

Statement by the Chairpersons of the Foreign Affairs Committees

after a videoconference on

the 25th of March 2022

We, the Chairpersons of our Parliaments' Foreign Affairs Committees, condemn the Russian aggression against free and independent Ukraine. There is no justification for the criminal actions taken by Russia. Killing defenceless civilians and destroying residential, school, and medical facilities exclude Russia from the community of civilised countries. Russia's military aggression against Ukraine is a war crime.

We call on the authorities of the EU Member States and NATO, and all friendly countries that respect democracy, freedom, and human rights, to introduce the strongest possible sanctions that will prevent the Russian Federation from continuing its war against Ukraine.

We recall the reprehensible and illegal aid given to Russia by Belarus. The activities of the Lukashenko regime should also meet with a response from the international community in the form of sanctions to stop further support for military actions.

The barbaric actions of the Russian army cause dramatic suffering of the civilian population and destroy Ukrainian towns and villages. There are reports of bombing hospitals, schools, places of worship, facilities, culture, residential buildings, and shelters. Systematic bombardments terrorise the civilian population. Ten million Ukrainian citizens were forced to leave their homes and flee, of which over three and a half million seek refuge outside Ukraine. This is the largest migration crisis in Europe since World War II. We appeal for increased humanitarian and military support for Ukraine. Each country separately, the European Union and NATO, have a moral duty to support the fighting Ukraine. Therefore, we recommend the earliest possible launch of procedures that will allow Ukraine to become a candidate country and then a full member of the European Union when it meets the membership criteria. And already today, we propose that Ukraine should be admitted to the Three Seas Initiative.

We support the same European perspective for the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, which in the past have also experienced Russian aggression.

Countries of Central and Eastern Europe bear the most significant burden in organising humanitarian aid. Therefore, we call on the European Union to provide financial resources to support the countries which are taking in refugees from Ukraine. Helping the victims of war is our duty, but it is also a huge challenge. We, therefore, appeal to the international community to show solidarity and provide all possible assistance to the refugees.

We strongly express our conviction that Russia bears full responsibility for this war, and for the destruction and suffering of millions of Ukrainian citizens. All those responsible for the aggression must be brought to justice by international courts.

Mr. Marek Kuchciński

Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee
Sejm of the Republic of Poland

Mr. Pavel Fischer

Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Defence and Security
Senate of the Czech Republic

Mr. Michael Roth

Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs
Bundestag of the Federal Republic of Germany

Mr. Charles Flanagan

Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
Defence
Houses of the Oireachtas of the Republic of Ireland

Ms. Laima Andrikienė

Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs
Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Ms. Carmen Mihălcescu

Deputy Chair of the Committee of Foreign Affairs
Chamber of Deputies of Romania

Mr. Jussi Halla-aho

Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee
Eduskunta of the Republic of Finland

Mr. Oleksandr Merezhko

Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
Interparliamentary Cooperation
Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Mr. Marek Ženíšek

Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee
Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic

Mr. Zsolt Németh

Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee
National Assembly of Hungary

Mr. Rihards Kols

Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee
Saeima of the Republic of Latvia

Mr. Titus Corlăţean

Chair of the Committee of Foreign Affairs
Senate of Romania

Ms. Ventsislava Lyubenova

Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee
National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria

Mr. Marko Mihkelson

Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee
Riigikogu of the Republic of Estonia