



**DECLARATION**  
*on*  
**the situation in Ukraine,**  
*May 2022*

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**We, the Chairpersons of the Foreign Affairs Committees of the Parliaments of France, Germany, Italy and Spain:**

- Strongly denouncing the unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine launched by the President of the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022, in defiance of all the provisions of international law guaranteeing the sovereignty of States and the integrity of their territories,
- Condemning unreservedly the massive destruction and damage inflicted by the occupying Russian armed forces on the country and its population, as well as the numerous human rights violations committed on Ukrainian soil,
- Stressing that the invasion of Ukraine follows the gross violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity, which took place on 20 February 2014 with the illegal occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol and parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions,
- Recalling the inalienable right of Ukraine to the defence of its sovereignty and territory, in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter,
- Convinced that Ukraine must have its full place in the concert of free and democratic nations on the European continent, that peace and security in Ukraine are essential to the stability of the whole of Europe, and that respect for Ukraine's right to sovereignty and independence is essential for the re-establishment of an international community in accordance with the United Nations Charter,

**Declare the following:**

1. In the face of the threat of famine and all manner of disruption caused by prolonging this senseless and devastating war, it is urgently necessary for the Russians to decide on a cease-fire, diplomacy and peace. We therefore call on the authorities of the Russian Federation to suspend the hostilities and finally engage in serious negotiations, to bring to an end a war that is deeply detrimental to both parties, and to conclude an agreement for which the only prerequisite must be acknowledging the sovereignty of Ukraine and the integrity of its territory, and safeguarding it as a free and independent State;

2. The courage of the armies and all the citizens of Ukraine in defending their land is admirable and commands our respect; it makes it our duty to strengthen their capacity to resist the continuing aggression of the Russian forces, in order to block their way until they are driven out of Ukraine;
3. It is, in particular, the responsibility of the states guaranteeing the integrity of Ukraine's borders and its independence in accordance with the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, to take all appropriate measures to assist Ukraine in preserving its sovereignty and borders when these are unilaterally violated by the Russian Federation, which had undertaken to guarantee them;
4. The imperative need to prevent the risk of an uncontrolled spread of the conflict prohibits members of the European Union and the Atlantic Alliance from entering the war as co-belligerents in support of Ukraine. For Ukraine's friends and defenders of its sovereignty, there is therefore no alternative to the delivery of military equipment for the defence of an attacked Ukraine or to the economic sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation in order to prevent it from financing its war effort;
5. The redeployment of the aggressor country's forces, which in recent days have focused on the invasion of the eastern and southern regions of Ukraine, should not be interpreted as a downgrading of the ambitions pursued by the Russian authorities but rather as a strategic reorientation aimed at crushing Ukrainian military resistance through a massive and merciless confrontation. The Russian Federation's troops are now engaged in a still uncertain battle for control of the Donbass, from the shores of the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea to Odessa. This battle is decisive for Ukraine's survival and must therefore be won by the Ukrainians. It is therefore essential to increase and qualitatively adapt the supply of military resources to the Ukrainian defence forces to enable them to resist victoriously the new forms of aggression to which they are subjected. We call on the friendly states of Ukraine to intensify their efforts in this direction;
6. The most effective sanctions are those that impede the financing of the war by the Russian Federation. They should therefore focus on Russian energy exports. We call for a rapid and ambitious consensus on a ban on Russian oil purchases. With regard to gas, the European Union and its allies should phase out their dependency on Russian gas deliveries as quickly as possible. To this end, the European Union and its allies should study the establishment of a specific customs instrument aiming, through a substantial increase in duties on Russian gas imports to be paid *de facto* by the Russian exporters, to encourage the rapid recourse to alternative solutions while avoiding an interruption in supplies that would be harmful to the growth of our economies;
7. The aim is clearly to put an end to a war that is causing so much unnecessary and unjustified suffering to the Ukrainian civilian population and to enable Ukraine to regain, as soon as possible, the full attributes of a sovereign and independent state throughout its territory. The Russian Federation must imperatively and without delay cease targeting civilian populations, whose lives and physical integrity as well as their property are being assaulted, in defiance of every provision of international law. Putting an end to the war is also essential to protect many countries, which are far from the places where battles are being waged, from its collateral effects. We are particularly concerned by the consequences that the war may have on some of the most vulnerable

countries as a result of the shortage of wheat or other basic products supplies, as the FAO has recently warned;

8. Looking beyond the violence of the conflict, we support Ukraine's EU ambitions. We must therefore open the way for Ukraine, as well as Moldova and Georgia, to join our European family. In this spirit, we welcome President Macron's proposal to establish a new "European Political Community" that could serve as an exclusive framework for cooperation between the EU and future member states whose accession still needs time. Yet, full membership remains the ultimate goal. In parallel, the 27 Member States must also move forward towards establishing an institutionally enhanced European Union with a range of different competences. We also firmly underline the commitment made to countries of the Western Balkans at the Thessaloniki Summit in 2003 and thus support the official opening of accession negotiations with North Macedonia and Albania.

**Signatories :**



**Jean-Louis BOURLANGES**

Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly



**Piero FASSINO**

Chairman of the Committee on Foreign and Community Affairs of the Italian Chamber of Deputies



**Pau MARÍ KLOSE**

Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Spanish Congress of Deputies



**Michael ROTH**

Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the German Bundestag