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## JOINT STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKERS OF THE PARLIAMENTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA, THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA, AND THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA IN SUPPORT OF UKRAINE'S MEMBERSHIP OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

We stand united in solidarity with Ukraine and condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022.

We strongly believe that every possible option should be employed to help Ukraine withstand the attack on its national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We welcome the official application of Ukraine for the full-fledged membership of the European Union.

Supporting Ukraine's efforts on its way to the European Union and granting Ukraine the European Union candidate status as soon as possible would be a powerful and effective response to Russia's military aggression as well as to Ukraine's request for help at this difficult time for it.

We well understand that Ukraine fights not only for its own future, but also for the future of Europe as a whole. Therefore, a swift response to Ukraine's application for the European Union membership would also mean support for the viability, security and stability of the European Union itself.

We affirm our readiness to provide broad support for Ukraine on its path towards becoming a full-fledged Member State of the European Union and call on parliaments of other Member States of the European Union to do the same.

We urge our governments and those of other EU Member States to start taking practical steps towards Ukraine's EU membership.

Together we are stronger.

JÜRI RATAS
President of the Riigikogu
of the Republic of Estonia

INĀRA MŪRNIECE Speaker of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia VIKTORIJA ČMILYTĖ-NIELSEN

Speaker of the Seimas

of the Republic of Lithuania