

Upholding Ukraine's Sovereignty and Supporting Lasting Peace in the Face of Aggression

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Presented by: Slovenska demokratska mladina (SDM, Slovenia) and Mladež Hrvatske demokratske zajednice (MHDZ, Croatia)

Supported by: Mladež HDZ BiH (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Mlada generacija SLS (MGSLs, Slovenia), ISAMAA Youth (Estonia), Mlada Slovenija (MSi, Slovenia), VMRO DPMNE (North Macedonia), TOP tým (Czech Republic), Young Fine Gael (Ireland), JG SVP (Italy), Junge Union (Germany), Junge ÖVP (Austria), NE.DI.SY. (Cyprus), MIERT - Magyar Ifjúsági Értekezlet (Romania), Solidarna Molod (SM, Ukraine), Organossi Neon Neas Demokratias (ONNED, Greece), Junge Mitte (Switzerland).

Preamble

The illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia in 2022 have posed an ongoing threat to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.¹ Despite facing overwhelming challenges, Ukraine has shown remarkable resilience in defending its democratic values and European aspirations.² In response, the international community, including the European Union, NATO, and other democratic allies, has provided essential military, humanitarian, and financial aid, reaffirming their commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty.

The European People's Party (EPP) and its youth wing, YEPP, have consistently advocated for robust support for Ukraine. They have emphasized the importance of military and humanitarian aid, sanctions against Russia, and a clear pathway for Ukraine's accession to the European Union.³

However, Russia's ongoing efforts to destabilize Europe through proxy forces, disinformation campaigns, and support for pro-Russian movements pose a significant threat to regional peace and democracy. These destabilizing actions, particularly from countries like North Korea and Iran, contribute to the escalation of the conflict in Ukraine and hinder efforts for peace and stability.⁴

¹ United Nations, "General Assembly Resolution 68/262: Territorial Integrity of Ukraine," 2014.

² European Parliament, "Statement on Ukraine and European Security," 2023.

³ YEPP Declaration on Ukraine, 2024;

⁴ European Council, "Sanctions Against Russia," 2023.

Furthermore, the growing influence of pro-Russian political forces within European nations, such as Slovakia and Croatia, as well as within the U.S., undermines unity in supporting Ukraine's sovereignty.⁵

These elements disrupt collective international efforts, challenging the broader goal of securing both Ukraine's and Europe's future stability and democratic values.

Recognizing that:

- The illegal annexation of Crimea, that marked the beginning of Russia's ongoing aggression, violated international law and agreements, including the Budapest Memorandum.⁶
- The full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has led to a humanitarian crisis, with over 8 million refugees across Europe and millions more internally displaced.⁷
- The European Union, NATO, and international partners have shown unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty, but further action is necessary to counter external interference.⁸
- The interference of external actors, such as North Korea and Iran, is exacerbating the crisis, further destabilizing the region and violating international law.⁹
- Russian disinformation campaigns and interference in European democratic processes, particularly in countries like Slovakia, are endangering the stability of the European Union and the transatlantic alliance.¹⁰
- The European Parliament has acknowledged Ukraine's European aspirations and supported granting candidate status for EU membership as a critical step toward integration.¹¹
- Russia has performed cyberattacks throughout Europe and sabotaged key European infrastructure with their "ghost fleet" to block European energy supplies.

Acknowledging that:

- Ukraine's resistance to Russian aggression is a defence of European values of democracy, freedom, and human rights.¹²

⁵ European Parliament, "Statement on Ukraine and European Security," 2023

⁶ United Nations, "General Assembly Resolution 68/262," 2014.

⁷ UNHCR Report, 2023;

⁸ European Parliament, "Statement on Ukraine and European Security," 2023.

⁹ European Council, "Sanctions Against Russia," 2023.

¹⁰ Euronews, 2024.

¹¹ European Parliament Resolution on Ukraine's Candidacy, 2022;

¹² European Parliament, "Statement on Ukraine and European Security," 2023

- Ukraine's reform efforts through the EU accession process contribute to strengthening democratic governance and the rule of law, which are critical to its recovery.¹³
- Failure to support Ukraine risks emboldening authoritarian regimes and undermining global peace and security.
- The lack of European unity undermines efforts to counter Russian aggression, weakening the transatlantic alliance and European solidarity.¹⁴

YEPP calls on:

- **Reaffirming Past Resolutions:** We call for the reaffirmation of previous YEPP resolutions, particularly those emphasizing military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, sanctions against Russia, and Ukraine's pathway to European integration. We expect full implementation of these agreements and continue to support these fundamental positions. This includes resolutions such as "Standing with Ukraine: Unwavering Support in the Face of Aggression" (2023) and others regarding Ukraine's EU accession process.
- **Commitment to Ukraine's Sovereignty:** We reject all peace proposals that compromise Ukraine's sovereignty or territorial integrity. The international community must continue to uphold Ukraine's right to defend its territory and its democratic values without conceding to any form of aggression or coercion.
- **Rejecting External Interventions in the Conflict on the side of Russia:** We strongly condemn the involvement of any third-party state, including North Korea and Iran, in providing arms or support to Russia, exacerbating the conflict and violating international law. We call for international action to prevent further escalation and foreign interference in Ukraine's sovereign struggle.
- **Promotion of Peaceful Negotiations:** While we recognize the need for peace, we insist that any peace negotiation must prioritize Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty. We support diplomatic efforts that aim at a just and lasting peace, but under no circumstances should Ukraine be forced into concessions that undermine its independence or European aspirations.
- **Strengthening Support for Ukraine's EU Path:** We continue to support Ukraine's integration into the European Union as a crucial step toward regional stability and the protection of democratic values. Ukraine's EU accession process must remain a priority, with clear support for political, economic, and institutional reforms to align Ukraine with EU standards.
- **Accountability and Reconstruction:** We call for the establishment of a comprehensive international fund for the reconstruction of Ukraine, and for the

¹³ United Nations, "General Assembly Resolution 68/262," 2014.

¹⁴ European Council, "Sanctions Against Russia," 2023.

prosecution of Russian officials responsible for war crimes through international legal mechanisms. These actions will ensure justice and long-term recovery for the people of Ukraine.

- **Condemnation of EU Politicians' Divisive Actions:** We strongly condemn the actions of individual EU politicians engaging in unsanctioned dialogues with Putin or expressing solidarity with Russia. These uncoordinated efforts undermine the EU's collective stance and weaken the resolve to support Ukraine's sovereignty. Any such actions must be rejected in favour of a unified European position in support of Ukraine.

Resources:

1. United Nations. "General Assembly Resolution 68/262: Territorial Integrity of Ukraine." Adopted 27 March 2014.
<https://www.un.org/en/ga/68/resolutions.shtml>
2. European Parliament. "Statement on Ukraine and European Security." Adopted 2023.
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/RC-10-2024-0028_EN.html
3. UNHCR. "Ukraine Refugee Crisis Update." 2023. [Ukraine situation | Global Focus](#)
4. European Council. "Sanctions Against Russia: Overview and Updates." [EU sanctions against Russia - Consilium](#)
5. "Slovakia's disinformation history serves as a cautionary tale for the EU."
<https://www.euronews.com/2024/05/27/slovakias-disinformation-history-serves-as-a-cautionary-tale-for-the-eu>
6. YEPP Resolutions on Ukraine.