



JOINT STATEMENT

BY THE BUREAU OF THE EU-UKRAINE PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE (PAC), THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S STANDING RAPPORTEUR ON UKRAINE AND THE CO-PRESIDENT OF THE EURONEST PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Brussels/ Kyiv, 13 December 2023

Members of the EU-Ukraine PAC Bureau, joined by the EP's standing rapporteur on Ukraine and the Co-President of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly, issue the following joint statement with regard to continued EU support in the context of Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, as well as the upcoming decisions of the European Council of 14-15 December 2023:

Ukraine's EU accession path and decisions of the European Council of 14-15 December 2023

We remind of the Grenada declaration according to which EU enlargement is a geo-strategic investment in peace, security, stability and prosperity and therefore we call on Member States and all stakeholders to respect and build on earlier unanimous decisions of the European Council with regard to the agreed framework of the EU's engagement with Ukraine, based on Ukraine's confirmed EU candidate status and path towards starting EU accession negotiations.

We reaffirm our full and unequivocal commitment to the prospect of Ukraine's membership in the EU. In this regard we welcome the Communication from the Commission of 8 November 2023 on the EU Enlargement Policy and in particular its recommendation to the Council to open accession negotiations with Ukraine.

We commend the considerable efforts that Ukraine demonstrated towards meeting the objectives underpinning its candidate status for the EU membership since June 2022 and welcome the progress achieved in the process of adoption and consistent implementation of the reforms.

We underline the role and determination of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in making swift and substantial progress on the required four legislative steps and specific recommendations defined by the Commission's report of 8 November; we welcome the adoption of important amendments to the three pieces of legislation on the prevention of corruption and also amending



the legislation on national minorities; we also take note of the progress on the legislation on lobbying.

We stress that this process has been carried out through democratic debate, deliberations and stakeholder consultation, reflecting a commitment to democratic, rules-based decision-making even under the conditions of war and martial law.

We call on the EU institutions to keep supporting Ukraine's ambitious reform agenda and the transparent and democratic functioning of its institutions and their capacity and resilience, which also have to underpin recovery and reconstruction.

We urge the European Council of 14-15 December 2023 to deploy all necessary efforts to reach political agreement on enlargement, in particular on the possible opening of EU accession negotiations with Ukraine and Moldova. We call upon the European Commission to start swiftly the preparations for the opening of the negotiations with Ukraine, in particular the negotiating framework as well as the analytical examination of the acquis (screening).

We welcome the continuous macro-financial support to Ukraine under the macro-financial assistance package + for 2023, that help cover the country's immediate financing needs, while also enabling Ukraine to preserve its macroeconomic stability and restore critical infrastructure, including energy infrastructure, water supply systems and transport networks.

We welcome the Proposal for a Regulation on establishing the Ukraine Facility, a new financial instrument aimed at providing predictable financial support for Ukraine with a financial envelope of €50 billion over the 2024-2027 period to address both short-term and recovery needs and medium-term reconstruction and modernisation efforts. We urge the EU to ensure that funding for Ukraine will continue after January 2024 by reaching political agreement on the Ukraine Facility as soon as possible, or by adopting a targeted transitional MFA programme for the early months of 2024, until the Ukraine Facility is operational.

Countering Russian aggression

We condemn, in the strongest possible terms, Russia's unprovoked, illegal and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, which caused untold suffering to the people of Ukraine, and affected millions of people around the world. We commend the courage and determination of the people of Ukraine in standing up to Russian aggression.

We reiterate our call on Russia to immediately terminate all military activities in Ukraine and to unconditionally withdraw all forces and military equipment from the entire internationally recognized territory of Ukraine.



We express our full support to the key principles and objectives of Ukraine's Peace Formula as a legitimate, viable and credible path towards a comprehensive, just and lasting peace.

We call on Russia to end its forced deportations of Ukrainian civilians, to release all detained and deported Ukrainians, particularly children, to immediately abandon the abusive process known as 'filtration' and release all those who are being held unlawfully in detention.

We welcome the 11 sanction packages adopted so far by the EU against Russia. We call on the EU to further strengthen the sanction pressure against Russia, namely in sectors of special economic importance, such as metallurgical, financial and energy sector, including nuclear, as well as on diamonds. We recall in particular the importance to continue working together with international partners to close existing loopholes in the implementation of the restrictive measures and address their evasion and circumvention by Russia. We call on the EU Member States to accelerate the adoption of the next 12th package of sanctions to further raise the costs for Russia of its aggression. We welcome in this respect the European Parliament resolution of 9 November 2023 on the effectiveness of EU sanctions on Russia.

We urge all relevant EU institutions to step up coordination with partners on how extraordinary revenues held by private entities stemming directly from Russia's immobilised assets could be directed to support Ukraine and its recovery and reconstruction, in accordance with EU and international law.

Attempts to legalize the occupation of Ukraine's territories

We condemn any past and future fake referenda and elections in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. Such acts aimed to legalize occupation and to justify further annexation of territories 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 "elections" in these territories would be considered illegal, null and void by the EU, the international community and Ukraine.

Continued support to Ukraine

We commend the military support provided by the EU and its Member states to Ukraine both bilaterally and under the European Peace Facility (EPF) and the EU Military Assistance Mission to Ukraine since the beginning of Russia's war of aggression. We underline the importance of continuing the stable provision of military support to Ukraine as long as it takes, and strongly urge the Member States to reach an agreement allowing to ensure durable, and financially sustainable and predictable EU assistance to Ukraine under the EPF in the upcoming years.



We call on EU Member states to provide Ukraine with priority capabilities that would allow its armed forces to continue defending the Ukrainian territory in the winter period. In particular, we urge the EU to take all necessary measures for its defence industry to speed up the production, allowing the Union to meet its target of providing one million ammunition rounds to Ukraine by March 2024.

We stress the importance of developing specific policy of cooperation between Ukraine and the EU in the field of the defence industry, which would allow to engage Ukraine in EU capability development and include it in the future in collaborative research and development programmes.

We commend the EU's efforts to provide Ukraine with substantial humanitarian assistance. We welcome the new funding of €110 million in humanitarian aid, which will bring the total for EU humanitarian aid in response to Russia's war in Ukraine to €843 million. We recall that this new package will help EU's humanitarian partners to provide essential services like cash assistance, food, water, shelter, health care, psychosocial support, and protection.

We strongly condemn the malicious manipulation of information and cyber-attacks massively used by Russia in its war of aggression against Ukraine. We therefore welcome the newly formalised Working Arrangement between European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) with Ukraine counterparts focused on capacity-building, best practices exchange and boosting situational awareness in an effort to boost a higher common level of cybersecurity across the EU and as a contribution to the EU's continuing support for Ukraine.

In light of Russia's deliberate attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, we welcome the efforts deployed by the EU to ensure Ukraine's energy need by deploying 84 power generators from the rescEU strategic reserves, as well as by channelling further support via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, through which all 27 EU countries, plus Norway, Türkiye, North Macedonia, Iceland, and Serbia, have offered in-kind assistance ranging from medical supplies and shelter items to vehicles and energy equipment.

Pursuing justice and accountability

We highlight that the international community has to be united in establishing accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression. We support all viable legal avenues towards justice and accountability both under Ukraine's domestic law and international mechanisms, such as the creation of a special international tribunal, to prosecute the crime of aggression against Ukraine perpetrated by the political and military leadership of the Russian Federation and its allies, in particular Belarus as an enabling state.



We recall the massive air, water, land and soil pollution, as well as severe, long-term damage to the natural environment and climate caused by Russia's full-scale aggression against Ukraine. We firmly stand by Ukraine in its efforts to hold the Russian Federation accountable for its systemic violation of international law, including crimes against the natural environment. We welcome the establishment of a Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation Against Ukraine as an important step towards an international compensation mechanism and accountability for crimes committed in Russia's war of aggression, including environmental harm.



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