



**Danish
Presidency**
Council of the
European Union



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Statement on Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the following EU Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Denmark.

and also, on behalf of the following participating States that joined this statement: Tbd.

1. Madam Chair, at the latest meeting of G20 Foreign Ministers in September, High Representative Kallas underlined: "During its war on Ukraine, Russia has sabotaged global food supply chains, accelerated ecological disasters, and spread disinformation, including at the highest levels in international fora like this." We as well witness this behaviour in this very Forum. Basing our discussions on facts should be an elementary part of our dialogue here in the FSC. In this vain, propaganda has no place at the OSCE.

2. Regrettably facts from past weeks continue to show that Russia is escalating its illegal, unprovoked and unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine, including with attacks on civilian targets and energy infrastructure which ahead

of the winter season again increase the harm to the civilian population. On 14 October the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Ukraine reported the targeting of two trucks of the World Food Programme by Russian drones. On 16 October, reports indicated that dozens of people were wounded as Russia launched over 300 drones and more than 37 missiles of various types, including ballistic missiles, across Ukraine. These are not efforts towards peace. We remind that intentionally directing attacks against civilians and civilian objects as well as humanitarian relief personnel and humanitarian assets constitutes gross violations of international humanitarian law and amounts to war crimes. We firmly condemn these attacks. The EU and its Member States reiterate their support for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine based on the principles of the UN Charter and international law.

3. We reaffirm our strong commitment to ensuring full accountability for war crimes and the other most serious crimes committed in connection with Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Last week, the EU also provided the first EUR 10 million for the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine.

4. Early last week, High Representative Kallas visited Ukraine, meeting with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy and Foreign Minister Sybiha. In Kyiv, the High Representative stressed that Ukraine's defence was European defence, reiterating that Ukraine had our full backing. We remain unwavering in our commitment to continue providing to Ukraine multi-faceted support, including financial, economic, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support, as it fights for its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders.

5. At the same time, co-operation with Ukraine takes place on various levels. BraveTech EU is a new initiative to accelerate defence innovation by building on battlefield-proven technologies and strengthening cooperation between the EU and Ukraine. The initiative will foster direct collaboration between Ukrainian and European companies, with the objectives of accelerating development of battlefield-tested defence technologies, mobilising further funding and support, aligning regulatory practices and supporting resilience through joint investment and knowledge exchange.

6. Madam Chair, the EU and its Member States reiterate their resolute condemnation of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, which continues to violate core principles and commitments of this Organisation. Russia must

immediately stop its war of aggression and put an end to the unbearable suffering and devastation it causes and completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine.

7. We strongly condemn support by third countries, and actors and entities therein, which enable Russia to sustain its war of aggression against Ukraine. We condemn the continued military support provided by Belarus, Iran and the DPRK.

8. The EU and its Member States urge all countries to immediately cease any direct or indirect assistance to Russia in its war of aggression against Ukraine. In this vein, and as stated by G7 Foreign Ministers and the HRVP, China is also a decisive enabler of Russia's war.

9. The EU itself is intensifying work on its own defence as outlined last week in the Defence Roadmap to strengthen European defence capabilities. It is clear that we need to toughen our defence against Russia. Not to provoke war, but the opposite, to prevent war.

Thank you.