



VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE
Committee on Foreign Affairs and Inter-parliamentary Cooperation

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Kyiv

Dear colleagues.

Today, the whole world is witnessing the largest armed conflict in Europe since the end of World War II - the large-scale invasion of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. Since Russia's occupation of Ukraine's Crimea and Donbas, Russia has consistently evaded its international obligations under international law and other agreements, including the Minsk Agreements, while falsely asserting respect for Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

On the night of February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation insidiously launched missile strikes throughout Ukraine and launched a large-scale invasion on the territory of Ukraine. During these days, Russia has fired more than a hundred of ground-based and navy-based operational-tactical missiles «Iskander» and «Caliber» on peaceful towns and villages of Ukraine, despite the norms of the international law the cluster bombing was used in Kharkiv city and Okhtyrka (Sumy region) was bombed with aviation thermobaric bomb. These bloody crimes of the Putin regime are a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and require an international criminal investigation.

Every day we record numerous war crimes committed by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation under the leadership of their President Vladimir Putin. Every hour we lose the best sons and daughters of the Ukrainian people, thousands are injured or forced to leave their homes. The Russian soldiers are destroying homes, hospitals, kindergartens and schools with unprecedented brutality, killing civilians in cold blood.

They are firing with MRLS «Grad», cruise missiles and unguided bombs in residential areas of Ukrainian cities, including illicit weapons, killing women and children, as well as citizens of European Union member states in Ukraine. Russia is shelling humanitarian corridors, ignoring our requests to allow the removal of women, children, orphans, and people with limited mobility. Russia, having raised white flags, shells with heavy weapons children's hospitals and maternity hospitals and shoots unarmed civilians in the back.

As a result of constant artillery shelling, the towns of Volnovakha, Shchastya, and Stanytsia Luhanska in Luhansk Oblast, are on the verge of a humanitarian catastrophe, the cities are destroyed, most of residents are hiding in shelters and basements, they are lack of food, drinking water and medicine. They have no medical care, electricity, water and heating. Houses and social infrastructure were severely damaged by the shelling.

The cities of Nova Kakhovka and Tavriysk are completely blocked, there is no possibility to provide food and even basic medicine. Russian troops do not allow the evacuation of residents of the affected cities, they shell evacuation buses with the "Grads", take civilians as hostages and hide behind them as a human shield. Kharkiv city, which is under constant bombardment, is close to humanitarian crisis and it is impossible to evacuate children and the elderly.

Russian occupation forces have seized the Chornobyl nuclear power plant, in the vicinity of which, radiation levels have already been exceeded. The troops of the Russian Federation are also fighting in the nearest vicinity of other nuclear power plants, what is a threat of an environmental and humanitarian catastrophe not only for Ukraine and Europe, but also for the whole world.

Ukraine is fighting the aggressor for its independence, for the European choice of the Ukrainian people, we are fighting for all the values that are the fundamental for the European Union. It is a war for the existence of concepts such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights for the whole world. At this time, the Ukrainian Army and the entire Ukrainian people defend their homeland, their historical and civilizational choices. In his speeches, Putin unjustifiably accuses Ukraine and NATO member states, what confirms that Europe's fate is being decided in Ukraine: if Putin does not get a decent rebuff now, he will move on.

In this regard, we ask the Parliaments of the Member States of the European Union convene urgent meetings and support us in this struggle, and decide on:

- 1) Immediate establishment of a no-flight zone over the territory of Ukraine (At least the humanitarian airlift passage-«freedom corridor»).**
- 2) Providing military assistance to protect Ukraine in the fight against the aggressor and call on their governments to provide comprehensive support to Ukraine, approving the decision to provide massive defense assistance, including to the Armed Forces of Ukraine and Territorial Defense units with fuel, counter-air defense, man-portable air-defense systems, ammunition, military equipment, helmets and bulletproof vests, medicines and communications equipment.**
- 3) Providing humanitarian assistance to victims and civilians to meet the priority needs of people in food, clothing, first aid, as well as opening humanitarian (green) corridors for the safe evacuation of women, children and the elderly and ensuring their safety in direct cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross in accordance with their mandate under the 1949 Geneva Conventions.**
- 4) Support for the decision of the European Parliament on the immediate granting of Ukraine the status of a candidate country on the basis of Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union and the immediate acceleration of Ukraine's accession to the European Union under a special procedure.**
- 5) Continuation of imposing and increasing, along with international financial organizations, comprehensive economic and financial sanctions, including the freezing of government and private assets of the Russian Federation and the introduction of an embargo on trade in Russian gas and oil.**

- 6) Initiate the establishment of a collective peace-keeping force on the basis of UN GA Resolution 377 (V) “Uniting for peace” dated November 3, 1950, on Korea (1950) allowing GA to issue such recommendations upon request of any 7 UN Security Council members or majority of the General Assembly members.**

Ukraine will definitely win - and so will Europe, democracy and our common values.

We are together on our way to victory!

Yours sincerely,

Chairman of the Committee

Oleksandr MEREZHKO

To the attention of the
Committees on foreign affairs
of the European Union Members States