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Stockholm 2022: #westandwithukraine, #westaywithukraine and we act decisively!

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Stockholm (Sweden), 09/04/2022

Recognising that

- Ukraine is now fighting in its sixth week defending against the armed forces of the Russian Federation and fighting for our European values.
- Recent reports from the war-torn country show heinous and targeted attacks including heavy weapon strikes, murder, and rape against civilians constituting war crimes carried out by the army of the Russian Federation.
- The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine marks a turning point in the security architecture of Europe
- The European Union, its member states, and institutions have to face the ugly truth that none of the prior measures could prevent Russia from furthering their expansionist agenda by means of an aggressive war.
- There is no alternative to strong and sincere support for Ukrainian defense.

Acknowledging that

- The European Neighbourhood Policy has failed. Ukraine is at war with Russia, Belarus has been virtually occupied.
- The energy and trade dependence of the European Union on Russia has slowed down a swift response to the Russian aggression.
- There can only be stable peace in Europe if the Russian Federation stops acting aggressively towards its neighbours. Frozen conflicts in neighboring countries with EU ambitions, cyber attacks, and fake news campaigns to undermine cohesion with and in the EU, or other forms of interference in the internal affairs of its neighbors, can no longer be tolerated.
- Ukraine is an EU candidate country with a rich and diverse European history. It is highly frustrating for potential candidates for EU membership to be engaged in lengthy talks without clear outcome.



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- Regardless of any condition, the EU must engage in the reconstruction of Ukraine. We must clearly show that we are prepared to support and also protect the free will formation of the population and reforms in the sense of our values.

YEPP calls on

- The EU council to **deliver heavy weapons** to Ukraine and to advocate for a speedy approval of export requests by the Ukrainian government. We call for member states of the European Union to ignore Russian objections and to supply heavy weapons or allow their supply.
- Member States , NATO, and the European Peace Facility to supply and finance stronger air defence systems, tanks, armored vehicles and combat aircraft for the Ukrainian military.
- The member states to support Ukraine's EU candidacy efforts and grant **EU candidate status for Ukraine with immediate effect**.
- Accommodating steps such as a tailor-made values and economic union, for example, a customs union.
- "Deterrence through means" and coordinated increase of the military presence of EU member states.
- Coordination with the national defense planning of the Baltic states, Poland, Finland, Norway and Sweden in order to support effective protection of their territorial integrity.
- Coordinate with the national maritime defense planning of Romania and Bulgaria in order to support effective protection of their Exclusive Economic Zones and of the civilian naval traffic within these zones.