

Decrying ‘Horrible Madness of War,’ Irish MEPs Call for Diplomacy in Ukraine

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“Most people seem to get off on the fact that it’s escalating,” said socialist MEP Clare Daly, who condemned the E.U. for doing nothing to prevent Russia’s war from becoming “a wider horror.”

Two Irish members of the European Parliament on Thursday voted against a resolution calling for a massive increase in weapons shipments to Ukraine and blasted E.U. member nations over their refusal to pursue diplomatic initiatives to end Russia’s devastating war.

In a fiery [floor speech](#) ahead of Thursday’s vote on the resolution—which ultimately passed by an [overwhelming margin](#) of 504 to 26, with 36 abstentions—Irish **MEP Clare Daly** lamented that “practically nobody in this chamber is doing anything to prevent” the war in Ukraine from “quickly escalating into a wider horror,” a nod at the growing risk of [nuclear catastrophe](#) as Russian **President Vladimir Putin** ramps up his [threatening rhetoric](#).

“In fact, most people seem to get off on the fact that it’s escalating,” said Daly, an Independent. “And at this precise moment, of course, as usual, the voices challenging the rush to war are attacked and silenced, smeared as traitors, cronies, Putin puppets, Kremlin stooges, Russian agents.”

“Frankly, it’s pathetic,” she continued. “And I don’t make the comparison lightly, but the crudeness and cynicism of these slurs coming from mainstream E.U. parties might as well have been written by [Nazi war criminal] Hermann Göring, who infamously said that even though people never want war, they can be brought to war with threats and smears.”

“This house should be ashamed of this debate,” Daly added. “Words are being twisted, meanings subverted, and the truth turned on its head. Opposing the horrible madness of war is not anti-European, it’s not anti-Ukrainian, it’s not pro-Russian: it’s common

sense. The working class of Europe has nothing to gain from this war and everything to lose. And I find it laughable that those calling for arms to Ukraine never call for arms for the people of Palestine, or for the people of Yemen. Unlike you, I oppose all war. I want it stopped. I make no apology for that.”

As war in Ukraine escalates out of control, out come the vicious, scapegoating slurs against those who speak for peace: "cronies," "puppets," "stooges," "agents." Opposing the horror of war is not "anti-European," "anti-Ukrainian" or "pro-Russian." It's common sense. pic.twitter.com/KU9mAYYFmf

— Clare Daly (@ClareDalyMEP) [October 6, 2022](#)

In addition to calling on nations backing Ukraine to “massively increase their military assistance,” the newly approved resolution condemned “in the strongest possible terms the unjustified, unprovoked, and illegal Russian war of aggression against Ukraine” and denounced as “illegal and illegitimate” the “sham referendums conducted at gunpoint to annex the oblasts of Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhia.”

Daly and fellow Independent Irish **MEP Mick Wallace** emphasized following Thursday’s vote that they have consistently opposed Russian aggression in Ukraine and that they rejected the resolution because of its calls for more arms deliveries and its “bellicose, escalatory language.”

“We don’t believe that pouring more weapons into Ukraine is a good idea,” Wallace [said](#) in a radio interview Friday. “We think more Ukrainians will die and it’s going to have a terrible impact on an awful lot of people.”

Since Russia’s invasion began in February, E.U. member countries have [provided billions of euros worth](#) of military assistance to Ukraine.

Earlier this week, Daly and Wallace teamed up with Independent Irish **MEP Luke Ming Flanagan**—who abstained from the resolution—to introduce an amendment decrying the “absence of E.U. diplomatic initiatives” and advocating “negotiations and dialogue to achieve a cease-fire” and a peaceful end to the war.

The Irish Times [reported](#) that the amendment “was rejected by the majority of MEPs.”

In an [explanation](#) of her vote Thursday, Daly wrote that while she condemns “the illegal aggression of Russia,” she also disagrees with a “one-sided narrative that excuses the Western role in what is now happening.”

“I urge a cease-fire, negotiations, and genuine E.U. efforts to secure a peace,” Daly continued. “I oppose the policy of collective punishment, sanctions that also hurt European citizens, the flooding of Ukraine with weapons, and other actions that escalate the war and run the risk of igniting a direct conflict between NATO and Russia.”

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Featured image: Clare Daly, an Irish member of the European Parliament, delivers a speech on October 5, 2022. (Photo: Clare Daly/[Facebook](#) Screenshot)

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