

JOINT STATEMENT: fighting for Ukraine

YEPP Council Meeting – Czech Republic

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Presented by Moderata Ungdomsförbundet (MUF), Solidarna Molod (SM), JSD Portugal (JSD) and the YEPP Board

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Recognizing that:

On the 24th of February 2022, the Russian military, under direct orders from President Vladimir Putin, launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In two years of intense warfare, Russia has inflicted incredible suffering on the Ukrainian people, committed war crimes on a massive scale, violated Ukraine's territorial sovereignty, and shown complete disregard for international norms, law, and basic humanity. The Ukrainian people and their military have demonstrated incredible bravery and determination. With strong Western support, they have repelled the invaders from Ukraine's capital Kyiv and a substantial majority of Ukrainian territory.

Ongoing debates are taking place in the United States, a pivotal supporter of the Ukrainian government and a key player in fortifying the resilience of the Ukrainian people against the Russian invaders. Nevertheless, the proposed economic and military aid package, valued at \$61 billion and put forth by President Joe Biden, faces imminent challenges in gaining approval from the Senate and Congress. This package is crucial as it encompasses both economic assistance and, more significantly, military support.

In response, the European Union made a decision on the first of February to allocate a new package of approximately €54 billion. This package primarily comprises economic aid aimed at sustaining the Ukrainian government and mitigating the risk of an economic crisis. Given the division among Americans regarding their continuous support for Ukraine, there is a pressing need for the European Union and its partners to intensify their efforts, particularly in providing essential military support.

The European Union has already committed to augmenting the production of ammunition and, more notably, artillery pieces. However, it is noteworthy that Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the commission, has openly acknowledged that the current production levels are insufficient, emphasizing the necessity for further action.

In alignment with preceding resolutions YEPP reasserts its firm conviction that European nations and their leaders should take additional measures to assist Ukraine and its citizens.¹

Acknowledging:

In recognition of the European Union's commitment to addressing the crisis, the Council acknowledges the EU's recent decision on February 1 to provide a new economic aid package of approximately €54 billion. This aid is aimed at assisting the Ukrainian government in maintaining economic stability and mitigating the risk of a crisis within the country. Furthermore, we acknowledge the European Union's dedication to increasing production of ammunition and artillery pieces, understanding the critical role military assistance plays in deterring further aggression.

YEPP calls on the European Peoples Party (EPP) to:

1. Continue the Support for Ukraine:

Expressing solidarity with Ukraine, we call upon the EPP and its partners to sustain unwavering support for the Ukrainian people in their struggle against the unlawful Russian invasion. We urge member states to collaborate diplomatically to garner international support for Ukraine.

2. Appoint an EU-Commissioner for Security and Defense Cooperation:

A commissioner should be appointed to facilitate the coordination and harmonisation of the strategic production of weapons, ammunition, and other military equipment among member states of the EU. It is imperative for EU member states to strategically collaborate on their national defence industries, capitalising on each country's strengths and addressing weaknesses, while aligning with NATO agreements. This approach will position the EU as a robust force in fostering strategic cooperation within the defence industry.

3. Sharply Increase Production of Ammunition and Military Equipment:

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, YEPP calls for an immediate and substantial increase in the production of ammunition and military equipment. We encourage the European Union to explore collaborative efforts with member states and private industries to expedite the production and delivery of essential military equipment to Ukraine.

4. Ensure Delivery of Committed Military Equipment:

Emphasizing the critical importance of prompt and efficient delivery, we call for measures to ensure that committed military equipment, including ammunition and artillery pieces, reaches Ukraine without unnecessary delays. Transparent monitoring mechanisms must be established to track progress and address any obstacles in the delivery process.

5. Enforce Sanctions:

In light of the ongoing crisis, YEPP reiterates the need for the strict enforcement of sanctions against Russia, its government officials, and individuals closely tied to the Kremlin. Member

¹ See Young Fine Gael's resolution on "Increased Ammunition"
<https://youthpepp.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Increased-ammunition.pdf>

states are encouraged to coordinate efforts in identifying and implementing targeted sanctions to exert maximum pressure on Russia to cease its unlawful actions in Ukraine.

6. To forecast, address, and respond to Russia's disinformation campaigns affecting the European Union, its Member States, and countries in the region:

As part of the Kremlin's hybrid warfare, Europe is a target of propaganda and disinformation spread by the Kremlin and other pro-Russian groups. The fight against disinformation involves developing clear and coordinated messaging to counter false narratives and amplify accurate information. Utilizing diverse communication channels, including traditional media, social media, and community outreach, to effectively discredit disinformation.

6. Accession process:

The European Union to look for ways to speed up the process of Ukraine's accession to a member state by continuing progress on reforms, meeting EU standards, and addressing any obstacles to integration or key challenges.

7. Coordination of refugees:

To come up with more measures to assist countries affected by an influx of Ukrainian refugees. Supported with resources and the management of displaced populations and the coordination with international organizations to address the needs of both the refugees and the EU Member states.

8. The annual review mechanism:

The European Council to ensure that the new annual review mechanism agreed with Hungary for the four-year financial aid package to Ukraine does not allow any member state to veto the package, and thereby halt the funding as well as urgently increase their military spending as much as possible to become less reliant on geopolitical forces outside the EU.

9. The EU as guarantor:

The European Commission to work to develop an instrument for the EU to act as a guarantor for member states' defence contracts so that governments can sign longer contracts, and defence manufacturers can have the confidence to invest in new and expanded production capacities.

Sources:

1. [The Ukraine Crisis: What to Know About Why Russia Attacked - The New York Times](#)
2. [EU Leaders agree on €50 billion of reliable financial support for Ukraine until 2027](#)
3. [Speech by President von der Leyen at the European Parliament Plenary on the need for unwavering EU support for Ukraine, after two years of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine](#)
4. <https://youthcpp.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Increased-ammunition.pdf>