

EU-UKRAINE PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Fourteenth Meeting

8-9 June 2022

Strasbourg

FINAL STATEMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

pursuant to Article 467(3) of the Association Agreement

Adopted on 9 June 2022

The fourteenth meeting of the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee (PAC) was held in Strasbourg on 8-9 June 2022, co-chaired by Vadym Halaichuk on behalf of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and Witold Waszczykowski on behalf of the European Parliament.

The Parliamentary Association Committee, having held extensive exchanges about the consequences of and joint responses to Russian aggression, recent developments in Ukraine and EU-Ukraine relations, agreed upon the following final statement and recommendations.

The Parliamentary Association Committee (PAC):

Russian aggression against Ukraine

1. Condemns in the strongest possible terms the Russian Federation's unprovoked, unjustified, senseless and cruel military aggression against Ukraine and demands that the Russian Federation immediately terminate all military activities in Ukraine, unconditionally withdraw all military and paramilitary forces and military equipment, including those of its proxies, from the internationally recognised territory of Ukraine and its territorial waters, and fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognised borders;
2. Considers the military invasion as a gross violation of international law amounting to the crime of aggression that also constitutes an open and deliberate breach of the Russian Federation's obligations and commitments as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and a signatory of the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the Budapest Memorandum;
3. Calls on the Russian federation to return to the principles and mechanism of cooperation and security in Europe and the rules-based international order in order to respect and fulfil the basic principles of human coexistence and civilisation;

4. Praises the exceptional heroism of Ukrainian soldiers who are defending not only the sovereignty of Ukraine, but also the whole free and democratic European continent; pays tribute to those Ukrainian civilians and military personnel who gave their life in Ukraine's defence;

Human rights, international humanitarian law

5. Condemns in the strongest possible terms the gross violation of human rights and international humanitarian law, including murders and mass deportations of civilians – men, women and children, the use of rape as an instrument of war and the destruction of civilian infrastructure such as schools, places of worship, cultural monuments, residential buildings and hospitals, committed by the Russian military in Ukraine;
6. Condemns the arbitrary detention and abduction of Ukrainian journalists, activists, elected representatives, civil servants, medics and paramedics in the temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories, as well as the illegal deportation of hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians to the territory of the Russian Federation and their forced passage through so-called filtration camps; considers the above acts a direct, open and deliberate violation of the UN Charter, the Geneva Conventions, the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, the Hague Conventions, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the European Convention on Human Rights;
7. Calls on the Russian Federation to disclose information about the whereabouts and well-being of kidnapped and deported civilians and to ensure their freedom of movement and safe return to Ukraine;
8. Strongly deplores the continued and forced “passportisation” of Ukrainian citizens on the basis of the amendments to the Decree of the Russian Federation № 183 of 24 April 2019 and the Decree of the Russian Federation № 187 of 29 April 2019 on facilitation of acquisition of Russian citizenship to Ukrainians and residents of the so-called “DPR” and “LPR”, as well as the Russian presidential decree reportedly signed on 30 May 2022 introducing a simplified procedure for orphans from Ukraine to acquire Russian citizenship;
9. Calls on the Russian Federation to allow immediate humanitarian access and safe passage of all civilians and to immediately allow the safe return of Ukrainians forcibly removed to Russia;
10. Welcomes the global efforts to fight impunity and to bring to justice those responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and crime of aggression; commends the opening of an investigation into the situation in Ukraine by the ICC Prosecutor and welcomes all related legal steps and calls for the ratification of the Rome Statute by Ukraine;
11. Supports the establishment of a Special Tribunal for the investigation and prosecution of the crime of aggression against Ukraine, as well as further efforts to

collect and preserve evidence of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and crime of aggression both at the local and international levels; welcomes the involvement of Eurojust to preserve, analyse and store evidence relating to core international crimes, including war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide under the rules adopted by the Council of the EU on 25 May 2022 and the establishment of an Atrocity Crimes Advisory Group (ACA) by the EU, UK and US, aimed at ensuring efficient coordination of their respective support to accountability efforts on the ground;

12. Welcomes the first trials under domestic legislation in Ukraine seeking to hold accountable perpetrators of war crimes in transparent and fair procedures;

Continued delivery of weapons

13. Welcomes the military support provided by EU Member States and the swift disbursement of EUR 2 billion under the European Peace Facility, as well as further sustained coordination efforts under the “Ramstein format” and the continued provision of military equipment, prompt and regular military intelligence cooperation and training, based on continued needs assessment agreed with the Ukrainian authorities; underlines the importance of further strengthening cooperation in the area of cybersecurity and countering disinformation in order to stifle the Russian Federation’s hybrid attacks and information warfare; underlines that with each day at war, Ukraine faces a very high military bill due to loss of equipment that may accumulate to reach EUR 100 billion by the end of the year; notes therefore the need to significantly increase EU military aid provided under the European Peace Facility, while the United States offered to provide 30 billion USD in military assistance;
14. Underlines that providing defensive weapons to Ukraine is fully in line with international law according to Article 51 of the UN Charter, which allows for individual and collective self-defence;
15. Underlines that immediate deliveries of weapons, including heavy weaponry, is essential for Ukraine’s continued resistance against Russia’s brutal aggression, which bears an insurmountable cost of nearly 10 billion euros to Ukrainian military per month, as well as the recovery of Ukraine’s territories within its internationally recognized borders and - finally - putting an end to the ongoing war and human suffering inflicted by Russia and its troops;
16. Calls on the European Union Member States to seriously step up their efforts in providing Ukraine with heavy weaponry and to explore additional possibilities to supply military support to Ukraine;

Sanctions

17. Welcomes the adoption of the 6th EU sanction package on 3 June 2022 and the exclusion from the SWIFT system of further 3 Russian banks, the sanctioning of Russian state-run broadcasting entities and additional individual sanctions against involved in the atrocities committed by Russian troops in Bucha and Mariupol,

leading businesspersons and family members of listed oligarchs and Kremlin officials, as well as companies in the defence and financial sectors; regrets that the sixth EU sanctions package failed to impose a complete and immediate ban on Russian oil exports to the EU;

18. Reiterates earlier calls of the European Parliament and the EU-Ukraine PAC to introduce further sanctions in the energy and banking sectors; reiterates that - in order to stop funding the Russian war machine - the EU should impose a complete and immediate embargo on Russian oil, coal, nuclear fuel and gas, including completely abandoning the Nord Stream II project and cutting gas deliveries through the Nord Stream I pipeline;
19. Welcomes the inclusion in the sanctions list of individuals for their involvement related to war crimes as a strong signal of the determination to pursue accountability for these crimes without prejudice to subsequent legal procedures under Ukrainian domestic legislation, universal jurisdiction or dedicated international mechanisms;
20. Reminds of the need for persistent diplomatic outreach to close sanctions loopholes and to build a wide international coalition in support of EU sanctions, notably in the EU neighbourhood, Africa and Asia, as well as to counter disinformation narratives propagated by the Russian Federation; underlines the importance of imposing restrictive measures against Russian individuals and entities responsible for or involved in proven cyber-attacks against Ukraine;
21. Reiterates earlier calls of the European Parliament that EU sanctions should not be lifted before the last soldier of the occupying forces has left Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders; reminds that any decisions on sanctions should be undertaken in close coordination with Ukraine;

Parliamentary follow-up to Ukraine's official EU accession request

22. Welcomes Ukraine's official request for EU membership and stresses that official candidate status would be a strong political signal that firmly and irreversibly consolidates Ukraine's European path and commitment; such a signal would also strengthen the morale of the Ukrainian nation in its fight against Russia's unjustified and genocidal war of aggression;
23. Underlines that the Versailles Declaration acknowledges the European aspirations and the European choice of Ukraine; reiterates the European Parliament's call for the EU institutions to grant EU candidate status to Ukraine, in line with Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union and on the basis of merit;
24. Expects the European Commission to conclude its assessment and publish its official Opinion swiftly, paving the way for the subsequent decision of the European Council regarding the granting of official candidate status ;

Relief and reconstruction

25. Calls on the EU and its Member States to continue providing the strongest possible economic and financial support to Ukraine, as well as macro-financial and technical assistance, to recalibrate and regroup EU budget instruments available or to establish new ones to support Ukraine, and to devise a long-term strategy to support Ukraine's efforts in strengthening the resilience of its democratic institutions and economy;
26. Expects the political decision of granting official candidate status to Ukraine to become a fundamental catalyst in the further deep transformation of Ukraine, based on democratic values, the rule of law and respect for human rights;
27. Call on the EU's Member States to continue the process of seizing the assets of Russian officials and oligarchs and to allocate the funds generated to humanitarian relief for the Ukrainian people and Ukraine's reconstruction;
28. Welcomes the European Council conclusions of 31 May and the Commission Communication of 18 May on Relief and Reconstruction and the clear commitment to provide both short-term financial relief and preparations for a comprehensive, long-term reconstruction effort with international partners; emphasises that EU support for reconstruction will be linked to the continued implementation of reforms and anti-corruption measures consistent with Ukraine's chosen European path; emphasises that this would provide for a comprehensive tool to support Ukraine's preparations for EU accession by ensuring an effective use of allocated resources, while EU membership perspective would also create a favourable environment for attracting more investment to modernise Ukraine's economy and unleash its growth potential;
29. Welcomes the European Commission's proposal to create a 'Rebuild Ukraine' facility which will involve loans, grants, other instruments and sources; in particular welcomes the European Commission's proposal to develop an adequate EU borrowing capacity to raise funds for loans on behalf of the EU or with Member States' national guarantees;
30. Underlines that by pursuing a sustained, ambitious and credible reform agenda, as well as building on the achievements and significant alignment with the EU acquis under the Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, Ukraine has the potential to substantially contribute to the EU's declared goals of strategic autonomy, implementation of the Green Deal, food security and energy security;
31. Emphasises the need for sustained public support across EU Member States for the EU's role and leadership in the reconstruction efforts, bearing in mind the significant resources and long-term commitment necessary for a successful and historic sustainable reconstruction programme; highlights the urgent importance of establishing a mechanism for Ukraine's economic reconstruction that ensures transparency in the use of funds;

32. Welcomes the proposal of setting up of the “Ukraine reconstruction platform”, co-led by the Commission and by the Ukrainian government; with the Ukrainian and the European Parliaments participating as observers; calls for active parliamentary involvement and follow-up of the proposal on both sides; emphasises that the EU and Ukraine should develop adequate institutional capacities for the implementation of Ukraine’s relief and reconstruction plans; praises the efforts of the Support Group for Ukraine (SGUA) in driving Ukraine’s reform agenda forward;
33. Stresses the need to coordinate EU efforts with other international initiatives, such as the Ukraine Recovery Conference scheduled to take place in July 2022 in Lugano, Switzerland;
34. Welcomes and fully supports donors’ conferences as part of the fund-raising, such as the one co-hosted by Poland and Sweden in May 2022; appreciates the readiness of the EU to coordinate the fundraising activities with other international donors within the Ukraine Solidarity Trust Fund, which is dedicated for the relief and reconstruction effort and is open to all donor contributions from the governments and international financial institutions ready to support Ukraine;
35. Recognises the crucial complementary role of peer-to-peer cooperation in the reconstruction effort among cities and regions, as well as health and education establishments in the EU and Ukraine, expresses hope that this will also provide a unique, decentralised ownership and a wider and more diverse pool of expertise, resources and people-to-people contacts at the disposal of the reconstruction process; considers that within Ukraine’s relief and reconstruction effort, the EU should develop a patronage system of immediate humanitarian and reconstruction aid to Ukraine;
36. Calls on the EU together with the international community to urgently develop a long-term facility to provide regular financial support for the stability of Ukraine’s public finances during Russia’s war of aggression, especially if this war takes longer than expected;
37. Welcomes the decision of the European Council to make available exceptional additional Macro-Financial Assistance of up to EUR 9 billion in 2022; commends the US administration for pledging USD 40 billion for Ukraine’s war effort and reconstruction, as well as the aid provided by other allies, including Canada, Turkey and Japan;

Trade, energy and integration into the Single Market

38. Welcomes the swiftly enacted Commission proposal to suspend for one year all import duties on Ukrainian exports to the EU in an attempt to boost Ukraine's economy and bilateral trade relations;
39. Encourages further trade facilitation measures in order to fully benefit from the opportunities provided by Ukraine’s tariff and quota-free access to the EU market

and to fulfil Ukraine's export potential, while also supporting Ukraine's ambitions to become gradually integrated into the European Single Market;

40. Welcomes the EU Action Plan to establish "Solidarity Lanes", a set of measures aiming to help Ukraine export its agricultural produce, reorienting from the Black Sea ports under blockade towards EU routes; notes, however, the significant existing bottlenecks and long waiting times at borders on both existing rail and road routes, calls for a comprehensive strategy to establish safe and high-capacity food corridors along secured sea routes;
41. Welcomes the swift synchronisation of Ukraine's electricity grid with the ENTSO-E system and calls for intensified efforts to fully integrate the energy markets of Ukraine and the EU in order to strengthen mutual energy security, overcome the dependence of the EU on Russian fossil fuels and to stabilize energy markets, including the launching of the exchange of commercial electricity flows between Ukraine and the EU.

Interparliamentary cooperation

42. Commends the continued session and work of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine under the conditions of Martial Law since 24 February 2022; reminds of the mutual visits of the President of the European Parliament and the Speaker of the VRU as a clear commitment and dedication to reinforcing political cooperation; recalls that the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee has continued its work and remains determined to hold regular discussions on EU-Ukraine relations and to ensure parliamentary follow-up to Ukraine's request for EU accession;
43. Underlines the key role of the Verkhovna Rada as a democratically elected institution for public debate, effective and inclusive scrutiny and transparent, rules-based legislative processes underpinning Ukraine's sustained reform agenda;
44. Highlights the two parliaments' readiness to enhance their partnership and cooperation on the basis of the renewed Memorandum of Understanding in order to support further internal reform in the VRU aiming at improving the quality of legislation, increasing transparency, predictability and openness, thus contributing to the effective approximation of Ukrainian legislation to the EU acquis in the context of the awaited granting of EU candidate status to Ukraine.