



SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

STATEMENT
ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF RUSSIA'S WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

21 February 2023
Vilnius

The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,

having regard to the fact that 24 February 2023 marks one year since the beginning of Russia's unprovoked brutal war aimed at destroying Ukraine, its statehood and the Ukrainian people,

stressing that tens of thousands of civilians have been killed and millions of Ukrainians have been forced to flee their country as a result of the Russian aggression during the past year of the war in Ukraine,

convinced that Ukraine's victory is essential for ensuring European and global security and sustainable peace on the European continent,

firmly believing that Ukraine's future lies with the EU and NATO,

expresses its respect for the people of Ukraine who have resolutely stood up to the Russian aggression and are now defending their country's freedom as well as the values and freedoms of Europe and of the whole democratic world;

reiterates its support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders;

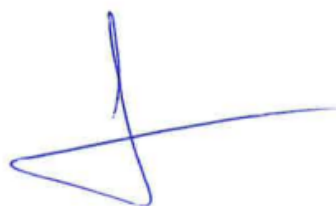
stresses that Lithuania strongly condemns and will never recognise the illegal annexation of Ukrainian territories carried out since 2014;

calls on the EU Member States and NATO member countries as well as on EU and NATO institutions to do their utmost to ensure that the Russian aggression is stopped, the illegally occupied territories of Ukraine are liberated, the Russian troops are withdrawn, Ukraine's security is guaranteed and sustainable peace in Europe is ensured, including through the following means:

- a coordinated response to Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, comprising continued provision of weapons;
- provision of adequate and flexible financial support for Ukraine's reconstruction, including through the use of frozen Russian assets as soon as possible;
- further strengthening of targeted restrictive measures (sanctions) against Russia and its allies, *inter alia* by refraining from any exemptions in restrictions to be adopted in future;

- continued isolation of Russia and Belarus as its accomplice from multilateral international organisations and institutions, and strict isolation of Russian and Belarusian citizens from international political, sporting and cultural forums and events, preventing any opportunities for Russian and Belarusian disinformation and propaganda;
- leadership in establishing a special international tribunal to investigate the crimes of the Russian aggression in Ukraine in order to ensure that not only the direct perpetrators of the crimes but also the Kremlin's political leadership are brought to justice;
- adoption of decisions to designate Russia as a terrorist state or a state sponsor of terrorism and to break off political and other relations with Russia in countries and institutions that have not yet done so;
- assistance to Ukraine in its reform efforts and support for its future membership of the EU so as to enable Ukraine to embark on the accession negotiations in the first half of 2023 and ensure their smooth success;
- non-repetition of the geopolitical mistake made at NATO's 2008 Bucharest Summit by once again taking decisions on Ukraine's 'security guarantees and future NATO membership' that are not based on any realistic plans, which only served to spur Russia into hostilities against Georgia and Ukraine;
- an invitation for Ukraine to join NATO to be made at the forthcoming NATO Summit in Vilnius, which would not only provide the fighting Ukrainian society with strong moral and political support, but also send a clear signal to Russia that its aggression against Ukraine is unviable.

Chair of the Committee

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, abstract shape that resembles a triangle with a vertical line extending upwards from its top vertex.

Žygimantas Pavilionis