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MINISTERS' DEPUTIES

Decisions

CM/Del/Dec(2022)1428bis/2.3

10 March 2022

1428bis meeting, 10 March 2022

2.3 Consequences of the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine

Decisions

The Deputies

Referring to their decisions on the situation in Ukraine of 24 February 2022 (CM/Del/Dec(2022)1426bis/2.3), 25 February 2022 (CM/Del/Dec(2022)1426ter/2.3) and 2 March 2022 (CM/Del/Dec(2022)1427/2.5) and recalling their decisions on the human rights situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sebastopol (Ukraine) of 11 May 2021 (CM/Del/Dec(2021)1403bis/2.3);

1. considered that the aggression of the Russian Federation within the sovereign territory of Ukraine, which they condemned in the strongest terms yet again, is responsible for the immense suffering of the Ukrainian population and constitutes a breach of peace of unprecedented magnitude on the European continent since the creation of the Council of Europe;
2. expressed their deep concern about the fate of the civilian population victim of the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, in particular the most vulnerable persons such as the elderly, the disabled and children; and in this context, deplored the atrocious bombing of a maternity/paediatric hospital in Mariupol on 9 March 2022 the perpetrators of which must be brought to justice;
3. strongly urged the Russian Federation to implement the interim measures indicated by the European Court of Human Rights on 1 and 4 March 2022, including with a view to ensure access of the civilian population to safe evacuation routes as well as to ensure rapid passage of humanitarian assistance;
4. welcomed and encouraged the willingness of member States to host or assist a large and increasing number of refugees seeking protection outside Ukraine and also welcomed the support given by those States which have opened their borders to refugees and the willingness of the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) to take immediate action to help its members cope with this crisis;
5. welcomed and encouraged the initiatives taken by Council of Europe bodies and institutions, including the Commissioner for Human Rights, to support the Ukrainian authorities and alleviate the suffering of the population;
6. agreed, in this context, to act in close coordination with other relevant international organisations on all related issues falling within its competence;
7. recalled their decision of 25 February 2022 to suspend the Russian Federation from its rights of representation in the Council of Europe in accordance with Article 8 of the Statute;
8. instructed the Secretariat to prepare the necessary decisions to suspend the right of representation of the Russian Federation in partial agreements of which it is a member for adoption at their next meeting;
9. remained determined to act in close co-ordination with the Parliamentary Assembly in the context of further measures to be taken in response to the serious violations by the Russian Federation of its statutory obligations as a member State of the Council of Europe and agreed to consult the Parliamentary Assembly on potential further use of Article 8 of the Statute of the Council of Europe which reads as follows "Any member of the Council of Europe which has seriously violated Article 3 may be suspended from its right of representation and requested by the Committee of Ministers to withdraw under Article 7. If such member does not comply with this request, the Committee may decide that it has ceased to be a member of the Council from such date as the Committee may determine".

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