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EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°1154
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EU Statement on Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

1. Mr Chair, the EU and its Member States resolutely condemn Russia's illegal, unprovoked and unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine, which constitutes a manifest violation of international law including the UN Charter as well as the OSCE's core principles and commitments.
2. Reports emerging daily show the suffering of Ukraine's civilian population, including through Russia's continued attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure which bring additional harm notably as the winter approaches. On the night of 16-17 November, Russia launched a large-scale missile attack against several Ukrainian cities, with Kyiv being particularly affected. Reports indicated up to 26 missiles launched within approximately 40 minutes during the first wave, followed by further strikes which continued in the morning, focusing on transport, energy and industrial infrastructure.
3. Suffering is also present daily on the battlefield as the Ukrainian armed forces continue to exercise Ukraine's inherent right to self-defence. In this context, we welcome the prospect of a large-scale exchange of prisoners of war. This is of particular importance as reports continue to document their ill-treatment, including the latest UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine report which called a pattern of sexual violence which occurs amid Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine "shocking" and attributed 89% of verified cases to the Russian Federation.
4. The first step to stop this suffering, terror and death is securing a ceasefire, followed by a peace agreement. We support a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine based on the principles of the UN Charter and international law and underpinned by robust and credible security guarantees for Ukraine. Only a solution that respects Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity can bring about a just and lasting peace. Borders must not be changed by force, the aggressor cannot be rewarded and Ukraine's long-term security and ability to defend itself must be guaranteed.

5. In this context, the long-lasting and agreed-upon principles of Europe's security architecture remain indispensable. We will continue to defend these principles, hand in hand with Ukraine.
6. The EU and its Member States reiterate their support for diplomatic efforts to bring Russia's war of aggression to an end, and underline the EU's readiness to step up its engagement in that context. Europe has a key role to play in a future settlement and will defend its interests.
7. We stand by Ukraine, in times of war and peace. As Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission underlined last week "Our support matches our resolve. And both only grow stronger with time." We will continue our multi-faceted support to Ukraine and its people, including political, financial, economic, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support.
8. Mr Chair, Russia's commitment to peace negotiations is also called into question by the developments in the Black Sea. Between 13 and 15 November, four ships were struck by drones in the territorial waters of Romania. On 16 and 17 November, a cargo ship carrying wheat and a gas tanker sank in Bulgaria's exclusive economic zone after being hit by sea drones. The International Maritime Organisation reported last month that in total more than 570 vessels were struck and at least 40 sailors killed in the Black Sea, more casualties than on any other shipping route this year. We strongly condemn Russia's escalating and increasingly reckless behaviour, and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the security of all Member States. We call on Russia to abide by international law and its OSCE commitments. We stand in full solidarity with Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, and all countries that are affected by Russia's actions. The European Commission has pledged EUR 50 million in dedicated EU funding to accelerate the setup of the joint Black Sea Maritime Security Hub in Romania and Bulgaria. An additional EUR 10 million has been allocated to support search and rescue operations in the region.
9. Mr Chair, the EU and its Member States continue to call on Russia to stop its aggression and immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

10. We reiterate our call on all countries to immediately cease any assistance to Russia in its war of aggression against Ukraine, whether direct or indirect, and notably through the provision of dual-use goods and components. In particular, we strongly condemn the deployment of the DPRK's military forces in the war against Ukraine as well as the continued military support provided to Russia by Belarus, Iran and the DPRK, among others.
11. Lastly, the EU and its Member States remain committed to ensuring full accountability for war crimes and the other most serious crimes committed in connection with Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

Thank you.

Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.