

Fast and smooth process of Ukraine's integration into the European Union is a key element to ensure long-lasting peace and stability

The Congress of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Stockholm, Sweden on 26-28 May 2023:

Notes that:

- Russia's full-scale unprovoked aggression against Ukraine of February 24, 2022, which constitutes a blatant and flagrant violation of the UN Charter and a severe breach of international law, appeared to become a watershed pivotal point that fundamentally changed the geopolitical situation in Europe, after which the growing danger for the existence of liberal democracies could no longer be ignored necessitating bold, brave and comprehensive political, security and financial decisions by the EU;
- Ukraine protects European security and European values from Russia's unprincipled and destructive encroachment and requires consolidated efforts to strengthen Ukraine's ability to do so;
- The Peace Formula, as proposed by President Zelenskyy, has been endorsed by the EU during the EU-Ukraine Summit in February 2023. The European side took commitment to assist in the implementation of this formula;
- Despite the ongoing war, EU-Ukraine bilateral political dialogue as well as its "Euro Atlantic" agenda, are very intense and ambitious;
- The last EU-Ukraine Summit in February this year has shown good progress on sectoral cooperation and explored areas where this could be further enhanced, using the full potential of the recently gained "candidate status" as well as of the ambitious Association Agreement with Ukraine, approaching Ukraine to the full introduction of the four freedoms (free movement of goods, capital, services, and people);
- Ukraine is now a recognised candidate for membership of the European Union and has received massive support in all areas from the EU, including unprecedented military support;
- Ukraine is committed to swiftly and diligently performing all necessary work in order to complete the fulfillment of all seven steps outlined by the Commission as related to its EU candidate status.

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Believes that:

- The historic decision of granting Ukraine the EU - candidacy status in June 2023 was a matter of great geopolitical significance. Now, to further boost its geopolitical credentials, the EU should revise and reinvigorate its Enlargement policy as a matter of priority; Europe must continue its unwavering solidarity with the people and leadership of Ukraine and its support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, within its internationally recognised borders;
- Ukraine can and must win this war: quickly and at a lower price. Respectively, the state must receive sufficient and timely support until victory itself: to withstand Russian offensives, liberate its citizens and territories, deter the aggressor from new strikes, and punish all those guilty of crimes against humanity and law, to rebuild and revive the country;
- The successful experience of the Ukrainian defence should be incorporated into the European defence mechanisms;
- Ukraine's fast and decisive accession to the EU is mutually beneficial political, economic, and security perspectives. The best pillars of stability and prosperity within the EU family are strong and well-integrated states with resilient and well-functioning security and defence institutions;
- Ukraine's successful integration into the EU and NATO, accelerated since the full-fledged Russian war on Ukraine, will help the Union to significantly improve its geopolitical standing, modernise its defence capabilities as well as serve as a role model for other countries willing to join the EU;
- Ukraine's reform-related progress will enable both sides to move on quickly toward the start of negotiations on Ukraine's accession to the EU.

Calls for:

- Establishment of conditions for enhanced economic and trade relations leading toward Ukraine's integration into the EU's Internal Market;
- Renewing the basic principles of the EU Enlargement policy: new frameworks for relations with the candidate and neighbouring countries, in particular, the concept of staged integration, should be established as a matter of priority;
- Significant increase of investments in EU defence toolkit under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP);

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- Extending the opportunities for officials from Ukraine to study and observe the work of the EU institutions and support the introduction of a Ukrainian observer status to the EU;
- Considering giving Ukraine the opportunity to participate in PESCO projects;
- Directing joint efforts to the implementation of the Peace Formula, as proposed by Ukraine's President Zelenskyy, to ensure stable and long-lasting peace on the European continent;
- Uniting efforts to ensure the accelerated accession of Ukraine to NATO and the EU, assistance to Ukraine in its post-war reconstruction, and the country's active incorporation into the European security, economic and investment environments;
- Accelerating bilateral positive dynamic in the context of preparation for the accession talks to allow the start of negotiations on Ukraine's accession to the EU as soon as possible, preferable end of this year.

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