



To the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee

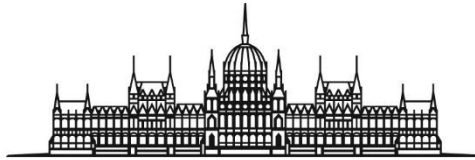
Budapest, 10th March 2022

Dear Colleague,

With its brutal aggression against Ukraine, Russia is turning back the pages of history and is returning to times which we all hoped we had left behind forever. The war causes loss of human life, capital, infrastructure, as well as hopes and dreams on a scale that has been unseen in Europe since the Second World War.

Hungary firmly supports Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and as a neighbour, bears special responsibility. Because of this, allow me, Honourable Colleague, to give a brief summary of the steps Hungary has taken so far to support Ukraine.

- As of today, more than 200,000 refugees have crossed the Ukrainian–Hungarian border. We accept all refugees fleeing the war, regardless of their ethnicity or nationality, and provide them with shelter and legal assistance. The government has provided 1.6 million euros to the Hungarian Interchurch Aid to support its humanitarian work at the border and has prepared the transfer of a further 11.4 million euros to nine charitable organisations in support of their efforts to provide relief to the refugees.
- We have supported and will continue to support all the measures taken by NATO and the EU, including, for example, the closing off of our airspace from Russian aircraft and the exclusion of certain Russian banks from the SWIFT system. Likewise, we supported Russia's suspension in the Council of Europe.
- We support the activation of the European Peace Facility (EPF) which enables the EU to supply arms to Ukraine and we contribute our due share of more than 5 million euros. Hungary does not, however, send weapons to Ukraine on a bilateral basis, neither can we, in order to avoid endangering the security of the border-region, allow the transfer of lethal weapons through the Hungarian–Ukrainian border.
- The Hungarian was the first government to join the eight European Union member states who had called for Ukraine to be granted candidate status as soon as possible.



Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee
Hungarian National Assembly

We urge the institutions of the EU to address this issue as quickly as possible and put the item on the agenda.

Dear Colleague, I would like to draw your attention to the Hungarian National Assembly's declaration *On the Russo-Ukrainian War*, attached to this letter, which was adopted at its 10th March plenary session. Should you need any further information regarding Hungary's position in this matter, please feel free to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely,

Zsolt Németh

Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee

POLITICAL DECLARATION 1/2022. (III. 10.)
of the National Assembly of Hungary
on the war between Russia and Ukraine

Despite the international diplomatic efforts of recent months, the Russian military offensive against Ukrainian territory has resulted in the outbreak of war in Hungary's immediate neighbourhood. Attacks from the air, by ground forces and by artillery have already resulted in thousands of deaths and have sent a wave of refugees fearing for their lives towards the eastern border regions of the European Union – including our country. Several million people, many of them Hungarians living in Transcarpathia, have already been forced to flee their homes. This challenge to the security of the country and the nation must be faced by us in unity. Therefore, the National Assembly makes the following political declaration.

1. We condemn Russia's military intervention, and stand by the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.
2. War cannot be the solution to any conflict; in fact it extinguishes, endangers or makes impossible the lives of very many unarmed people. Therefore, we urge an immediate cessation of hostilities and the opening of peace negotiations between the parties, while welcoming all initiatives for mediation offered in a spirit of goodwill.
3. As a member of NATO, Hungary expresses its agreement with the responsible statements made by the leaders of the Alliance, which stress the need to avoid any spread of the conflict to the territory of its member states, as this would have unforeseeable consequences.
4. As a member of the UN, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the European Union, Hungary expresses its support for all joint efforts aimed at achieving peace as soon as possible.
5. Hungary's fundamental objective is the maintenance of peace and protection of the security of the people living on its territory. Based on the experience provided by our history, we declare the following: our country must stay out of this war, and we must not allow anyone to draw us into it.

6. We declare that Hungary shall not send troops to the Ukrainian battlefield, it shall not supply arms on a bilateral basis, and it shall not consent to the direct transport of deadly weapons across Hungarian-Ukrainian border.
7. We call on all those in public life and representatives of the media to refrain from any ill-considered or politically motivated statements which, in the current tense situation, could endanger the security of the country and the security of Hungarians. We consider calls for Hungarian soldiers or weapons to be sent to the war zone to be particularly dangerous and irresponsible.
8. Hungary bears responsibility for the fate of Hungarians living outside its borders; all those in public life have a constitutional duty to behave in accordance with that responsibility. We consider it not only irresponsible, but also inhuman and contrary to national interests, so we firmly reject and condemn the inadmissible qualifications that some have valued the Hungarians of Transcarpathia, endangering their security. No one – motivated by fleeting political interests – should allow themselves to make Hungarians who are intensely loyal to their homeland potential victims of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict!
9. The members of Transcarpathia's indigenous Hungarian community are loyal and faithful citizens of Ukraine, contributing to its prosperity and diversity. Therefore they share, with all other citizens of the country, the natural and legitimate expectation that their state will fully respect their rights. Hungary considers this national community as a bridge that can connect us to an independent, developing, democratic Ukraine that provides security and prosperity for all its citizens in their homeland. In line with this, on countless occasions and in many ways since the recognition of Ukraine's independence, the Hungarian state has expressed its desire for the building of neighbourly and friendly relations between our two countries. Thus in the past we have supported the strengthening of Ukraine's relations with the European Union, and – together with other Central European countries – we now continue to urge the formal start of the accession process.
10. Hungary sees it as its natural duty to provide assistance to all Hungarians and non-Hungarians of Ukrainian or other citizenship who enter Hungary as the first safe country while fleeing the war. The National Assembly recognises and encourages the Hungarian

citizens, communities and institutions who, with an exemplary sense of solidarity, are seeking to help those in distress. We support the “Bridge for Transcarpathia” initiative in its work providing immediate assistance to those living under the threat of war in Ukraine and to those seeking refuge in our country.

We live in an age of peril. After the pandemic and the difficulties it has caused, our country must now also face the risks created by war. In this extraordinary situation, only by acting in unity can we preserve the peace of our country and the security of our families.