroad and increasing coercive
6 influence on foreign states. Russia's ~~military intervention in South Ossetia violation of~~
7 ~~international law and agreements concerning Georgia~~ in 2008, its occupation of the Crimean
8 Peninsula in 2014 and the subsequent invasion of Eastern Ukraine proved that Putin's regime
9 will not stop short of using violence in its pursuit of rebuilding the influence, institutions and
10 territory of Russian and Soviet imperialist projects of the past. More recently, the regime has
11 increasingly leveraged its control of vast natural resources through state-owned energy
12 companies in furthering its revisionist agenda. Russian government bodies ~~have used~~
13 well-funded disinformation campaigns and overt propaganda to influence elections in
14 ~~European countries such as elections in~~ France and Germany ~~and the referendum on the~~
15 ~~membership of the United Kingdom in the European Union.~~ The US intelligence
16 community has also indicated that Russia gained access, through illegal means, to the
17 internal correspondence of US political groups in the run-up to the American presidential
18 election. ~~The Russian government and intelligence services insistently try to gain a~~
19 ~~firm political and economic foothold in the European Union and its institutions. In this~~
20 ~~regard, we are worried about the fact that some European governments support the~~
21 ~~Kremlin's policies rather than defend our common European values. Moreover,~~
22 ~~certain political circles and movements in the EU are financed by and might not be~~
23 ~~indifferent to Russian propaganda in its various forms. Working through certain Eastern~~
24 ~~European governments, often in exchange for unaccountably dispensed financial aid, the~~
25 ~~Russian government and intelligence services have gained a firm political and economic~~
26 ~~foothold in the European Union. By establishing a quiet presence in state bodies and security~~
27 ~~services, the Russian government has gained the capacity to indirectly influence decision-~~
28 ~~making in the European Commission and Parliament.~~

29 Sound in our conviction that free and fair democracies deliver the best possible governance
30 for all, the European Green Party cannot accept repeated violations of international law, the
31 norms of global cooperation, and the right of communities' to self-determination. We
32 denounce the attempts by Vladimir Putin's government to sway elections in its favour and its
33 use of natural resources to blackmail sovereign states.

34 We acknowledge that recent actions by the Russian state pose a direct threat to the
35 democratic infrastructure of European, Middle Eastern and Asian states. We reaffirm our
36 support for the territorial integrity of Ukraine, and do not recognise the legitimacy of any



37 referendum held under the duress of military occupation. We continue to observe worrying
38 developments in Russian society and public life with great concern, and we believe that
39 inequality, crackdown on civil society, blatant disregard for mass human rights
40 violations, including the continuing violence against and persecution of LGBTIQ+
41 peoples in Russia, lopsided economic development, a systematic disregard for
42 environmental protection and sustainability, and a permanent arms race will never benefit the
43 interests and general well-being of Russian citizens and might also prove to be a threat to
44 the democratic values in the European Union. We advocate for a democratic, prosperous,
45 globally engaged and sustainable Russia at peace with its neighbours, global partners and
46 regional stakeholders.

47 Furthermore, the European Green Party supports EU sanctions on Russia linked to
48 both the annexation of Crimea and the war in the Donbass, and stands firm for their
49 extension as long as these crises are not solved.

50 We urge European institutions and EU member states to deepen exchange with
51 Russian civil society, academia, independent media and progressive opposition
52 forces. Condemning and sanctioning official Russian elites for violations of
53 international law should be paralleled by offering and showing Russian civil society
54 and the Russian people better alternatives.