

To: Members of the UN Security Council

Brussels, 19 February 2020

Your Excellencies,

President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin has recently called on China, France, the United Kingdom and the United States to convene a meeting of the Permanent Members of the UN Security Council to discuss global threats and fight against chauvinism, racism, hate and anti-Semitism.

It is still not very clear if such a meeting is going to happen. The issues, which are proposed to be discussed, are important ones, but the initiative of President Putin has very clear internal contradiction, which should be very carefully considered before approving it.

The initiative to discuss these threats and ways to maintain global peace and security comes from the leader of a government, which effectively denies international rules and norms, pursues aggressive military expansionist policy, uses active measures to sow discord in sovereign countries, uses distorted historical narratives as a tool of hybrid warfare against democracies and denies horrific crimes committed by the Soviet totalitarian regime - occupations and genocide, responsibility for millions of violent deaths in extrajudicial executions, mass-deportations, killing populations in labor camps and artificially created famines.

The European Parliament Resolution on the Importance of the European Remembrance for the Future of Europe, adopted on 19 September 2019, condemns in the strongest terms the acts of aggression, crimes against humanity and mass human rights violations perpetrated by the Nazi, communist and other totalitarian regimes, and calls for remembrance that rejects the crimes of fascist, Stalinist, and other totalitarian and authoritarian regimes of the past as a way of fostering resilience against modern threats to democracy. It also stresses that the Second World War, the most devastating war in Europe's history, was started as an immediate result of the notorious Nazi-Soviet Treaty on Non-Aggression of 23 August 1939, also known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, and its secret protocols, whereby two totalitarian regimes that shared the goal of world conquest divided Europe into two zones of influence.

Unfortunately, in recent decades glorification of Stalinism and nostalgia for the Soviet past is increasingly becoming a state-promoted propaganda in Russia. Though in December 1989, the Congress of People's Deputies of the Soviet Union has finally recognized existence and condemned the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact and its secret protocols, today Vladimir Putin defends the Pact and attacks countries, that have actually fallen prey to two tyrannies, as culpable for the outbreak of the Second World War.

Hence, as the European Parliament Resolution points out, Russia remains the greatest victim of communist totalitarianism. Russia's development into a

democratic state will be impeded as long as the government, the political elite and political propaganda continue to whitewash communist crimes and glorify the Soviet totalitarian regime.

Intolerance, radicalization and anti-Semitism, propagation of totalitarian ideologies under different disguise is a very troubling tendency on the rise in many countries and must be decisively fought against. The rehabilitation of Soviet totalitarianism is dangerous to peace, democracy and human rights, as the rehabilitation of fascism and Nazism. Therefore, any discussion on the suggested topic by the Permanent Members of the UN Security Council will not be productive without addressing rehabilitation of all forms of totalitarian ideologies. We encourage you to use this opportunity to call on the President of the Russian Federation to stop dissemination of distorted historical narratives, uphold international law and norms, condemn Soviet atrocities, fully open the Soviet time secret services' archives and allow cooperation in legal cases on Soviet crimes.

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