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FSC.DEL/374/23 18 October 2023

ENGLISH only



## OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°1059 Vienna, 18 October 2023

## EU Statement on Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

Madam Chair, before we start with our statement on Ukraine, we would like to strongly condemn the heinous terrorist attacks in Arras and Brussels. Our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims. We stand with Belgium, France and Sweden.

- Madam Chair, as we speak today, Russia's illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine has now lasted for more than 600 days. We stood behind Ukraine then and, as we continue to reiterate at the OSCE and in other fora, the commitment of the EU and its Member States to Ukraine, remains unwavering.
- 2. Our strong and lasting commitment was reaffirmed earlier this month by the Leaders of the European Union, who in their Granada declaration clearly indicated that 'We will continue to support Ukraine and its people for as long as it takes.' In this context we also welcome the Chairman-in-Office Bujar Osmani's recent visit to Kyiv where he met with Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba and reiterated the OSCE's strong support for Ukraine.
- To date, the EU and its Member States have already provided more than EUR 82 billion in assistance to Ukraine and its people and continue to also provide other forms of support.
- 4. EU Member States recently agreed to extend until 3 March 2025 the temporary protection mechanism for people who had to flee Russia's aggression and are not yet in a position to return. Some 4 million Ukrainian refugees are now registered for temporary protection in the EU. Member States allocated EUR 17 billion, which is available in the context of refugee support to meet the growing needs for housing, education and healthcare. The EU has allocated EUR 685 million for humanitarian aid programmes to help civilians affected by the war in Ukraine, as

- well as EUR 48 million for refugees that have fled to the neighbouring Republic of Moldova.
- 5. To support Ukraine's funding needs, the EU has pledged an unprecedented EUR 25.2 billion in macro-financial assistance, including EUR 18 billion this year. This helps to keep essential public services running and enables Ukraine to restore critical infrastructure destroyed by Russia in its war of aggression.
- 6. On the military side, assistance measures amount to around EUR 25 billion, of which EUR 5.6 billion has been mobilised under the European Peace Facility to support the delivery of military equipment to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, while the rest consists of Member States bilateral contributions. This support includes, among other elements, the EU's three-track ammunition initiative, with the European Defence Agency already signing contracts with European industry for the joint procurement of 155mm ammunition.
- 7. Under the EU Military Assistance Mission, over 27,000 Ukrainian soldiers have completed or are currently involved in training. This should reach 40,000 soldiers being trained by July 2024.
- 8. Via its Union Civil Protection Mechanism, the EU is implementing its largest emergency operation since the Mechanism's creation and channels millions of emergency items to Ukraine and the region.
- 9. The EU and its Member States are also involved in other international efforts, including for instance the International Donors Conference on Humanitarian Demining In Ukraine which took place last week in Zagreb. These actions are a further proof of the global commitment to the restoration of everyday life in Ukraine even while Russia's war of aggression continues.
- 10. This non-exhaustive list clearly shows how determined the EU and its Member States are in their resolute support to the brave Ukrainian people.
- 11. Madam Chair, the EU and its Member States reiterate that Russia must immediately stop its war of aggression, and completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders. We also reiterate our continuous

strong call on the Belarusian authorities to stop providing support to Russia's war of aggression, and to abide by their international obligations.

Thank you.

The Candidate Countries NORTH MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, ALBANIA\*, UKRAINE, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA\*, the Potential Candidate Country GEORGIA, the EFTA countries ICELAND and NORWAY, the members of the European Economic Area, as well as ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

\* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.