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| <p>EU-UKRAINE<br/>CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM</p> |  | <p>ПЛАТФОРМА<br/>ГРОМАДЯНСЬКОГО<br/>СУСПІЛЬСТВА УКРАЇНА-ЄС</p> |
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**17th meeting, Rome, 11 July 2025**

## **JOINT DECLARATION**

The EU-Ukraine Civil Society Platform (CSP) is one of the bodies established under the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union (EU). The CSP enables civil society organisations from both sides to monitor the implementation of the Agreement from a civil society perspective and to prepare recommendations for the authorities of both sides. The 17th meeting of the CSP was co-chaired by Marcin Nowacki from the European Economic and Social Committee and Nadia Afanasieva of the Ukrainian Institute for International Politics.

The Platform discussed key aspects of Ukraine's European integration in the context of ten years of activity by the CSP as an institutional platform for civil society participation in this process, particularly in terms of strengthening the role of civil society in policy-making, human capital development, bilateral economic cooperation, modernisation of various sectors of the economy and areas of public life, and digital transformation, as well as in ensuring the inclusive reconstruction of Ukraine in line with European values and the principles of sustainable development.

### *Members of the CSP*

1. call on the EU and Ukrainian authorities to facilitate and accelerate, to the maximum extent possible, the process of negotiating Ukraine's accession to the European Union, to respond to the choice and expectations of Ukrainian society and to guarantee the restoration of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as the establishment of peace and security in Europe; in this regard, ask for all clusters of negotiations on Ukraine's accession to the EU to be opened by the end of 2025;
2. welcome the extension of the temporary protection for Ukrainians in the EU Member States until 4 March 2027, as well as the Council's recommendations on supporting the refugees, and stress that they must be granted the same rights as EU citizens when it comes to healthcare and access to the labour market; in this regard, highlight the role of social partners, who can use collective bargaining and ad hoc measures to help integrate workers and prevent them from becoming subject to exploitation and social dumping;
3. welcome the signing by Ukraine and the Council of Europe of the Agreement on establishing a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine, as a crucial step towards holding the Russian leadership accountable for the crime of aggression;

4. welcome the conclusion of negotiations on the review of the EU-Ukraine Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) as a meaningful step towards Ukraine's gradual integration into the EU Single Market and its future accession to the European Union, and call on EU and Ukrainian authorities to swiftly finalise and implement the reviewed agreement, ensure transparency throughout the process – including by involving civil society – and provide targeted support for sectors and communities impacted by the transition;
5. stress the need to promote dialogue with civil society organisations and social dialogue on social, economic and labour reforms;
6. condemn the recent attacks against the rights of trade unions in Ukraine, including the arrest of the leader of Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine and the recent seizure of the Union's building; emphasise that, in the current circumstances, trade unions are key in supporting displaced workers and promoting social dialogue;
7. call for the agreements concluded during the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome on 10 -11 July 2025 to be implemented, and highlight the need to direct the joint efforts of the state, trade unions and employers towards a comprehensive adaptation of labour legislation to EU norms and standards, the integration of the Ukrainian labour market into the single European space, and the greatest possible approximation of working conditions in Ukraine to those provided to Ukrainians enjoying temporary protection in EU Member States, as a prerequisite for their return to Ukraine and participation in its reconstruction;
8. stress the need to support, through pro-European legislative and institutional changes, a more active and fully fledged involvement of Ukrainian civil society organisations in the planning and implementation of the reform agenda in the country.
9. underline the importance of urgently allocating funds to ensure that the EU-Ukraine CSP can operate sustainably;
10. encourage the design and implementation of EU technical assistance programmes aimed at strengthening independent civil society organisations in Ukraine, including training their representatives on reforms linked to European integration, and enhancing the EU's understanding of Ukraine's reform efforts;
11. underscore the need to ensure a green and socially just transition by integrating environmental policy into all sectoral development programmes and harmonising legislation in the field of sustainable development with EU standards;
12. call for coordinated cooperation among the stakeholders and EU and international partners to protect and restore environments damaged by the war and to sanction environmental crimes, as they will inevitably have long-lasting consequences;

13. encourage the decentralisation of electricity production in Ukraine, for instance through people-centred economic models such as cooperatives, the development of energy storage capabilities, and the implementation of measures to enhance energy resilience, strengthen system stability, and rebuild and modernise Ukraine's energy infrastructure; insist that the EU must end energy imports from Russia;
14. stress the need to develop infrastructure and effective tools for inclusive, innovative, and transparent post-war recovery of Ukraine's economy, including unconditional compliance with the indicators set out in the plan for the implementation of the Ukraine Facility within the timeframe agreed with the European Commission, and emphasise the importance of involving social partners and civil society in all these processes;
15. reiterate that Ukraine's recovery depends on mobilising human capital, reintegrating internally displaced people, refugees, veterans and persons with disabilities into civilian life, and fostering social cohesion and inclusiveness; in this regard stress the need to introduce tailor-made assistance, benefits and social services to better protect the rights of vulnerable groups and persons with disabilities; welcome the fact that the 2025 Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome placed this issue on the agenda, inviting trade unions, employers and non-governmental organisations to the debate;
16. draw attention to the need to integrate Ukraine's agricultural sector into the EU economy by providing support for Ukrainian farmers so that they can comply with EU standards, and to undertake joint efforts to ensure global food security and strengthen positions on foreign markets; recognise cooperatives as a powerful economic and democratic tool to accelerate these processes at national and European levels;
17. advocate synchronising the policies of Ukraine and the EU by strengthening EU sanctions against Russia and other countries, in particular by imposing sanctions on all Russian banks without exception (disconnection from SWIFT, ban on investments, ban on the provision of financial services), and by introducing sanctions (up to a complete ban) on imports of oil, gas, nuclear materials, metal products, and technologies originating from the Russian Federation;
18. point out that Ukrainian children currently out of school must be prioritised and access to local education systems must be expanded. This includes tailored enrolment procedures, protection of cultural identity, and the introduction of flexible, individualised learning pathways to meet diverse needs;
19. stress the need to support the transformation of schools into inclusive, democratic spaces through professional development for educators, training for school managers, and the promotion of democratic competencies among students; emphasise the importance of psychological support, including rehabilitation, for teachers, pupils and their families to address war-related trauma and foster emotional resilience and social cohesion;
20. encourage the promotion of sustained cooperation with national and international partners, civil society, and local governments to implement systemic reforms in the educational sphere. This includes cross-sectoral collaboration, engagement of parents and young people, and the integration of non-formal education to create a holistic and inclusive education system in Ukraine;

21. highlight the urgent need to counter pervasive disinformation campaigns, especially from Russia and China, that target Ukrainian society and seek to undermine trust in democratic institutions and the European integration process; in this regard, urge EU and Ukrainian authorities, along with providers of digital platforms, to intensify efforts in media literacy, visibility of trustworthy independent journalism, algorithmic transparency, and robust measures against foreign information manipulation and interference. It is vital to safeguard the integrity of the information space, which is crucial for Ukraine's democratic development and its path to EU membership.