

Strengthening support for Ukraine

The Congress of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Dublin, Ireland, on 2-4 June 2022:

Notes that:

- on 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation commenced a full-scale, unprovoked, and completely unjustified invasion of the territory of Ukraine, after having waged an armed conflict in the Donbass region for already eight years and illegally annexing the Crimean Peninsula in 2014;
- President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin ordered the Russian armed forces to commence a full-scale, unprovoked, and completely unjustified invasion of the territory of Ukraine;
- by invading Ukraine, Russia as permanent member of the Security Council not only flagrantly and egregiously disregards letter and spirit of the United Nations Charter but also wilfully and systematically violates the European peace order and security architecture by breaking binding international agreements such as the Charter of Paris for a New Europe (1990), the Budapest Document "Towards a Genuine Partnership in a New Era" (1994), the Istanbul Document (1999), and the Astana Commemorative Declaration towards a Security Community (2010);
- the Russian armed forces deliberately and completely destroyed Ukrainian infrastructure, including thousands of residential buildings, electrical stations, gas pipelines, transport and social facilities, healthcare and educational institutions;
- the Russian invasion dealt a severe blow to Ukraine's economy and stability of the financial system, causing irreparable damage to industrial facilities and agricultural production;
- Russian armed forces committed massive atrocities in the Ukrainian cities where thousands of innocent civilians were wilfully tortured, raped, and killed;
- the Russian Federation continues its official long-term policy to deny Ukraine's right to self-identification, self-determination, and existence as a separate nation and sovereign state, with the specific intent to destroy the Ukrainian nation as such;
- Ukraine's struggle is our struggle and we will continue to host people fleeing the war;
- the strength of the commitment of President Zelenskyy, Ukrainian Parliament and the people of Ukraine to restoring free, safe, democratic and independent country within the community of nations is both humbling and inspiring;

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- we will never accept the idea that Russia has a right to control any part of Ukraine;
- millions of people in Russia disagree with President Putin's actions in Ukraine, and many of them are being persecuted;
- Russia has a long track record of hostile actions also against other countries, such as Georgia in 2008, as well as continued cyber attacks, disinformation, meddling with democratic elections, and the support for anti-democratic organisations, as well as even the murdering of dissidents and the use of chemical weapons on European soil;
- Russia has unilaterally revoked the NATO-Russia Founding Act with the invasion of Ukraine at the latest;
- Russian officials, including Vladimir Putin, have openly threatened and repeatedly questioned the sovereignty and territorial integrity also of other countries, especially those that had been previously part of the Soviet Union or the Warsaw Pact;
- Russia will have to live with the shame of what they have done in Ukraine for generations and those responsible will be held to account. There can be no more frozen conflicts in Europe where brute force imposes partitions on countries and is used to destabilise regions;
- democratic values and institutions cannot be taken for granted and they must be protected;
- Russia's actions do not display interest in a peaceful coexistence, considering the attempts to expand its territory and influence by force, thereby actively undermining the European peace and security architecture and violating every respective international obligation;
- we should not underestimate this threat, but prepare respectively, in order to provide for resilience, credible deterrence, and effective defence in case of further Russian aggressions – be it conventional, irregular, nuclear or hybrid;
- the Russian invasion of Ukraine must not conclude with a victory for Vladimir Putin.

Is convinced that:

- the Russian invasion of Ukraine is a brutal disregard for democratic values and principles, fundamental human rights and freedoms that the European nations have the responsibility to secure and protect;
- the Russian Federation must be accountable for its flagrant and severe violations of international law during its unprecedented aggression against Ukraine and its citizens;
- the Russian aggression in Ukraine is a serious threat to security and peace in Europe and the world, as well as to the rules-based international order that undermines all principles of international law

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and therefore requires a unified and decisive response from all the European states;

- Europe should not and cannot longer wait to establish its own, real and effective European foreign and defence policy and structures.

Calls for the ALDE Party and its member organisations, the European Parliament and the European Commission, and European states to:

- continue to show firm solidarity to Ukraine, as we have since the beginning from the local, regional and national levels to the European level as well as on the frontlines in Ukraine;
- commit to stand with Ukraine and its determination to not just overcome this brutal invasion but also to be prosperous and secure as a part of the European Union, and therefore *inter alia* put up a Marshall Plan to rebuild Ukraine, as concluded by the European Parliament;
- to keep the Ukraine crisis at the top of the European political agenda;
- provide military* and security assistance to strengthen Ukraine's capacity to adequately respond to Russia's military attacks, defend and liberate its territory and people, and prevent the spread of Russian aggression to other European countries;
- continue to host people from Ukraine fleeing the war, as well as Russian dissidents who face persecution and long-term imprisonment for their stance in Russia, and to ensure that they are treated with dignity in accordance with European and international human rights obligations;
- provide safe and legal access to health services for Ukrainian refugees, particularly in regards to sexual and reproductive health and specifically providing access to safe abortion;
- continue to provide urgent humanitarian aid to Ukraine and support countries such as Moldova that host huge numbers of refugees;
- call on other countries, particularly but not limited to India and the People's Republic of China, to condemn Russia's war against Ukraine, to join our sanctions against the Russian regime and especially not to help circumventing them. If other countries however contravene those sanctions, undermine the efforts to end this war, or even actively support the Russian regime, tough sanctions must be also imposed on those countries. If among those are EU membership candidates, this includes cancelling all Pre-Accession Assistance payments. For companies circumventing EU sanctions, this must result in a ban from the Single Market;
- expresses its support and solidarity with the citizens of Russia who, despite the threat to their safety, remain faithful to democratic values. These people create the basis for overcoming the current crisis in the future and returning Russia to the pan-European space of humanistic values;

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- ensure continuous economic pressure and sanctions on the Russian Federation, including a full embargo on Russian imports of oil, coal, nuclear fuel, and gas, as well as other commodities such as uranium and metals to the EU as soon as possible and linked to a concrete phase-out roadmap for energy purchases in Russia, and a subsequent ban of all Russian banks and financial institutions from SWIFT, as well as considering the expansion of EU sanctions on all persons on the list of Alexei Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation, and expelling all sanctioned Russians and their family members from the European Union by revoking their visas until the Russian Federation fully retreats from the territory of Ukraine in its internationally-recognised borders and compensates for all losses to Ukraine;
- recognise that the Russian Federation as the state responsible for the war of aggression against Ukraine shall be obliged to pay reparations and contributions to compensate for loss and damage inflicted by the Russian invasion;
- immediately bring charges against Russia before the International Court of Justice for the war of aggression against Ukraine, which is contrary to international law;
- ensure justice and individually prosecute all Russian perpetrators who committed war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide against citizens of Ukraine;
- refrain from acting over the heads of or even against the will of the Ukrainian people when it comes to possible future negotiations with or policies towards Russia;
- conduct an independent, unbiased investigation of each war crime, no statute of limitations shall be applied to such crimes; ensure justice and prosecute all the perpetrators who committed war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide against citizens of Ukraine; consider prevention of war crimes as the unconditional duty of every state and all international structures; make sure that both the military and the civilians realise that responsibility for the war crimes is inevitable;
- complete stop in the work towards the building of Nord Stream 2;
- continue to support the civil societies opposing the autocratic regimes in Russia and Belarus, for example by 1) issuing EU-wide humanitarian visas for oppositional activists and deserted soldiers, 2) providing medical and psychological help for victims of repression and torture, 3) offering IT companies to move to the EU; and 4) creating legal paths of immigration for high-skilled workers and scholarship programmes for persecuted students and scientists, as well as supporting the use of VPN apps and end-to-end encrypted messengers – and especially not to ban or restrict their use from our side.

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- commit to the urgency of working with our European and international partners to protect our democracies from attempts to undermine them, and to uphold the Rule of Law as a priority;
- to seek cooperation within the European Community and the Member Parties to advocate urgent support for and a long-term commitment to a European Ukraine.

Calls for NATO and its member states as well as the European Union to:

- support the NATO membership applications of Sweden and Finland;
- stay alert and prepared for further Russian attacks, potentially also on other countries surrounding the Russian Federation, or even EU and NATO member states;
- ensure a credible deterrence, especially in its Eastern European member states, by permanently deploying and ramping up troops there, as well as by setting up a missile defence shield.

*as long as it is not limited by national laws.

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