

Resolution on United in Solidarity with Ukraine: defending democratic values against Putin's war

Russia's military aggression against Ukraine changed our world overnight. Putin's unprovoked war threatens global security — along with that of the international order itself, and with it world peace. Ukrainians are not only fighting and even sacrificing their lives to defend their homeland and Ukraine's independence; they are bravely fighting on behalf of that same democracy and peace the free world enjoys. Putin's Russia does not respect basic international values and principles: such as peace, respect for territorial integrity, sovereignty and restraint in not resorting to military aggression to settle political disputes. Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the EU and its Member States, together with allies and partners around the world, have taken decisive steps to implement far-reaching sanctions intended to isolate Putin's regime, to restrain the economic resources of Russia's war machine and to give political, economic and military support to counter the threats to Ukrainian statehood.

We have been shocked and horrified by the images of Ukrainian civilians killed as they tried to flee or buried beneath the rubble of bombed hospitals or houses, and most of all by the Russian atrocities committed in Bucha and elsewhere in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. The Putin regime's war crimes cannot go unpunished. We will never accept these atrocities against people and blatant violations of the international law, the UN Charter and the principles enshrined in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act. We strongly support the 2 March 2022 United Nations General Assembly resolution condemning Russia's invasion and demonstrating the unity of the international community. Sanctions must be comprehensive and effective. There can be no return to a status-quo in relations with Russia unless there is a total withdrawal of troops from Ukraine and a fundamental change of attitude in Russia towards their neighbors.

From the very first days of the invasion, the Lukashenka regime in Belarus has provided full support for the Russian military advance against Ukraine, especially granting the use of Belarusian airports and bases for missile and air bombing of the northern part of Ukraine, as well as the use of the Belarusian border with Ukraine for the advance of the Russian armed forces towards Kyiv. Without such support the war crimes in Bucha, Borodyanka, Irpin and dozens of other towns and villages near the capital of Ukraine would have never happened. We must hold Lukashenka's regime fully accountable and responsible for the Russian atrocities in Ukraine.

Hence, in addition to providing vital immediate support to Ukraine, we must re-assess long-term strategy towards both Russia and Ukraine.

Russia's war in Ukraine is a threat to our international democracies; to our 'security, prosperity and values; and to the rules-based international order itself. As the war on European territory continues, we face a pivotal moment: If we want to effectively deter authoritarian powers encroaching on our democracies — and to defend peace and democratic values together with our partners and allies — now is the time for firm and brave action.