

Statement

United for Ukraine, 23-24 February 2024

We, Chairs of Foreign Affairs Committees, the representatives of the United for Ukraine global parliamentary network, upon paying solidarity visit to Ukraine on 23-24 February 2024:

- condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked, illegal, terrorist and unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine, the illegal occupation of Ukrainian regions in blatant violation of international law and human rights, aimed at annihilating Ukrainian statehood and Ukrainian people, and will never recognize Russian illegal attempts to annex parts of Ukrainian territory, fully supporting Ukraine's goal to restore its sovereignty and territorial integrity within the internationally recognized borders;
- express profound respect and admiration of Ukraine's heroic defense of its territory and our shared democratic values as the Ukrainian people continue to display remarkable strength and resilience in their determination to fight back;
- believe that decisive Ukraine's victory is critical to European and global security. We share Ukraine's view that everything necessary including timely military, economic, political and humanitarian assistance must be provided to bring its victory in the war as soon as possible without any restrictions and prevent further erosion of global security. Only continued transatlantic unity and resolve can stop this war and deter future aggression. Despite the fact that the combined Western GDP is 25 times larger than Russian GDP, in 2023 the Western military support to Ukraine amounted only to 0.1% of the Western GDP, when Russia spent for its military aggression more than 6% of its GDP. This is the reason why in 2023 Russia spent more than 100 bln euros for aggression, when combined Ukraine expenditure and Western military support reached only 80 bln euros. Until now, the Western military support enabled Ukraine not to lose the war, but was too small to achieve the victory. EU and NATO need to have a clear Plan for the Victory of Ukraine with the long term uninterrupted military support. Such a support need to be larger than 0.25 % of the Western combined GDP in order for Ukraine to prevail against Russia. Such a Plan needs to include the delivery of long-range missiles, drones, ammunition, aviation and more aid defense systems, necessary ramp up of the industrial base for our allied military support. Long-term commitments for uninterrupted military support remain essential. = Delays and strategic ambiguity only help global autocracies to exert aggressive foreign policies, including the use of military means. The continuation of assistance is critically important not only for Ukraine, but also is in the national interests of the EU and NATO members states. If not defeated Russia will use Ukraine's territory and resources to attack European states;
- as the representatives of the EU parliaments we urge the EU and its member states to significantly increase their financial and military aid to Ukraine, which is in fact investment into the European security, and ramp up their defence production as fast as possible to support strategy of victory of Ukraine but also to enhance NATO capabilities to deter Russia. The European Council and EU member states have sent a strong signal of solidarity by setting up the 50 billion Euros Ukraine Facility for the years 2024-2027 as well as by pledging more than 21 billion Euros in bilateral military aid in 2024. However, the EU has been too slow and has fallen short of key promises. Instead of the 1 million artillery shells that the EU promised Ukraine by March 2024, the EU will only deliver 520,000. While calling on the US House of Representative to approve Ukrainian Supplemental without further delay the EU needs to adopt a "Whatever it takes" mindset and prepare itself for the scenario that the Ukraine might receive significantly less aid from the United States. In that case, the Ukraine Facility and the pledged bilateral aid will not be enough to sustain Ukraine's fight for freedom. In this scenario, we ask the EU to, first, significantly increase the Ukraine Facility to finance the Ukrainian budget and economic recovery, secondly to ramp up European arms production even faster and, third, to support the armed forces of Ukraine by purchasing military equipment, above all ammunition, on the world market. This significantly increased support should be financed by common European borrowing.

- see Ukraine as a part of the European and Euro-Atlantic family, supporting its future membership in the EU and NATO. We, the representatives of the EU parliaments, welcome the recent decision to start accession talks with Ukraine and Moldova as soon as possible, which recognizes Ukraine's significant progress in implementing reforms despite Russia's ongoing aggression. We, the representatives of NATO parliaments, also applaud the further efforts made towards NATO membership since the Vilnius Summit and call on NATO governments and parliaments to initiate relevant discussions on the necessity to provide bold and historic decisions during the 75th NATO Summit on Ukraine's NATO membership. We are confident that Ukraine's membership in NATO will greatly contribute to the Alliance's security, prevent further escalation of the confrontation with NATO and other democracies, would help ensure sustainable peace in Europe and can play an important role in bringing democratic transformation in the region and globally. Invitation to NATO does not mean immediate accession nor invocation of Article 5. Invitation to NATO is far more cost effective than financial and military aid provided by transatlantic Allies so far and is essential for long-term investment and reconstruction in Ukraine as well as overall success of Ukraine's European integration.
- underline the necessity to expand and strengthen sanctions until Russia ends its aggression and withdraws all its troops from all Ukraine's territory. Co-aggressors and accomplices of the Russian state must also to be held accountable for their actions, targeting multiple networks used by Russia to circumvent sanctions, numerous third-country suppliers to Russia's military-industrial base.
- urge the international community to move forward urgently with a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression to hold Russia's leadership accountable for the illegal invasion of a peaceful neighbour. Justice and accountability matters for the peace that follows, to give survivors a voice, and to ensure that Putin's attempts to re-write history and in so doing re-victimise survivors, are manifestly rejected. All survivors and victims of Russian aggression must receive fair compensation, and all war criminals, including Putin must be punished. Creation of an effective mechanism to free Ukrainian children kidnapped by the Russian state requires urgent coordinated efforts by the international community.
- reiterate the need to provide Ukraine with new financial resources. Today, more than 300 billion euros of Russian central bank assets are stored in the Euro-Atlantic Area. We ask that the G20, before the NATO Summit in Washington DC, to bring forward proposals and make meaningful progress towards confiscation of Russia's sovereign assets which are currently frozen. These funds will become a significant source to ensure Ukraine can further push back Putin's illegal renewed invasion, for reparations and also the reconstruction of Ukraine. We note there is precedent for this act, and that it is political will, not legal change, that is required to move forward with this vital act.
- express our support to the Peace Formula proposed by President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy as an effective tool to bring the end to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and establish a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, as well as security to the whole world. We urge our governments to commit to its implementation and to encourage international partners across the globe to join it.