



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ENLARGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

Support Group for Ukraine

Brussels  
NEAR.SGUA/MM

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Dear Ms Grafa,

The Commission would like to thank the Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists, the Polish Confederation Lewiatan, the Estonian Employers' Confederation and the Employers' Confederation of Latvia for its statement from 2 May 2022 on the war in Ukraine.

The European Commission condemns, in the strongest possible terms, Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military attack against Ukraine. By its illegal military actions, Russia is grossly violating international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, undermining European and global security and stability, and showing a complete and utter disregard for human life. The Ukrainian people fighting with their lives not only for their country, but also to defend the European values. They deserve from the EU every form of support. Ukraine belongs to the European family and the European Union as a whole stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

The Commission has been asked by the Council to prepare an opinion on Ukraine's application to become a member of the European Union in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Treaty. The European Council in Versailles endorsed this decision. Right now, we are fully engaged to provide the opinion at the latest by middle of June. In the meantime, we will further strengthen our bonds and deepen our partnership to support Ukraine in pursuing its European path.

The European Union reacted in record time to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Within days of Russia launching its military aggression against Ukraine, we had imposed the largest sanctions packages of our Union's history. The extent and weight of these sanctions are unparalleled. These measures increase the cost for Russia to carry out its inhumane military intervention and place a considerable constraint on its military capabilities. Our aim is to cut off the Kremlin's capacity to wage war on its neighbours. Our sanctions are not only directed at the Russian Government, but at any actor that supports the Kremlin and its invasion of Ukraine. We are sending a message that their support will come at a cost. To this end, we have adopted five sweeping sanctions packages, which are already taking a heavy toll on the Russian economy and are therefore hampering Putin's war efforts. President von der Leyen announced the sixth package of sanctions against Russia

and political agreement on it was reached at the European Council on 30-31 May. The sixth package of sanctions, in addition to a total ban on Russian oil imports, includes prosecution of war criminals, disconnection of banks from SWIFT, and a further ban on propaganda. We are resolute in our unfaltering support for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. Please find more information about the sanctions under the following webpage: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world/eu-solidarity-ukraine/eu-sanctions-against-russia-following-invasion-ukraine\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world/eu-solidarity-ukraine/eu-sanctions-against-russia-following-invasion-ukraine_en)

Our Member States, particularly those bordering with Ukraine, have shown enormous solidarity in welcoming Ukrainian refugees to their homes. The “Stand Up for Ukraine” global pledging event and campaign has raised €9.1 billion for people fleeing the Russian invasion, inside Ukraine and abroad, including €1 billion from the European Commission. On top of that, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development has announced an additional €1 billion in loan to cover the needs of the people displaced by the invasion.

We are preparing for the future reconstruction of Ukraine as a free and prosperous European country. The Commission presented plans for the Union's immediate response to address Ukraine's financing gap and the longer-term reconstruction on 18 May. More information under: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_22\\_3121](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_3121) and [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world/eu-solidarity-ukraine/eu-assistance-ukraine\\_en#support-for-future-reconstruction](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world/eu-solidarity-ukraine/eu-assistance-ukraine_en#support-for-future-reconstruction)

The Commission would like to thank the business federations from Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia for all its efforts to support Ukraine in these difficult times and looks forward to continuing our cooperation in the future.

Yours faithfully,

[e-signed]  
Georg ZIEGLER  
Deputy Head of the  
Support Group for Ukraine