



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 in 2008, its
7 occupation of the Crimean Peninsula in 2014 and the subsequent invasion of Eastern
8 Ukraine proved that Putin's regime will not stop short of using violence in its pursuit of
9 rebuilding the influence, institutions and territory of Russian and Soviet imperialist projects of
10 the past. More recently, the regime has increasingly leveraged its control of vast natural
11 resources through state-owned energy companies in furthering its revisionist agenda.
12 Russian government bodies have used well-funded disinformation campaigns and overt
13 propaganda to influence elections in France and Germany. The US intelligence community
14 has also indicated that Russia gained access, through illegal means, to the internal
15 correspondence of US political groups in the run-up to the American presidential election.
16 Working through certain Eastern European governments, often in exchange for
17 unaccountably dispensed financial aid, the Russian government and intelligence services
18 have gained a firm political and economic foothold in the European Union. By establishing a
19 quiet presence in state bodies and security services, the Russian government has gained the
20 capacity to indirectly influence decision-making in the European Commission and
21 Parliament.

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

27 We acknowledge that recent actions by the Russian state pose a direct threat to the
28 democratic infrastructure of European, Middle Eastern and Asian states. We reaffirm our
29 support for the territorial integrity of Ukraine, and do not recognise the legitimacy of any
30 referendum held under the duress of military occupation. We continue to observe worrying
31 developments in Russian society and public life with great concern, and we believe that
32 inequality, lopsided economic development, a systematic disregard for environmental
33 protection and sustainability, and a permanent arms race will never benefit the interests and
34 general well-being of Russian citizens. We advocate for a democratic, prosperous, globally
35 engaged and sustainable Russia at peace with its neighbours, global partners and regional
36 stakeholders.