

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT
of Chairpersons of the Committees on European Affairs of EU national
Parliaments and of the First Vice-President of the European Parliament

We, Chairpersons of the Committees on European Affairs of EU national Parliaments and the First Vice-President of the European Parliament, upon paying our solidarity visit to Ukraine on 30 September 2022, visiting an EU candidate country for the first time in this format,

Reiterate our strong support for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, unity, territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and

Support an enhanced interparliamentary cooperation between our Parliaments and Verkhovna Rada.

Referring to the historic decision of the European Council of 23 June 2022 to grant Ukraine the European perspective and the EU candidate status,

Give our endorsement to all the necessary support for Ukraine in the areas identified by the European Commission that would allow the start of the accession negotiations with Ukraine as soon as possible. Underline our willingness to actively support the accession process. This explicitly also applies to the measures preceding the start of the accession negotiations.

We remain supportive to continuing political, military, economic and humanitarian assistance for Ukraine in its fight against the Russian armed aggression. Ukraine's victory in this war is of an existential importance both for Ukraine and all democracies globally. Ukraine defends the security and stability of the Euro-Atlantic area, our own security and stability, as well as our common values.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms the Russian Federation's unprovoked and unjustified war against Ukraine and demand Russia to immediately terminate all military activities in Ukraine and unconditionally withdraw all forces and military equipment from the entire internationally recognised territory of Ukraine. We underline that the military aggression and invasion constitute a serious violation of international law, in particular the Geneva Convention, its additional Protocols and the UN Charter.

We reiterate our support for all defensive assistance provided to the Ukrainian armed forces, including offered individually by the EU member states, collectively through the European Peace Facility (EPF), by other international partners, and call for a further increase in concrete contributions to urgently strengthen Ukraine's defence capabilities.

We severely condemn the sham referenda organised by Russia in four Ukrainian regions and any announcements for annexation. The results are null and void. International community will not recognize these staged shows aimed at legitimizing Russia's territorial games as part of its war of aggression against Ukraine.

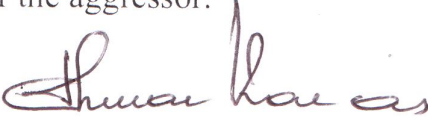
This performance had nothing to do with expression of will and must not have any implications for Ukraine's administrative-territorial system and internationally recognized borders.

We emphasize that the Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson regions, like the Ukrainian Crimea, remain the sovereign territories of Ukraine.

We call on all countries to draw conclusions regarding Russia's true intentions and increase their support for Ukraine in countering Russian aggression instead of abstaining from actions under the guise of their wish to play a role of peacekeepers that Russia does not need.

We call on all states and international organizations to immediately condemn the illegal actions of the Kremlin in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and to increase the isolation of Russia.

We call on partners to make it clear to Russia that the only response to its attempts of annexation, blackmail, and ultimatums will be the increase of support for Ukraine so that it prevails over the aggressor.

Othmar KARAS, 
First Vice-President of the European Parliament

David SMOLJAK, 
Chair of the European affairs Committee, Czech Republic

Yves CRUCHTEN, 
Chair of the European affairs Committee, Luxemburg

Eva Kjer HANSEN, 
Chair of the European affairs Committee, Denmark

Franc BREZNIK, 
Chair of the European affairs Committee, Slovenia

Angel TÎLVĂR, 
Chair of the European affairs Committee, Romania

Satu HASSI, 
Chair of the Grand Committee, Finland

Anti POOLAMETS, 
Vice-chair of the European Union Committee, Estonia

Lucia PUTTRICH, 
Member of EU Affairs Committee Bundesrat, Germany