



EU-UKRAINE PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

16th Meeting

7 March, 2025

Kyiv

FINAL STATEMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

pursuant to Article 467(3) of the Association Agreement

adopted on 7 March 2025

The Sixteenth regular meeting of the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee (PAC) was held in Kyiv on 7 March, 2025, co-chaired by Vadym Halaichuk on behalf of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and Pekka Toveri on behalf of the European Parliament.

The Parliamentary Association Committee, having held extensive exchanges about the consequences of and joint responses to Russian aggression, recent developments in Ukraine and EU-Ukraine relations and Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration, agreed upon the following final statement and recommendations.

The Parliamentary Association Committee (PAC):

Countering Russian aggression and security guarantees for Ukraine

1. Reiterates its unequivocal condemnation of the Russian Federation's unprovoked, unjustified, illegal and cruel military aggression against Ukraine, which has lasted for more than 3 years, on top of the aggression that began in 2014; demands that the Russian Federation immediately cease all military activities in Ukraine, unconditionally withdraw all military and paramilitary forces and military equipment, including those of its proxies, from the entire internationally recognized territory of Ukraine and its territorial waters, and fully respect Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders;
2. Underlines that Ukraine has the legitimate inherent right, in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter, to defend itself against Russia's war of aggression to regain full control over its entire territory; condemns the active collaboration of Aliaksandr Lukashenka's regime in Belarus as well as the dictatorship of Kim Jong Un in North Korea and the regime in the Islamic Republic of Iran in supporting Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine; condemns the execution and torture of Ukrainian prisoners of war and demands their immediate release of alongside

unlawfully detained civilians, the return of abducted Ukrainian children, and full reparations from Russia for the damage inflicted upon Ukraine's people, land, nature, and infrastructure; reaffirms its unwavering commitment to supporting Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity;

3. Calls upon the EU and its Member States to maintain and expand their political, financial, economic, humanitarian, military, and diplomatic assistance to ensure that Ukraine is in the strongest possible position when undertaking peace negotiations on its own terms; urges the EU and its partners to actively work towards maintaining and achieving the broadest possible international support for Ukraine in its struggle towards the full restoration of its territorial integrity and sovereignty;
4. Strongly condemns Russia's continued escalation of its war of aggression, including deliberate bombings of civilians and critical infrastructure, its reliance on North Korea for troops, and its testing of ballistic missiles in Ukraine, which pose a growing threat to European security; calls on China to cease supplying dual-use goods and military items to Russia, warning that continued support could severely impact EU-China relations; urges the international community to strengthen monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to block arms shipments from North Korea to Russia and to impose targeted sanctions on those involved; calls for expanded EU sanctions against North Korea, Belarus, Iran, and key Chinese entities supporting Russia's war effort. condemns the recent ratification of the Russia-Belarus treaty on security guarantees within the Union State and attempts to involve the Belarusian people in the war against Ukraine;
5. Recalls UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and all its subsequent follow-up resolutions and calls for their implementation; strongly condemns the use of sexual and gender-based violence as a weapon of war by Russia and stresses that this constitutes a war crime; underlines the urgent need to invest in psycho-social support and access for girls and women to sexual and reproductive health services throughout conflict and displacement, including access to safe delivery, family planning services, legal and safe abortion or clinical management of rape;
6. Strongly condemns Russia's continuous attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, including gas networks, which have caused significant damage and left millions of Ukrainians without essential services, particularly during the harsh winter months; stresses the urgency of providing increased EU humanitarian aid to mitigate the devastating effects of these attacks; reiterates the need for international efforts to address the illegal occupation of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, demanding the withdrawal of Russian military forces and personnel, including those from Rosatom, and the restoration of full control to Ukraine; strongly condemns the reported drone strike causing damage to the radiation shield of the former Chernobyl nuclear power plant;
7. Calls for the EU and its Member States to actively work towards maintaining and achieving the broadest possible international support for Ukraine and pursuing steps towards just, comprehensive and lasting peace that must be based on the

full respect for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, the principles of international law, accountability for war crimes and the crime of aggression committed by Russia, as well as Russian reparations and other payments for the massive material and immaterial damage caused in Ukraine; recalls the principles and objectives laid out in Ukraine's peace formula, the joint communiqué issued at the Summit on Peace in June 2024, as well as the subsequent thematic conferences that should guide steps towards just, comprehensive and lasting peace, while also demonstrating Ukraine's and the EU's continued diplomatic engagement and commitment towards peace;

8. Insists that there can be no negotiations about Ukraine without Ukraine and there can be no negotiations on European security without appropriate European participation; remains convinced that the EU and its Member States must participate in establishing robust security guarantees for Ukraine; reminds that any peace settlement that excludes Ukraine or undermines its legitimate aspirations, such as its right to choose its own security arrangements or lacks credible security guarantees for Ukraine that contribute to deterring future Russian aggression, risks being neither just nor viable;
9. Underlines the importance of the EU's and NATO's continued and unwavering support for Ukraine's defence capabilities, recognizing that this assistance plays a vital role in strengthening Ukraine's resilience against Russian aggression as well as security on the European continent;
10. Welcomes the outcome of the extraordinary EUCO meeting of 6 March 2025 and emphasizes the need for European countries to take more responsibility and substantially increase their spending for security in Europe, as well as to further enhance the delivery of modern defense technologies, training, and intelligence-sharing to Ukraine, ensuring its armed forces remain well-equipped and prepared for the ongoing war. Urges NATO to expedite the process of Ukraine's integration into the alliance by working towards concrete steps in Ukraine's NATO membership, with a clear pathway that includes both political and military cooperation. Reiterates that Ukraine's membership in NATO will enhance European and transatlantic security, while guaranteeing long-term stability and defense against future threats;
11. Calls for further strengthening of cooperation between the EU, NATO, and Ukraine in the fields of cybersecurity, countering disinformation, and combating Russian hybrid warfare tactics. Recognizes the growing importance of cyber defense in protecting critical infrastructure, including energy networks and government institutions, from Russian cyberattacks, and urges the development of joint initiatives and strategies to bolster Ukraine's capabilities in this domain; highlights the need to address the proliferation of disinformation and propaganda, which is a key component of Russia's hybrid warfare, and calls for continued enhanced cooperation on information warfare to safeguard democratic institutions and public trust;

Sanctions, accountability and reparations

12. Welcomes the adoption of the 16th EU sanctions package on 24 February 2025, targeting sectors of the Russian economy such as energy, trade, transport, infrastructure, and financial services, while also adding further measures aimed at tackling circumvention; reiterates earlier calls of the European Parliament and the EU-Ukraine PAC to introduce sanctions targeting Russia's energy, banking, and dual-use goods sectors; stresses the importance of implementing a comprehensive and immediate embargo on Russian oil, nuclear fuel, LNG, and natural gas to limit the funding of Russia's military machine; calls for a full ban on Russian media outlets that promote Russian disinformation and remain accessible to EU users, urging this measure to be regularly reviewed in future sanctions packages; reminds that any decisions on sanctions should be undertaken in close coordination with relevant partners;
13. Underlines the crucial significance of unity of action at the European Union level, as well as unity within Ukraine as a serious stepping stone that underpins effective push back against Russian aggression, and countering the threats Russia poses to the security and stability of the European continent;
14. Calls for a continued and expanded EU sanctions policy against Russia, Belarus, and other non-EU countries and entities that provide military and dual-use technologies to Russia; emphasizes the need for further sanctions targeting sectors critical to Russia's war efforts, including the oil, gas, and military industries, while closing loopholes that allow sanctions circumvention; urges stronger enforcement and compliance by EU member states, and improved coordination to effectively counter Russian aggression and ensure the long-term stability of Ukraine;
15. Condemns the recent transfer of ballistic missiles from Iran to Russia, and calls for enhanced sanctions against both Iran and North Korea for their involvement in supporting Russia's war against Ukraine; advocates for the inclusion of additional Chinese individuals and entities on the EU sanctions list for their direct support of Russia's military and defense sectors, and urges all member states to take concerted action to prevent further military cooperation with Russia;
16. Reiterates both parliament's earlier calls for the EU and its like-minded partners to develop a sound legal regime allowing for the confiscation of Russian state-owned assets frozen by the EU, with the goal of using these funds to cover urgent defence and security needs of Ukraine and to compensate for the extensive damage caused by Russia's war of aggression; notes that this includes accountability for Russian war crimes and the broader issue of reparations, demanding that Russia take responsibility for the destruction and suffering it has inflicted on Ukraine;
17. Urges the Council to continuously review and enhance the effectiveness of EU sanctions, ensuring that they are robust, targeted, and impact key sectors of the Russian economy; calls for the systematic tackling of sanctions circumvention by EU-based companies, third-party nations, and other entities aiding Russia's war

effort through military technologies, dual-use equipment, and financial support;

18. Reaffirms its unwavering support of the International Criminal Court on investigation and further prosecuting Russian military and paramilitary personnel and other proxies; calls for the establishment of a special tribunal to prosecute Russia's leadership for the crime of aggression and welcomes recent progress achieved towards laying down the legal foundations of the Special Tribunal, including key elements of its statute; pledges support for subsequent steps to create such a tribunal and provide it with the necessary resources;

Advancing Ukraine's EU accession path

19. Underlines that EU enlargement is a geostrategic investment in a strong, stable and united Europe based on common values through which Ukraine can become an asset for an enlarged and strengthened European Union;
20. Urges the EU and the Ukrainian government to achieve substantial progress by opening as many negotiation clusters as possible by the end of 2025; stresses that this will accelerate Ukraine's integration process and provide a clear framework for reforms across all sectors, underpinned by the crucially important "fundamentals" cluster that includes the respect for the rule of law, fundamental values, human rights, democracy, including multi-party pluralism, and the fight against corruption; encourages the EU to prioritize political and institutional support to ensure Ukraine's successful accession process and to ensure that the negotiations reflect the urgency of the current geopolitical situation;
21. Stresses that the Ukraine Facility is a pivotal instrument within the European Union's strategy to address the multifaceted challenges confronting Ukraine that, intertwined with the EU accession process, provides the most robust framework for recovery and reconstruction, as well as continued incentives and support for reforms; underlines the importance of adopting timely and high quality legislation in line with the expectations set out in the Ukraine Plan;
22. Underlines that Ukraine is a democratic country with democratically elected representatives in successive free and fair elections; Ukraine itself should decide when to hold elections in accordance with its national law and security situation;
23. Calls on Ukrainian authorities to strengthen national cohesion by upholding the respect of principle of division of powers; multi-party pluralism and inclusion; due regard for powers and rights of local authorities/local self-governance bodies; respect for rule of law and freedoms, including media pluralism in line with democratic principles and values that Ukrainians are so resolutely and bravely defending;
24. Underlines the critical need for sustained EU economic assistance and the exploration of alternative financial mechanisms to support Ukraine's recovery and resilience, particularly in view of the uncertain future of the USAID-driven support to Ukraine.

Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation in support of Ukraine's EU accession agenda

25. Commends the continued work of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (VRU) under martial law since February 24, 2022 and its sustained efforts to pursue an ambitious legislative agenda to align Ukrainian legislation with the EU acquis and furthering Ukraine's EU accession path;
26. Underlines the need to underpin and support the transition from the Association Agreement framework to a pre-accession framework by a robust interparliamentary dimension; calls for the establishment of a permanent Sub-Committee on accession in the framework of the PAC to reflect this historic shift and objective and to create a more flexible format for enhanced dialogue and regular engagement with other parliamentary organs, experts and civil society to engage on the accession process and legal alignment.