



JOINT STATEMENT

BY THE BUREAU OF THE EU-UKRAINE PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S STANDING RAPPORTEUR ON UKRAINE,

on the latest developments related to and caused by the unprovoked and unjustified war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine

Brussels/ Kyiv, 19 August 2022: “Following on from the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee (PAC) statements of March, April and June 2022, as well as the PAC final statement and recommendations of 8-9 June 2022 and numerous statements by EU leaders;

Staying fully committed to Ukraine’s independence and territorial integrity, non-recognition of the occupation of Ukraine’s territories starting from 2014 including Crimea, supporting Ukraine’s inalienable right to preserve, restore and defend its territorial integrity including the right to adequately respond to every manifestation of terror;

We, the members of the EU-Ukraine PAC Bureau, issued the following joint statement with regard to recent developments related to and caused by the unprovoked and unjustified war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine:

Situation in Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant and Russia’s nuclear blackmail

We strongly condemn the actions of the Russian occupying forces on the territory of the Zaporizhzhia NPP in the city of Energodar as well as the unprecedented usage of the facilities for launching attacks against Ukrainian forces or for any other military purposes, including as shelter or storage, which not only prevent the safe operation of the plant and its regular control procedures, but also puts in a grave danger the nuclear safety of the European continent and beyond.

We call on Russian troops to immediately and unconditionally be withdrawn from the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, following the joint call by 42 countries.



We call on the occupying forces to enable the sending of an international supervisory mission under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency that would carry out necessary controls in the interest of ensuring nuclear safety.

We call on international community to urgently take measures to force Russia to release the ZNPP and return the power plant to the control of Ukraine for the sake of the security of the European continent and beyond.

We call on the EU and G7 to adopt tough sanctions against Rosatom and the entire Russian nuclear industry in response to nuclear blackmail and also to prevent a precedent for other terrorists.

Attempts to legalize the occupation of Ukraine's territories

We condemn preparation and holding of any fake referenda in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

We are confident that such acts aimed to legalize occupation, justify further annexation of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions violate both international principles and norms as well as provisions of Ukraine's constitution and applicable legislation.

We declare that any attempts to hold so-called "referenda" in these territories would be considered illegal, null and void by the international community and Ukraine.

Continuous violations of international humanitarian law by the Russian Federation

We severely condemn the cynical terrorist act Russia committed on 29 July by killing >50 Ukrainian prisoners of war by explosion on the territory of the former penal colony of the village of Olenivka.

We demand from the UN and the ICRC, which act as guarantors of the life and health of Ukrainian POWs, to immediately respond to this terrorist act committed by Russia and send its representatives to the village of Olenivka with the inspection missions.

We call on the UN, ICRC as well as the OSCE to take all necessary measures to constantly monitor the conditions of detention of all Ukrainian prisoners kept in custody on the territory of the Russian Federation and temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

We resolutely condemn the preparation for show trials and potential executions of Ukrainian prisoners of war from "Azovstal" conducted by the Russian occupation authorities in Mariupol.



Russia must strictly adhere to the provisions of international humanitarian law and stop using Ukrainian prisoners of war for its own political purposes.

Further restrictive measures including tourist visa ban

We are confident that the war launched by the Kremlin is widely supported by Russian society, which shares responsibility for it.

Therefore, we fully support the idea to stop issuing tourist visas for Russian citizens, which would be a fair decision. Those who really need protection from being persecuted in Russia, are free to exploit well-known legal mechanisms such as refugee status, asylum requests, etc.

We call to impose sanctions, including a ban on entry, arrest and seizure of property and assets of public figures that promote public opinion in Russia in support of Russian aggression against Ukraine, including leading and technical staff of public and private media that spread aggressive propaganda: so-called political experts, influencers, bloggers, artists and musicians, who publicly support the criminal actions of the Russian government and contribute to the large-scale involvement of the Russian population in the commission of war crimes.

We note that the leadership of a wide range of Russian universities and research institutions openly and publicly support Russia's aggressive war against Ukraine and use their influence and administrative leverage to engage students and the scientific community to these actions, as well as to sanction those who disagree and opposes Russia's war against Ukraine; we call for the restrictive measures against these officials, and call on research, scientific and education centers, institutions and associations in Europe to exclude these persons from their joint activities and to suspend all cooperation programs.”



Members of the Bureau

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