



## **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**

**Strasbourg/ Kyiv, 23 April 2024**

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:

#### **Countering Russian aggression**

Strongly condemns Russia's illegal, unprovoked and unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine and calls for continued EU support for Ukraine's efforts to fully restore its sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders;

Strongly condemns the ongoing massive missile and drone attacks across Ukraine and the deliberate targeting of critical infrastructure, as well as civilian objects, including residential buildings, hospitals, schools, museums, kindergartens and post offices;

Condemns illegally conducting presidential elections by the Russian Federation in the temporarily occupied parts of Ukraine's Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson regions, as well as in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on 15-17 March 2024;

Reiterates support for Ukraine's Peace Formula as the only basis to achieve a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace for Ukraine; calls for an active EU engagement in the preparation of the Global Peace Summit.

#### **Military support**

Stresses the critical importance of the speed and consistency of weapons and ammunition delivery without self-imposed restriction on military assistance to Ukraine;

Welcomes the European Council conclusions that stress that the EU should urgently provide further air defence systems to Ukraine and speed up and intensify the delivery of all necessary military assistance, including artillery and missiles; notes, however, that this needs to be



followed up by concrete new commitments and effective deliveries, in particular providing additional modern air defence systems (Patriot, Iris-T, NASAMS);

Welcomes the approval of the 2024 Ukraine aid package by the US House of Representatives and expresses hope for a rapid final approval of the support package;

Underlines the importance of supporting Ukraine's efforts to build a self-sufficient defence-industrial complex, including by significantly enhancing cooperation on defence industries with the EU Member States and promoting the establishment of a European defence hub, to be located in Ukraine;

Welcomes the creation of the Ukraine Assistance Fund, a EUR 5-billion envelope under the European Peace Facility, and stresses that further comparable annual increases should be envisaged until 2027;

Calls on all parties to speed up the work on the EU security commitments for Ukraine in close coordination with the EU Member States and the G7 partners;

### **Starting EU accession negotiations**

Welcomes Ukraine's progress in implementing the 4 legislative steps defined by the European Commission in the Enlargement Package, as well as the start of the screening process;

Calls for a swift approval of the draft negotiating framework as put forward by the European Commission, paving the way for the First Intergovernmental Conference and the actual start of accession negotiations in June 2024 at the latest;

Underlines the importance of the "fundamentals cluster" under the revised EU enlargement methodology that will determine the overall pace of negotiations;

Notes Ukraine's steady and continued progress in implementing commitments under the Association Agreement and the DCFTA that also provide for a robust platform for further legislative alignment with the EU acquis;

Stresses both parliaments' continued commitment to underpinning the accession process by a robust parliamentary dimension, composed of continued political dialogue in the Parliamentary Association Committee, regular committee-to-committee exchanges, capacity-building and the implementation of the upgraded Memorandum of Understanding between the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the European Parliament on a joint framework for parliamentary democracy support;



### **EU assistance and financial stability**

Welcomes the endorsement of the Ukraine Plan by the European Commission that, once approved by EU Member States, should pave the way for stable and predictable financial support to Ukraine under the Ukraine Facility, notes that the Ukraine Plan also provides for a sound framework for sustained reform efforts and legal alignment with the EU; underlines the important role of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in oversight and consultation during its implementation;

Stress the importance of EU support to overcome the significant environmental damage caused by the war, in particular demining and ecological restoration and ensuring the green transition of the Ukrainian economy;

### **Sanctions and accountability**

Reiterates the urgency of establishing a legally sound mechanism allowing for the confiscation of Russian state-owned assets frozen by the EU, and for their use to address the various consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, including the reconstruction of the country and compensation for the victims of Russia's aggression, thereby strengthening the resilience of Ukraine;

Welcomes the Commission proposal to use windfall profits from immobilized Russian assets for the benefit of Ukraine, to be channelled through the European Peace Facility to finance the procurement of ammunition and weapons for Ukraine, calls for a swift adoption of the decision by EU Member States; urges the Commission and member states to work towards finding and implementing a mechanism to seize frozen Russian assets to be used in financing military and recovery aid to Ukraine;

Calls for the acceleration of the preparation of the 14th package of sanctions against Russia, which should target sectors of special economic importance for Russia (metallurgical, financial, energy including the nuclear sector), accompanied by a strong anti-circumvention angle; calls for a full embargo on Russian imports into the EU of agricultural and fishery products, as well as fossil fuels and liquefied natural gas transported by sea through pipelines, and to further decrease the price-cap on Russian petroleum products in coordination with G7 partners in order to stop financing Russia's war with EU money; calls, in addition, for punitive measures to be imposed against Russia's 'shadow fleet', which transports oil without insurance on precarious vessels through EU and international waters, and for sanctions against companies from China and other countries helping Russia to circumvent sanctions; calls for the current military and dual-use licensing regime to be expanded to include a much larger group of war-relevant goods, including digital components; calls for widening the sanctions targeting Pro-Kremlin



propagandists and propaganda channels and persons, as well as companies and individuals associated with the Russian military-industrial complex;

Welcomes all steps taken towards justice, effective accountability and redress, including the recent launch of the International Register of Damages and the establishment of the International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression in Ukraine (ICPA); notes with concern the existing accountability gap with regard to the crime of aggression committed by the Russian Federation and its leadership; therefore setting up a special tribunal to investigate and prosecute the crime of aggression committed against Ukraine by Russia's leaders and their allies remains an utmost priority;

Calls to step up efforts towards more effective international mechanisms to address the issue of missing civilians and the forcibly removed and deported children to the Russian Federation, Belarus or within temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories, as well as their illegal adoption by the Russian citizens, forceful passportisation and militarisation.



## **Members of the Bureau of the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee**

MEP Witold Jan WASZCZYKOWSKI,  
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ECR, Poland

Vadym HALAICHUK,  
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Inna SOVSUN,  
Vice-Chair of the Verkhovna Rada Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee "Holos"

**EP Standing Rapporteur on Ukraine,**  
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