

THE INTEGRATED SUPPORT GRANTED BY THE EU TO THE STATE OF UKRAINE

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The EU condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, which it says is a flagrant violation of international law, including the UN Charter, and calls on Russia to immediately and unconditionally withdraw all its military personnel and equipment. throughout the territory of Ukraine, with full respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, and to cease all hostilities. Ukraine's peace formula is supported as the only legitimate and credible path to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in accordance with the UN Charter. The future of Ukraine and its people lies in the European Union. The EU will stand with Ukraine on the path of reconstruction and reform every step of the way. The EU is united and resolute in its support for Ukraine. Since the start of the large-scale invasion, Team Europe has mobilized more than €88 billion to help Ukraine and its people. In March 2022, the EU activated the Temporary Protection Directive and EU Member States have since been providing protection to Ukrainian citizens displaced by the war, with more than 4 million people under temporary protection in the EU. The temporary protection was extended until March 2025. The EU has made it clear that it will stand by Ukraine and its people as long as necessary and on all fronts: humanitarian, economic, financial, political, diplomatic and military. It is heartbreaking to witness countless objects of cultural heritage systematically and deliberately destroyed and looted as part of Russia's large-scale aggression in Ukraine.

Key words: EU, volunteer movement, EUMAM Ukraine, UN Refugee Agency, UN Charter, Temporary Protection Directive.

1. INTRODUCTION

The EU reacted quickly and decisively to Russia's aggression, adopting restrictive measures that have massive and serious consequences for Russia and has stepped up its political, humanitarian, military and financial support of the Ukrainian economy and society and its contribution to

the country's reconstruction. The Parliament also supported Ukraine's efforts to become an EU candidate country and called on EU countries to launch accession negotiations. Information is ordered in reverse chronological order, meaning the most recent event will appear at the top and the oldest at the bottom. On February 24, 2022, Russia's already

eight-year war in Ukraine turned into a full-scale invasion.

The volunteer movement in Europe provides huge support to the civilians and armed forces of Ukraine.

Among the symbols of volunteer support are handmade candles sent to soldiers in the Ukrainian trenches. They transmit light and human warmth. And it encourages soldiers to persevere in difficult circumstances. They are also a symbol of solidarity between the people of Ukraine and the EU working tirelessly in the face of adversity.

MEPs call on NATO allies to honour their commitment to Ukraine and pave the way for Kyiv to be invited to join the defence alliance. In the resolution, adopted MEPs stress that they expect that the accession process will start after the war is over and be finalised as soon as possible.

Through military assistance to Ukraine, the EU aims to strengthen the capabilities and resilience of the Ukrainian armed forces and protect the civilian population against unprovoked and unjustified Russian military aggression.

The EU is united in its unwavering support for Ukraine and will continue to provide Ukraine and

the Ukrainian people with strong political, financial, economic, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support as long as it is needed.

Also taking into account the military support provided by EU Member States, the total EU support to the Ukrainian army is estimated at EUR 43.5 billion.

Between 2022 and 2024, the EU has mobilized €6.1 billion under the European Instrument for Peace to address Ukraine's pressing military and defense needs.

Through the European Peace Facility, the EU funds the provision of lethal and non-lethal military equipment and materials, such as personal protective equipment, first aid kits, fuel, ammunition and missiles.

In addition, in March 2024, the EU decided to increase the financial ceiling of the European Peace Facility by EUR 5 billion by establishing a specific assistance fund for Ukraine. Thus, the total financial support allocated through the European Peace Facility reaches EUR 11.1 billion.

In May 2024, the Council gave the green light to use windfall and windfall revenues resulting from the implementation of EU sanctions against Russia to help Ukraine. The

windfall net profits generated by frozen Russian assets are used to support the Ukrainian armed forces, the defense industry and the reconstruction of Ukraine. Funds are channeled through the European Peace Facility and other EU programmes.

On 15 November 2022, the Council launched the EU Military Assistance Mission in Support of Ukraine (EUMAM Ukraine), with an initial duration of two years. On November 8, the Council decided to extend the mandate for another two years, until November 15, 2026.

The concept of the EUMAM Ukraine is to provide individual, collective and specialized training for the armed forces of Ukraine. In addition, EUAM supports Ukraine's efforts to investigate and prosecute international crimes and return law enforcement to the occupied and adjacent territories. The EU and its member states are committed to contribute, in the long term and together with partners, to the security commitments towards Ukraine. These commitments will help Ukraine defend itself, resist destabilization efforts, and deter future acts of aggression. But while the Europeans will always remain open to anyone serious about seeking a negotiated and just end to the war, Russia has so far

made it clear that it intends to persist in its war crimes. Until this changes, we must conclude that the only way to end the war is to provide Ukraine with the means to expel the invader.

Therefore, the EU's task is to do everything in its power to support Ukraine.

EUMAM Ukraine works closely with all other international partners who share the same vision and is open to the participation of non-EU countries.

In March 2023, the Council agreed on a three-pronged plan to accelerate the supply and joint procurement of ammunition and missiles for Ukraine. The first two strands, worth EUR 1 billion each, are financed by the European Instrument for Peace. The first directive, adopted on 13 April 2023, allows the EU to reimburse member states for materials donated to Ukraine from existing stockpiles or reprioritization of existing orders.

The second directive, adopted on 5 May 2023, supports the joint procurement of ammunition and missiles from economic operators established in the EU or Norway.

Building on existing support, the EU's security commitments include predictable, long-term and sustainable support for the security and defense of Ukraine, including

through Common Security and Defense Policy missions. These commitments will help Ukraine defend itself, resist destabilization efforts, and deter future acts of aggression. For its part, Ukraine is committed to continuing reforms, including in line with its path to the European Union.

2. THE STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE

In addition, military assistance measures and with the resources made available to help Member States meet the needs of Ukrainians fleeing the war in the EU, total support to Ukraine and Ukrainians amounts to approx. €100 billion. These agreed measures will finance both the provision of equipment and supplies to the Ukrainian Armed Forces by EU Member States, including personal protective equipment, first aid kits and fuel, as well as military equipment designed to deliver lethal force for defensive purposes.

In addition, on 17 October 2022, the EU agreed to establish a two-year Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine (EUMAM Ukraine). This provides for training for the Ukrainian Armed Forces as well as the coordination and

synchronization of Member States' own training support for Ukraine.

At the same time, the EU introduced an unprecedented package of sanctions against the Kremlin as well as the Lukashenko regime in Belarus.

The EU will provide Ukraine with €50 billion in loans and grants until the end of 2027. Over the past two and a half years, the EU has provided Ukraine almost EUR 122 billion, in the form of economic, financial and military support. Of this amount, EUR 1.5 billion comes from frozen Russian assets. The EU continues to work tirelessly with international partners to ensure that Ukraine receives support and to hold Russia accountable for its actions.

Ukraine's path to EU membership has made significant progress, reflecting the will of its people to achieve democratic reforms. In December 2023, EU leaders decided to start accession negotiations with Ukraine in response to the country's commitment to continue reforms. Even in times of war, she continued to make progress and introduce reforms – from new legislation to expand the rights of national minorities to improving the judiciary and ensuring a system of checks and balances on power.

However, EU-Russia relations have become increasingly strained over the years, not least because of the Kremlin's consistent attacks on Ukraine's sovereignty, including its 2014 annexation of Crimea and the full-scale invasion launched in 2022.

Russia's illegal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine is not only an attack on the country's territorial integrity, but also poses a grave risk to the security and stability of all of Europe.

In March 2022, the EU adopted its Strategic compass for security and defence, stating that Russia represented a long-term and direct threat for European security.

After the annexation of Crimea in 2014, EU economic sanctions targeted Russia's financial, defence and energy sectors.

Ever since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the EU and the Parliament have supported the country by condemning Russia's aggression, sanctioning those responsible and providing material and financial aid. Another aspect of EU-Russia relations is energy. Controversy over the new Nord Stream 2 pipeline highlighted the country's leverage as the EU's main energy supplier. The EU granted Ukraine the suspension of import taxes and export quotas.

All EU countries, as well as Norway, North Macedonia, Iceland, Turkey and Serbia, are providing material assistance to Ukraine, from medical supplies and shelter items to vehicles and energy equipment.

Logistics centers have been established in Romania, Slovakia and Poland to route items to Ukraine more efficiently.

These measures, which first entered into force in 2022, were renewed until June 5, 2025 for Ukraine.

In March 2022, the electricity networks of Ukraine were successfully synchronized with the continental European network. With Ukraine the EU established the EU-Ukraine solidarity corridors in May 2022. The purpose of these essential corridors is to ensure that Ukraine can export agricultural products (including grains, oilseeds and related products), but also imports the goods it needs. Subsequent sanctions adopted by the EU included measures such as a ban on imports from Russia of oil and coal and introducing a price cap related to the maritime transport of Russian oil. According to the UN Refugee Agency, almost six million refugees from Ukraine have been registered across Europe since the war began.

On March 4, the Council of the European Union unanimously decided

to activate the Temporary Protection Directive to provide quick and effective assistance to people fleeing the war in Ukraine. Hundreds of thousands of children, including orphaned children and children in foster care, have left Ukraine because of the war.

The protection and promotion of children's rights is a priority for the EU.

3. EU SUPPORT AND CONDEMNATION OF RUSSIAN AGGRESSION

On 8 June 2022, the Council adopted conclusions on the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child, with a particular focus on the protection of children's rights in crisis or emergency situations.

In the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the Council noted the need to protect children facing armed conflict and the consequences of such conflict.

In a political declaration adopted in June 2022, the Council reaffirmed its commitment to protecting all children who have fled the war in Ukraine, especially those separated from their families.

In conclusions adopted in June 2024, the Council reiterated its concern at the increase in violations of children's rights in the context of

armed conflicts, exacerbated by the proliferation of wars, including Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the illegal deportation and forcible transfer of Ukrainian children from its context.

This means that those fleeing war will be granted temporary protection in the territory of the European Union: rights of residence, right of access to the labor market, access to housing, social assistance, medical or other assistance and means of subsistence. Ukraine formally submitted its application to join the European Union on 28 February 2022.

Once adopted, the temporary protection went into effect immediately and will be valid for one year. This could last up to three years – unless the situation in Ukraine improves enough for people to return home. On 23 June 2022, the EU Leaders' Summit unanimously agreed to grant Ukraine candidate status, following a recommendation by the European Commission on 17 June. On 14 December 2023, EU leaders agreed to open accession negotiations with Ukraine, which officially began on 25 June 2024 with an intergovernmental conference in Luxembourg.

Citizens outside Ukraine and stateless persons with legal residence in Ukraine who cannot return to their country or region of origin, such as

asylum seekers or beneficiaries of international protection and their family members, will also benefit from protection in the EU. Others who are legally in Ukraine for a short period of time and who are able to return safely to their country of origin will be granted access to the EU to transit before returning to their country of origin. The Ukraine Facility provides stable funding of up to EUR 50 billion in grants and loans to support Ukraine's recovery, reconstruction and modernization for the period 2024-2027.

The decision to establish the Mechanism for Ukraine entered into force on March 1, 2024. In the future plan to support the country's security climate submitted on 20 March 2024, Ukraine presented its vision for reconstruction and modernization and the reforms it intends to undertake as part of its EU accession process. On 14 May 2024, the Council issued a positive assessment of the plan. The purpose of EU aid was to provide short-term financial aid, to finance Ukraine's immediate needs and, last but not least, to support Ukraine on its way to European integration.

EU leaders have repeatedly condemned Russia's indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure and reiterated that international humanitarian law must be respected. The EU stands firmly with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people and will continue to provide political, financial, economic, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support as long as and with the intensity required.

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