



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°1099 Vienna, 26 February 2025

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

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1. Mr Chair, three years have passed since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 and 11 years since it first started its illegal aggression and illegally occupied the Crimean Peninsula. The years since Russia started its illegal, unjustifiable and unprovoked war of aggression are years during which countless lives of both civilians and military personnel have been lost, entire cities were reduced to rubble and the Russian aggressor aimed to destroy Ukraine. All those responsible for serious crimes under international law must be held accountable. We pay our respects to all victims of Russia's brutal war of aggression and our thoughts are with their families and friends who still endure continuous attacks and, as the UN reported, 'psychological terror...displacement and hardship'. We honour the courage of those rightfully defending their homeland.
2. We cannot not accept this unbearable situation. We will stand with Ukraine, for as long as it takes. There is only one aggressor and culprit of this brutal war – Russia. The EU and its Member States reiterate that Russia must immediately stop its war of aggression, put an end to the 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. That includes the illegally occupied Crimean Peninsula, and illegally occupied areas of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions which are all part of the integral territory of Ukraine. Ukraine deserves a comprehensive, just and lasting peace based on the UN Charter and international law, a peace which has to be chosen by Ukraine and its people.
3. To this end, We reaffirm our determination to continue to provide multi-faceted support to Ukraine and its people, including financial, economic, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support, for as long as it takes and as intensely as needed to help Ukraine exercise its inherent right to self-defence. The latest step is the agreement on the 16<sup>th</sup> package of EU sanctions against Russia. In welcoming this

decision, European Commission President von der Leyen stressed that ‘The EU is clamping down even harder on circumvention by targeting more vessels in Putin’s shadow fleet and imposing new import and export bans.’ As EU High Representative Kaja Kallas underscored last week: ‘The Kremlin won’t break our resolve’. We will step up our efforts to help Ukraine win a just and lasting peace. Russia does not want peace. It has done nothing towards a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine, based on the UN Charter and the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity as outlined in international law, and it continues its relentless attacks.

4. The EU and its Member States strongly condemn Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and the continued support for Russia provided by third countries, such as the DPRK, Belarus and Iran. We condemn in the strongest possible terms the DPRK’s unlawful arms transfers to Russia in breach of multiple UN Security Council resolutions, as well as Russia’s use of these missiles for attacking Ukraine. Moreover, we denounce the deployment of DPRK troops to Russia, supporting Russia’s illegal war of aggression.
5. We urge all countries to cease all assistance, including the provision of dual-use goods and sensitive items that sustain Russia’s military industrial base and Russia’s war of aggression, which is a blatant violation of international law.
6. Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine must end. We underline the principle that no initiative regarding Ukraine is to be taken without Ukraine.

Thank you.

*Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.*