



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°1011 Vienna, 25 May 2022

EU Right of Reply

Mr. Chair,

Yesterday, we marked exactly three months of Russia's **premeditated, unprovoked, unjustified and barbaric war of aggression** against Ukraine. We condemn this war in the strongest possible terms.

Today, we were again exposed to **distortion of truth, disinformation and propaganda by the Russian delegation**. The truth is straightforward: **Russia** is the **aggressor**, **Ukraine** is the **victim** of the aggression. There is **no justification** for this war, **neither in the present nor in the past**. We also deplore the complicity of Belarus in enabling the Russian military aggression by providing its territory for the attack of its neighbour.

We will continue to **stand in full solidarity** with the victim and actively support Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. Under international law, pursuant to Article 51 of the U.N. Charter, Ukraine has the right to defend itself as it is under armed attack from the Russian Federation. Ukraine **is exercising its inherent right to self-defence**, and all States have the right to **assist Ukraine**.

Russia bears full responsibility for unspeakable human suffering and tragedies, the loss of so many lives, massive displacement and destruction across Ukraine. **Those responsible** for all these atrocities, including war crimes or crimes against humanity **must be held to account**.

We reiterate **our demand** that **Russia immediately and unconditionally cease its military actions** and withdraw all its troops and equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine, including the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula. We also reiterate our **call**

on Belarus to stop enabling the Russian aggression and to abide by its international obligations.

We reiterate our principled support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and the right to choose its own future.

We will never recognise any illegal entities nor **annexation** of Ukraine's territory.