



EU-UKRAINE PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE **Meeting 24 March 2022 (Brussels and Kyiv)**

JOINT STATEMENT

The 13th, extraordinary meeting of the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee (PAC) was held on 24 March 2022 in Brussels and Kyiv and was co-chaired by Vadym Halaichuk on behalf of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and by Witold Waszczykowski on behalf of the European Parliament. The EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee remains determined to continue its activities and to hold regular discussions on EU-Ukraine relations, on the parliamentary follow-up to Ukraine's official application for EU membership and on EU support to Ukraine in the context of the ongoing Russian war of aggression.

Members of the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee adopted the following statement:

We, Members of the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee, condemn in the strongest possible terms the Russian Federation's unprovoked and unjustified, senseless and cruel military aggression against Ukraine. This full-scale military invasion is not only a gross violation of international law and an attack on the principles and mechanism of cooperation and security in Europe and the rules-based international order, but also a violation of the basic principles of human coexistence and civilisation.

We commend the Ukrainian people's heroic struggle and united effort against the Russian military assault, in the defence not only of their country but also of our common European values of peace, parliamentary democracy, pluralism and basic freedoms.

We call on the Russian Federation to return to fulfilling its responsibilities as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and to fully respect its commitments under the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the Budapest Memorandum.

We demand that the Russian Federation immediately terminate all military activities in Ukraine, unconditionally withdraw all military and paramilitary forces and military equipment, including those



of its proxies, from the internationally recognised territory of Ukraine, and fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognised borders.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms the repeated and indiscriminate attacks against civilian targets and infrastructure and the use of cluster munitions and thermobaric rockets, as well as all other illegal weapons designed to inflict maximum damage. Repeated violations of International Humanitarian Law by impeding access to food and medicines, attacks against apartment blocks, kindergartens, schools, hospitals, places of worship and business must stop.

We commend the extraordinary solidarity and support provided for the Ukrainian refugees in Moldova and in EU Member States, particularly in neighbouring Poland, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia, as well as the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive and the financial resources mobilised for their support by the EU, Member States, local authorities, civil society organisations and ordinary citizens. We draw the attention to the plight of the growing number of internally displaced persons inside Ukraine who are fleeing destroyed homes and cities, residential areas under shelling and who may lack basic human needs for shelter, food, health care and sanitation.

We welcome the emergency financial support mobilised by the EU and call on the Commission and the EU Member States to provide further emergency humanitarian assistance to Ukraine in cooperation with UN humanitarian agencies and other international partner organizations. We urge the Russian Federation to grant safe and unimpeded access for UN humanitarian agencies, including in the temporarily non-government-controlled areas of eastern and southern Ukraine.

We call on the EU and its Member States to provide humanitarian assistance to victims and civilians to meet the priority needs of people in food, clothing, first aid, as well as to contribute to the opening of humanitarian (green) corridors for the safe evacuation of women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly and ensuring their safety in direct cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross in accordance with their mandate under the Geneva Conventions.

We urge the UN humanitarian agencies and the International Committee of the Red Cross to speed up and enhance their enrolment and scale up their presence in Ukraine.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms the behaviour of the Russian occupation troops and their proxies who are arbitrarily detaining, abducting or kidnapping Ukrainian journalists, civil society activists, elected representatives, local civil servants, medics and paramedics and other civilians in Ukrainian territories temporarily under the illegal control by the Russian Armed Forces. We consider such acts a direct, open and deliberate violation of the UN Charter, III Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 12 August 1949, IV Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of August 1949, and the Hague Conventions, according to which non-combatants should not be detained and considered prisoners of war.



We call on the Russian Federation to disclose information about the whereabouts and well-being of kidnapped and deported citizens, especially young children and unaccompanied minors.

We recommend the establishment and regular updating by the European Parliament and the national parliaments of the EU Member States of a public register of illegally detained Ukrainian citizens.

The Parliamentary Association Committee commends all local and international efforts to fight impunity and accountability for war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law. We welcome the recent decision of the International Court of Justice of March 16 2022, which states that Russia must immediately and unconditionally cease hostilities and withdraw all forces and military equipment from all territory of Ukraine. We support the establishment of a special tribunal for accountability for war crimes in Ukraine, as well as all further efforts to strengthen cooperation mechanisms and the International Criminal Court in order to bring to justice those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Ukraine, including assistance in the primary collection and preservation of evidence. We support all related legal steps and the ratification of the Rome Statute by Ukraine that would facilitate pursuing accountability for international crimes committed by the Russian Federation.

The Parliamentary Association Committee welcomes Ukraine's official request for EU membership. We reiterate the European Parliament's call to for the EU institutions to work towards granting EU candidate status to Ukraine, in line with Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union and on the basis of merit. Therefore we expect the European Commission to carry out its assessment swiftly, enabling the subsequent granting of official candidate status.

We call on the EU and its Member States to temporarily waive export quotas on products from Ukraine and to provide financial assistance to Ukrainian businesses, given that most Ukrainian businesses are facing difficulties remaining financially solvent due to the ongoing war effort.

We welcome military support provided by EU Member States and under the European Peace Facility, and urge the supply of further military aid based on a coordinated needs assessment agreed with the Ukrainian authorities in order to strengthen air and anti-tank defences, and to provide protective and secure communications equipment. We underline that providing defensive weapons to Ukraine is fully in line with international law according to Article 51 of the UN Charter, which allows for individual and collective self-defence. We urge increasing prompt and regular military intelligence cooperation with Ukraine regarding the ongoing aggression and to share satellite images through satellite systems.

We strongly encourage stepping up cooperation in the area of cybersecurity and disinformation in order to counter Russian Federation's hybrid attacks and information warfare.



We call on the EU to impose further ambitious and robust sanctions on Russia and Belarus, focusing on

- import restrictions on the most important Russian export goods, including oil, gas and coal; considering the application of an appropriate price cap on those imports and exploring all legal and political options to withhold payments to Russian companies and their intermediaries in special escrow accounts under international oversight that could subsequently be used for the purpose of war reparations and damages;
- further sanctions in the banking sector, a full ban of the Russian Federation and Belarus from the SWIFT system, including Gazprombank and Sberbank, and targeting the use of alternative means to SWIFT for related transactions or for similar sanctions;
- the halting all Russian investment in the field of energy in the EU, including in the nuclear energy sector;
- the exclusion of Russian companies or subsidiaries from public procurement in the EU;
- targeted sanctions against individuals responsible for high-level corruption in Russia and Belarus as well as oligarchs and officials close to the leadership, as well as their family members;
- conducting a thorough screening and review of the so called “residence by investment schemes” in the EU and revoking residence permits from all Russian beneficiaries attributed to Russian high-net-worth individuals and their families;
- banning Russian shipping, logistical and port access in the EU’s territory.

We welcome the establishment of the European Commission's ‘Freeze and Seize’ Task Force to ensure EU-level and international coordination to implement sanctions against listed Russian and Belarussian oligarchs alongside the newly established ‘Russian Elites, Proxies, and Oligarchs (REPO)’ Task Force, under which the EU operates together with the G7 countries and Australia and urge the EU to extend this coordination to all international partners, including Switzerland, Turkey and Israel, in an attempt to address existing gaps in the application of sanctions and the freezing of assets.

We call for the EU and its Member States to continue providing the strongest possible economic and financial support to Ukraine, as well as macro-financial and technical assistance, to recalibrate and regroup EU budget instruments available to support Ukraine, and to devise a long-term strategy to support Ukraine’s efforts in strengthening the resilience of its democratic institutions and economy.

We demand the Russian military forces to immediately cease military actions in the vicinity of nuclear power plants and to ensure their proper operation under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) supervision, including by the possible physical presence of its experts, to avoid any further risks to nuclear safety in Ukraine or the wider European region. The staff of nuclear facilities should be guaranteed to carry out their tasks in adequate and safe operating conditions, with a special emphasis



on tasks related to security and continuous controls. The continuous flow of transparent and verified, reliable information to international oversight bodies should be upheld in the interest of safety.

We welcome the creation of a Solidarity Trust Fund to give liquidity for continued support to the Ukrainian authorities and to serve as a backbone for the reconstruction of a free and democratic Ukraine. We also underline the need for preparations for an international Donors' Conference, as well as innovative and creative financial mechanisms to keep continued support flowing to the Ukrainian authorities who need to ensure continuous provision of basic services, and subsequently for the purpose of reconstructing critical infrastructure. We call on EU Member States to urgently consider the use of frozen Russian assets held in EU Member States for the purpose of covering war damages and reparations.

As parliamentarians serving our constituents, we look forward to continuing our work at the service of our citizens in peacetime, discussing the next steps of Ukraine's chosen European path.