



Draft

Title: **Future Relations with Russia must be based on values, the rule of law and fundamental rights**

Tabled by: Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament

Draft text

1 The Russian government continues its systematic efforts to move its country
2 further away from standards of international law, democracy and human rights and
3 locking it into ever-greater dependency on fossil-fuel exports, rent-seeking and
4 a corruption-based economy model. This strategic choice by the Russian
5 government is a test for European democracies, civil societies and thus to us as
6 a green movement. It is time to define our positions based on our green values,
7 including sustainability, transparency, the rule of law and fundamental rights.

8 Our green overarching objective is to shape our relationship with the Russian
9 Federation in such a way that:

- 10 • regional and global peace and stability, as well as norms of international
11 law are preserved;
- 12 • the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries in Europe are
13 restored and secured;
- 14 • human rights, democracy and the rule of law are prioritised; while we
- 15 • keep and create possibilities for collaboration to solve common problems.

16 The European Union, its Member States, other European states and allies must
17 clearly denounce any violations of international law by the Russian government

18 or its affiliated actors, consistently take resolute countermeasures, while
19 keeping their credibility and refraining from applying double standards. At the
20 same time, we should aim for institutional cooperation with Russia in
21 international organisations and multilateral treaties in order to promote
22 complementary or equal interests, such as in the realm of environmental issues
23 and the green transformation of Russia, the EU and neighbouring countries, in
24 particular by making use of the unique opportunities offered by the European
25 Green Deal. A prerequisite of such institutional collaboration is the mutual
26 understanding that joining forces in certain specific fields does not presuppose
27 any concessions in others, especially those concerning values. While seeking
28 such cooperation, we should always consider the geostrategic risks resulting
29 from abuse of such cooperation by the Russian government. Solidarity among the
30 EU, its Member States, other European states and allies must not be undermined
31 by their respective Russia policies but must foster mutual cooperation and
32 trust. Before joining economic projects, we should ensure that such projects do
33 not damage European solidarity, benefit corrupt individuals or entities, or have
34 a negative impact on human rights or the environment.

35 **Therefore, we, the European Green Party, base our vision for relations with the**
36 **Russian Federation on the following principles:**

- 37 1. Prioritising support for the citizens of Russia, their fundamental rights
38 and a democratic Russian civil society.
- 39 2. Using every means possible to support, financially and otherwise,
40 independent civil society, human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists,
41 bloggers and activists, in particular those fighting for the rights of
42 women and marginalised groups, and environmental action in Russia.
- 43 3. Demanding that the Russian authorities release all those unjustly
44 imprisoned for political reasons and stop the harassment, intimidations
45 and attacks on civil society, media, human rights defenders and activists
46 and, where appropriate, facilitate the issuing of emergency visas and
47 provide temporary shelter.
- 48 4. Strengthening people-to-people contacts with the citizens of Russia,
49 lowering visa barriers and broadening exchange programmes, as well as
50 direct recruitment opportunities for both high- and low-skill workers from
51 Russia, and creating and widening opportunities for politically motivated

- 52 immigrants from Russia to settle in Europe.
- 53 5. Supporting fundamental human rights, including championing gender
54 equality, LGBTIQ+ rights and minority rights in Russia, and helping
55 oppressed citizens in Russia, fighting racism, xenophobia, hate crimes,
56 police brutality, and other forms of discrimination or persecution.
- 57 6. Expecting European governments, especially in the EU, to implement their
58 commitments to gender mainstreaming in all external actions and raising
59 the issues of gender equality, women's rights and gender-based violence in
60 their interactions with the Russian Federation, and raising awareness
61 among the population.
- 62 7. Calling on European governments to go beyond treating the political elite
63 as the sole political actor in the country, and to increase engagement
64 with the Russian regions in order to open the door to more independent
65 cooperation with regional and local actors.
- 66 8. Continuously calling on Russia to repeal or amend all laws incompatible
67 with international standards, such as the 'foreign agents' law and the law
68 on 'undesirable' organisations, and insisting on the depoliticisation of
69 the judiciary, and the right to fair trial and access to legal counsel.
- 70 9. Calling on the Russian government and State Duma to revise the legal
71 framework for elections, including on election observation, to facilitate
72 pluralism and free and fair elections according to international
73 standards.
- 74 10. Pushing for an EU anti-corruption sanctions regime to complement the
75 current EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime, and also insisting on
76 sanctions that target the financing of intelligence services and the
77 military, as well as the oil and gas sector, in the event of further
78 escalation.
- 79 11. Supporting nuclear disarmament, arms reduction and arms control aimed at
80 reducing the risk of nuclear detonation for the European continent,
81 through reciprocal regional disarmament.
- 82 12. Advocating for the proper implementation of anti-money-laundering rules

83 and more transparency, especially in relation to the Russian elite's funds
84 and assets deposited or spent in the EU.

85 13. Continuing to support the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries in upholding
86 their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within their
87 internationally recognised borders, and condemning Russia's direct and
88 indirect involvement in armed conflicts in the EaP and human rights
89 violations carried out on territories occupied or annexed by Russia, as
90 well as offering them a long-term perspective for EU integration.

91 14. Demanding strengthened resilience and countermeasure capabilities against
92 hybrid interference, in particular to counter propaganda and
93 disinformation originating from Russia and spread in other countries, as
94 well as cyber attacks and military espionage.

95 15. Further supporting the independent media, journalists and bloggers in
96 Russia so as to strengthen alternative sources and channels that are not
97 controlled by the Kremlin.

98 16. Pushing for effective strategies in the field of digital policy in order
99 to use technological standards and the open internet to support free
100 spaces and restrict oppressive technologies.

101 17. Continuing to oppose the use of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline and the
102 expansion of Russia's nuclear-energy sector, as well as systematically
103 reviewing similar bilateral projects that undermine the principle of
104 solidarity, supporting corruption or leading to human rights violations.

105 18. Advocating for an ambitious and resolute European green agenda and
106 reducing our dependency on Russian gas and oil, and other raw materials,
107 including by accelerating the implementation of the European Green Deal
108 and rejecting the notion of natural gas as an allegedly intermediate
109 lower-carbon path towards achieving climate goals.