

EU-UKRAINE CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM		ПЛАТФОРМА ГРОМАДЯНСЬКОГО СУСПІЛЬСТВА УКРАЇНА-ЄС
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19th meeting, Brussels, 5 June 2026

## JOINT DECLARATION

The EU-Ukraine Civil Society Platform (CSP) is 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 and to prepare recommendations for the authorities on both sides. The 19th meeting of the CSP was co-chaired by Michael McLoughlin from the European Economic and Social Committee and Olha Tarasenko from the All-Ukrainian Association of Employers of Sanatorium, Health Resort and Rehabilitation Facilities.

### *On Ukraine's European integration, the CSP members*

1. Call on the European Council to open all clusters of accession negotiations with Ukraine during the Cyprus Presidency. This would constitute an important strategic step in maintaining the momentum of the EU enlargement process, reaffirming the EU's commitment to Ukraine's European future, encouraging the continuation of reforms, and strengthening resilience, democratic governance and public confidence in the accession process despite Russia's ongoing war of aggression;
2. Welcome the implementation of the Rule of Law Roadmap as a key instrument to support Ukraine's EU accession and strengthen democratic institutions, and call for the genuine, structured and continuous involvement of civil society organisations in its implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
3. Call on the European Council to engage in the dialogue on a facilitated pathway to Ukraine's EU accession, launched by the German government in May 2026. In light of the extraordinary geostrategic and security circumstances, the EU should explore ways to enable Ukraine to achieve full membership more rapidly, while preserving the coherence of the accession process and ensuring that Ukraine meets the relevant standards of the EU acquis;

### *On supporting Ukraine, the CSP members*

4. Welcome the unblocking of the EU's €90 billion support loan to Ukraine, aimed at covering the country's budgetary and defence needs for 2026 and 2027; emphasise that this budgetary support is subject to strong conditionality relating to the rule of law, anti-corruption measures, economic resilience and sustainability;

5. Condemn, in the strongest possible terms, Russia's continued and intensified attacks on civilians, critical infrastructure and residential areas; call on the EU institutions to continue supporting Ukraine's territorial integrity and ensure that any peace process leads to a just and lasting peace on terms determined by Ukraine and acceptable to its people;
6. Call on the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Council and Member States to maintain financial, humanitarian and military support to Ukraine, to keep Ukraine at the top of EU priorities, and stress the role of European civil society in preventing Ukraine-related fatigue;
7. Welcome the EU's accession to the international agreement establishing the Special Tribunal and the ratification of the Convention on the International Claims Commission as important steps towards ensuring accountability for the crime of aggression and securing justice for victims;
8. Call on the EU Member States and the EU institutions to address the challenges encountered by Ukrainians residing in the EU, particularly in the context of the gradual phasing-out of the Temporary Protection framework; encourage efforts to facilitate a smooth transition to more stable and durable residence arrangements, while ensuring continued targeted support and special attention for vulnerable groups and persons with specific needs;
9. Call upon the European Commission and the governments of the Member States responsible for deciding on any future extension of temporary protection for Ukrainian citizens to fully respect the fundamental rights of those concerned and to support their post-war reintegration into Ukrainian society;

***On children and young people, CSP members***

10. Welcome the efforts of Ukraine, EU, Canada, and international partners within the Bring Kids Back UA initiative and the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children aimed at ensuring the safe return, rehabilitation and reintegration of unlawfully deported and forcibly transferred Ukrainian children; call for enhanced international cooperation to trace, return and support affected children; stress the need to uphold international humanitarian and human rights law and ensure accountability for violations of children's rights committed in the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine; and therefore encourage broader international engagement in the Coalition, as well as the exchange of best practices on child protection, family reunification and post-conflict reintegration;
11. Welcome the Council of the European Union's decision of 11 May 2026 to impose additional restrictive measures on 16 individuals and seven entities involved in actions that violate Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity; particularly welcome the sanctions directed at those implicated in the illegal deportation and transfer of Ukrainian children, their forced assimilation through indoctrination and militarised education, and their unlawful relocation and adoption in the Russian Federation and in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine;

12. Encourage the strengthening of the structured involvement of young people in EU-Ukraine relations and policymaking processes, as well as the use of dedicated dialogue platforms, youth participation mechanisms, educational exchanges and support for youth-led civil society initiatives; in particular, call for enhanced cooperation in the fields of civic education, political participation, media literacy, entrepreneurship, innovation and democratic resilience, with the aim of empowering young people to contribute to Ukraine's recovery and European integration;
13. Stress the need to invest in inclusive education and training systems, including through public-private partnerships, to support lifelong learning, address labour and skills shortages, and ensure access to quality, flexible and individualised education for children in Ukraine both in the country and abroad; underscore, therefore, that education reform and school reconstruction should promote inclusive learning environments and accessible vocational training infrastructure, particularly for persons with disabilities;
14. Underline the need to establish comprehensive systems for psychological support and social integration for children, in particular those who have been deported or forcibly displaced or are otherwise at risk, while also addressing parental trauma and providing families with the support necessary for children's recovery and reintegration; call on Ukrainian stakeholders to strengthen support for local authorities and civil society in frontline regions through targeted funding, training, and technical assistance to protect vulnerable children and support reintegration efforts;
15. Urge Member States to ensure swift, child-centred and rights-consistent implementation of Temporary Protection, including for newborns and very young children born after 24 February 2022 to beneficiaries of Temporary Protection; stress that Member States should avoid diverging statuses within the same family, provide written and reasoned decisions, and guarantee an effective remedy, in line with the best interests of the child and the purpose of the Temporary Protection framework;

***On reform process under Ukraine's Reform Path, CSP members***

16. Reiterate their call on the government of Ukraine to further develop labour regulation and social dialogue reforms based on tripartite consensus, pending negotiations with the most representative associations of employer organisations and trade unions;
17. Stress that meaningful civil society involvement in the Ukraine Facility is essential to ensuring the sustainability of the enlargement process; underline that broad societal ownership is necessary to maintain trust in and legitimacy of the EU enlargement agenda, and to help ensure that governments' self-assessments, the European Commission's disbursement decisions and the actual implementation of reforms remain aligned;
18. Underscore the importance of independent audits, transparent public reporting and proportionate monitoring arrangements that can function across all territories, including war-affected and de-occupied areas, while safeguarding the civic space and anti-corruption institutions;
19. Underline the need to protect watchdog and anti-corruption organisations and ensure that dialogue is continuous, safe and meaningfully informs decision-making and disbursement-linked assessments;

*CSP members also*

20. Welcome the 2026 Press Freedom Index, in which Ukraine improved by seven places compared to 2025, rising from 62nd to 55th place globally;
21. In light of the large-scale destruction of energy infrastructure caused by Russia's full-scale aggression, call on the Ukrainian authorities and the institutions of the European Union to strengthen support for the development of decentralised and renewable energy as a key component of Ukraine's post-war recovery and integration into the European energy space; this should include support for renewable energy sources, local energy generation, energy storage systems, community-based energy solutions, financial instruments for energy resilience, modernisation of energy networks and the active involvement of civil society and local communities in shaping a sustainable, resilient, decentralised and climate-neutral energy system in line with the principles of the European Green Deal and Ukraine's European integration commitments;
22. Call attention to the difficulties Ukraine is facing with adapting to the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) in conditions of war; while recognizing that the CBAM is a key part of EU climate policies, note that Ukrainian sectors such as steel and fertilizer manufacturing and related industries as well as manufacturing sectors potentially subject to the extension of the CBAM scope are struggling to maintain access to European markets; and therefore call for the Commission to urgently address the issues for example by unlocking the use of verified actual emissions data and strengthening technical and institutional support for Ukraine in the area of monitoring;
23. Emphasise the need to strengthen cooperation between the European and Ukrainian sides of the EU-Ukraine Civil Society Platform cooperation on the harmonisation of legislation, particularly in the capital markets sector, through the exchange of information, expert assessments and best practices regarding the conduct of public consultations.