

Press Statement, United for Ukraine, 24-25 February 2025

We, the representatives of the United4 Ukraine global parliamentary network, from Foreign, European Affairs, Defense Committees of the EU&NATO members states, the European Parliament, upon paying solidarity visit to Ukraine on 23-24 February 2025 as a sign of unwavering commitment to supporting Ukraine and its people:

- Reaffirm our determination using all means to put an end to Russia's unprovoked, illegal, terrorist and unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine, its illegal occupation of Ukrainian regions in flagrant violation of international law and human rights, aimed at annihilating Ukrainian statehood and Ukrainian people, and to deter Russia's military aggression against Europe, we will never recognize Russian illegal attempts to annex parts of Ukrainian territory, fully supporting Ukraine's goal to defend itself and restore its sovereignty and territorial integrity within the internationally recognized borders.
- Warn that the Trump administration's approach—seeking peace through accommodation, regardless of the costs and conditions—is undermining Ukraine's sovereignty, Europe's security, and the democratic values at the core of the transatlantic alliance since the end of the Cold War. Any ceasefire or peace agreement negotiated without Ukraine and European allies at the table—one that fails to guarantee Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, lacks clear security commitments in the event of Russian violations, and undermines the European security architecture built on NATO and the EU—will not bring peace but will instead embolden Russia and increase the likelihood of further aggression and war. By sidelining Ukraine and European allies, such an agreement would fracture the transatlantic alliance, weaken Europe's ability to respond to future threats, and erode NATO's deterrence, ultimately encouraging further authoritarian aggression worldwide and harming U.S. national interests. Such an agreement both by its content and by means of its conclusion would be contrary to the universally recognized rules of international law.
- Urge Europe, together with Ukraine and its democratic allies, to assume the leadership role in ensuring Ukraine's victory and long-term security, filling the void left by the United States. For too long, Europe has remained in the shadow of U.S. leadership, divided over its strategy and hesitant to provide the necessary resources and resolve for Ukraine's defense. There is no time to complain or lament the Trump administration's illiberal turn away from the transatlantic alliance—Europe must take bold action now to safeguard its own future. The United States and Russia tend to respect only strength, and Europe will only secure its place at the table if it becomes strong itself. All European states must therefore immediately increase their defense spending to at least 3% of GDP and take decisive steps to enhance their defense capabilities and cooperation. This includes strengthening the European defense industry through joint procurement, industrial cooperation, and investment in next-generation military technology, ensuring Europe's ability to sustain its own security needs. No options—such as defense bonds or an exemption clause for defense spending from EU budget criteria—should be off the table. This is about Europe's future: if we fail now, there will be neither a free Ukraine nor a united Europe left to defend¹.
- Agree that the crucial task at this stage is to make war and economic losses unbearable for Russia. Therefore, we must multiply our efforts to help Ukraine counter Russia in all possible areas. The “Peace through strength” approach in continuation of the Ukrainian Peace Formula and Victory Plan of President Zelenskyy is the only way to ensure just, comprehensive, and sustainable peace for Ukraine and Europe, to strengthen Ukraine militarily, financially, humanitarily, legally, economically, and politically with solid long-term security guarantees on its way to the EU and NATO. Emphasize the need to design a joint Ukrainian, European, and American plan on further steps to establish conditions for just and lasting peace on the European continent.
- Call on international community to accelerate military-technical assistance to Ukraine by ensuring air defense systems (especially Patriots, IRIS-T and SAMP/T), MANPADS, artillery systems, large-calibre artillery ammunition, shells, long-range missiles, armour, electronic warfare systems, engineering and demining equipment, and drones, including those capable of intercepting Shahed and other attack drones;

¹ All military support at EU level will take into account the specific security and defence interests of certain EU Member States as well as non-EU allies and partners willing to support this effort

lift all restrictions, in accordance with international law, on the use of weapons supplied to Ukraine for strikes on legitimate military targets within Russian territory, including concentrations of Russian troops and equipment, military airfields, weapons depots, logistics centers, and oil refineries, as this is a matter of Ukraine's inherent right to self-defense; support the building up of EU instruments to procure defense equipment from the Members States and Ukraine to address these needs; take all necessary actions to make the Ukraine Assistance Fund under the European Peace Facility operational as soon as possible and ensure its effective functioning for the proper implementation of the EU's common security commitments regarding continued military support for Ukraine in the short and long term; ensure proper training of Ukrainian servicemen within the framework of the EU Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine as well as partaking in train & equip Ukrainian brigades initiative; encourage cooperation with Ukrainian defense industry, including establishing of joint ventures, provision of investments, localisation of production in Ukraine and direct purchases of defense products for Ukraine directly from Ukrainian manufacturers, including through the use of windfall profits from immobilized Russian assets.

- Urge concrete action in 2025 on the use of immobilized Russian assets, avoiding delays that increase Russia's sense of impunity, such as developing legal solutions that go beyond windfall profits and allow for the full confiscation of Russian assets for Ukraine's defense and reconstruction; creating a long-term financial mechanism beyond the Ukraine Facility to maintain Ukraine's defense industry, economic resilience and recovery beyond 2027.
- Recognizing strong dedication of Ukrainian people for democratic transformation and change, support mutually reinforcing nature of Ukraine's future membership in the EU and NATO – by accelerating the accession negotiations during Polish EU Presidency, underlining strong support in the Council for opening Cluster 1 “Fundamentals”, Cluster 2 “Internal Market”, Cluster 6 “External Relations” during the Polish Presidency in the Council, and opening other negotiation clusters as early as possible in 2025, as well as by designing a fast track plan to accelerate Ukraine's EU accession foreseeing a prospective date for accession, should Ukraine be ready; also by building a consensus among Allies to invite Ukraine to join NATO, as we are confident that Ukraine's membership in NATO will greatly contribute to the Alliance's security, prevent further escalation of the confrontation and help ensure sustainable peace in Europe.
- Welcome the EU's emergency and humanitarian support to Ukraine's energy sector and call for continued assistance in the face of continued attacks on Ukraine's energy and civilian infrastructure.
- Underline the necessity to expand and strengthen sanctions until Russia stops its aggression and withdraws all its troops from all Ukraine's territory, including eliminating dependence on Russian fossil fuels by banning LNG exports, reducing dependence on Russian nuclear technology, restricting the activities of Rosatom, stricter enforcement of the oil cap, increasing EU maritime surveillance, response as well as holding Russia's “shadow fleet” accountable, imposing new measures to reduce the revenues that fuel Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, extending sanctions to other key Russian economic sectors (metallurgy, IT, financial sectors), imposing personal sanctions on individuals linked to the Russian military industry, pro-Kremlin propagandists, and those involved in forced deportations of Ukrainian children; imposing sanctions against entities involved in sanction circumvention. We call the EU to prevent lifting or blocking sanctions by those individual EU countries who violate the fundamental EU values.
- Support Ukraine's efforts to hold Russia, its political and military leadership and their accomplices accountable for crimes under international law committed in or against Ukraine, including crime of aggression, massive damage caused to individuals, entities and the state of Ukraine, including through the establishment of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine, the Claims Commission for Ukraine, and new categories in the Register of Damage for Ukraine. We condemn the continued illegal transfer and deportation of Ukrainian children by Russia, including their illegal adoption by Russian citizens, forced passporting and militarization.
- We will step up our support to Ukraine, so that Ukraine is put into a position of strength, thus creating conditions for a just and lasting peace to be achieved. We aim at peace that guarantees Ukraine's interests and is enforced through strong and durable security guarantees, including via deploying military forces on the ground, till Ukraine becomes a fully-fledged ally of NATO. A just and lasting peace in Ukraine is a necessary condition for strong transatlantic security.