



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°1072 Vienna, 6 March 2024

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

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1. Mr Chair, with its illegal, unprovoked and unjustifiable war of aggression, the Russian Federation violates the OSCE principles and commitments which Russia itself signed up to and blatantly breaches international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Last week at the FSC we voiced our serious concerns over the treatment of captured Ukrainian soldiers by Russia. Today, we welcome the invocation, by 45 OSCE participating States, of the Moscow Mechanism in view of the reports regarding violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law with regard to the arbitrary detention of Ukrainian civilians by Russia. Neither military personnel nor civilians are safe from the horrors of the war of aggression that Russia unleashed.
2. We reiterate that Russia is solely responsible for this horrendous and catastrophic war of aggression against Ukraine and at the same time the only actor that can end it immediately, even today. Such an action would be a necessary and critical first step towards a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, in line with Ukraine's Peace Formula.
3. As announced last week by the Presidents of the European Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament at the occasion of the tragic second commemoration of Russia's full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine, the EU and Member States will continue to address Ukraine's pressing military and defence needs, including deliveries of urgently needed ammunition and missiles. We have taken unprecedented actions to ramp up European defence industry production, thus enabling greater capacity and facilitating increased military support and cooperation with Ukraine, while simultaneously strengthening EU defence readiness and European sovereignty. The EU has also been developing future security commitments, in full respect of the security and defence policies of certain Member States, which will help Ukraine to defend itself, resist destabilisation efforts and deter acts of aggression in the future.

4. Moreover, the European Peace Facility has been used to facilitate the delivery of more military equipment to Ukraine. As High Representative Borrell said, 'never before had the European Union financed deliveries of military equipment to a country at war'. Until now, the EU and Member States have mobilised more than EUR 28 billion of military assistance, both lethal and non-lethal.
5. In addition, the EU Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine (EUMAM) is the largest military mission in the European Union's history and by the end of summer this year, 60,000 Ukrainian soldiers will have been trained on the soil of EU Member States.
6. As President von der Leyen told the European Parliament last week, 'Europe has shown and proven that it will support Ukraine for as long as it takes'. Our commitment to Ukraine remains unwavering and the EU and its Member States are united and determined in their strong support, be it political, financial, economic, humanitarian, military or diplomatic.
7. Mr Chair, the EU and its Member States reiterate that Russia must immediately stop its illegal, unprovoked and unjustifiable war of aggression, put an end to this unbearable suffering and devastation, 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 condemn the continued military support for Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine provided by Belarus, as well as Iran and the DPRK. We urge all countries not to provide material or other support for Russia's war of aggression, which is a blatant violation of international law, including the UN Charter, and the OSCE's core principles and commitments.

Thank you.

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

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