



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°1058 Vienna, 11 October 2023

EU Statement on Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

1. Madam Chair, since we last met in this room, Russia has not desisted but continued its illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine with further indiscriminate attacks. As the world knows last week a Russian missile hit a café and a grocery store full of civilians in the village of Hroza in the Kharkiv region, killing 52 people, including a child, and injuring many others. The following day another missile killed 10-year old Tymofiy.
2. In addition to these barbaric attacks, hospitals, churches, cultural heritage locations as well as objects, and ports that are exporting food for people around the world are being relentlessly targeted by Russia. Sadly, we could meet in this Forum any day since the start of Russia's war of aggression, and we would see its attacks on civilians or civilian infrastructure, causing destruction and devastation throughout Ukraine. Attacks as senseless as Russia's war itself, waged against Ukraine without justification.
3. Intentional attacks against civilians amount to war crimes for which there can be no impunity. In this regard, the side event on command responsibility organised by the Canadian chairpersonship last week could not have been more timely. We condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the support provided by Belarus. By its war of aggression, the Russian Federation and its leadership at all levels is blatantly violating international law, including the UN Charter and disregarding fundamental OSCE principles and commitments, including the Helsinki Final Act.
4. The EU and its Member States will be steadfast in their support for Ukraine and its people. This was reiterated in Kyiv last week, when for the first time in history, EU Foreign Ministers met in Ukraine which is exercising its rightful self-defence against the Russian war of aggression. At this meeting, the Spanish EU presidency clearly reaffirmed 'the European Union support for the Ukrainian people in their defence of peace, freedom, sovereignty and their territorial integrity.

We will support Ukraine for as long as necessary.’ The Ministers also discussed security commitments to Ukraine, showing their determination to stand by Ukraine in the long term, to deter acts of aggression and resist the destabilisation efforts by Russia.

5. In the words of the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Foreign Ministers in Kyiv ‘talked about war, military efforts, resilience, cyber-attacks, but [they] also talked about peace’. We will continue striving for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine in line with the 10-point Ukraine Peace Formula by President Zelenskyy, including full respect for Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within the country’s internationally recognised borders. Until peace is achieved, tragically, Russia’s war of aggression will continue to inflict suffering, death and destruction on the people of Ukraine.
6. Madame Chair, the EU and its Member States reiterate that Russia must immediately stop its war of aggression, and completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders. We also reiterate our strong call on the Belarusian authorities to stop providing support to Russia’s war of aggression, and to abide by their international obligations.
7. Since the Russian Federation blocked the FSC meeting last week again, let us join Ukraine at least today in recognising its Day of Defenders on 1 October. We pay our full respect to those who have stood up to the Russian invasion in their rightful self-defence and we remember those who have lost their lives fighting for their homeland free of Russian occupation.

Thank you.

The Candidate Countries NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ALBANIA*, UKRAINE, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA*, the Potential Candidate Country GEORGIA, the EFTA countries ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, the members of the European Economic Area, as well as ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.