

Committee: UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Topic: RUSSIA-UKRAINE CRISIS

Country: GREECE

Russia invasion of Ukraine generated a threat to peace and stability of the European continent, established after the end of the WWII and the Cold War. Memories of the devastating consequences have been brought to surface and Western major powers united forces to stop the assaults. Greece historically and as a Christian Orthodox country has enjoyed good relations with Russia. However, the Greek political and public sphere is against war. The government and all Greek parties have articulated the need for Russia to respect the International Law and the sovereignty of Ukraine. Moreover, within the framework of the participation of Greece to the EU and NATO, the country has agreed to impose sanctions and take measures against Russia. On the other hand, the decision of the government to follow NATO's strategy and send military aid to Ukraine has been strongly criticized by the opposition parties.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine caused the immediate response of the Greek government not only at the EU and NATO level but domestically as well. All the political party leaders condemned the recent events and called Russia to cease the attack.

Greece is in close cooperation with EU and NATO for addressing the violation of the territorial integrity of Ukraine and the fundamental principles of International Law. In order to assist the ethnic Greeks , the Greek authorities in Kyiv and Mariupol are on constant alert. Regarding the gas supply all the scenarios have been considered and the necessary measures have been taken to continue the smooth supply of the country

What is happening in Ukraine does not only violate International Law, but also puts into question the whole architectural security of Europe. This is why the EU's response will be exceptionally robust". Moreover, Greece declared the intentions to propose measures to support member states against steep rises in the prices of electricity

the announcement on the 26th of February that 10 ethnic Greeks were killed, during Russian air strikes in the city of Mariupol, generated the response of all the political party leaders in the country against the Russian invasion. However, the Embassy of Russia in Greece a day later published a statement calling the Greek politicians, high profile officials and journalists to stop the anti-Russian propaganda. The Russian Embassy also declared that Russia has nothing to do with the deaths of the 10 ethnic Greeks. Following this statement, the spokesman of the Foreign Minister declared that the announcement of the Russian embassy was completely unacceptable and argued that the Ministry has proof which indicate that the deaths were a result of attacks by Russian military forces.

The Greek government has openly taken sides and closely cooperates with EU and NATO to stop the war in Ukraine. All Greek political party leaders are against the recent decisions of Russia and in favour of a diplomatic solution. However, the call of the PM to send military aid to Ukraine has raised concerns. All opposition parties, except from KINAL, request that Greece should not become involved in the war and not follow the decisions of the Western major powers against Russia. Nevertheless, during the catastrophic events unfolding in the European continent, consensus and close cooperation of

the political parties (internally) as well as international organizations (externally) is vital and urgently needs to be reached.

The PM brought the reduction of natural gas imports from Russia to 33%, Moreover Greece covered 47% of its domestic demand with LNG from Revythousa LNG terminal and 20% through the TAP pipeline. The country intends to proceed, with private funds, to the construction of a second LNG receiving station, the Floating Storage Regasification Unit (FSRU) in Alexandroupolis

It is evident that the Greek government has set as its top priority the acceleration of participating and implementing projects in the energy sector. At the center of the current energy developments lie the projects of EuroAfrica and EuroAsia interconnectors, as well as other initiatives, such as the EastMed pipeline. Further developments are expected in the near future concerning the gas and electricity supply of Greece and other European countries from the region of Eastern Mediterranean

The Greek government implemented measures to ensure the effective management of the crisis and the support of the Ukrainian refugees and on the other international organizations as well as NGOs contribute to this effort. However, the war operations of Russia and the time period of the attacks will determine the numbers of the displaced Ukrainians and the future conditions of their repatriation. Consequently, these events will determine the effectiveness of the support measures taken, as well as the additional policies that the states will need to consider in order to assist the Ukrainian refugees