

EU-UKRAINE CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM		ПЛАТФОРМА ГРОМАДЯНСЬКОГО СУСПІЛЬСТВА УКРАЇНА-ЄС
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11th meeting, Brussels, 20 April 2022

JOINT DECLARATION

The EU-Ukraine Civil Society Platform (CSP) is one of the bodies set up under the Association Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine.

The CSP enables civil society organisations (CSOs) on both sides to monitor the implementation process from the point of view of civil society, and to prepare its recommendations to the relevant authorities.

The CSP is made up of members representing the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and Ukrainian civil society. The 11th meeting of the CSP was co-chaired by **Oleksandr Shubin**, from the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine, and **Veselin Mitov**, from the EESC.

The CSP members strongly and unequivocally condemned the unprovoked, unjustifiable and unilateral armed aggression initiated by the Russian Federation against Ukraine on its independent and sovereign territory.

The CSP members express their commitment to supporting and providing the necessary assistance and advice for the implementation of this declaration.

In this regard, the members of the CSP:

1. sincerely welcome [the resolution of the European Economic and Social Committee](#) adopted in support of Ukraine on 24 March 2022;
2. call on the European community and the entire civilised, democratic world to unite around the proper registration, investigation and prosecution of war crimes committed on the territory of Ukraine, in particular in locations such as Chernihiv, Sumy, Kherson, Volnovakha, Mariupol, Kharkiv, Gostomel, Bucha, Irpin, Borodyanka, as well as many others;

3. emphasise that membership of the Russian Federation and its representatives in international bodies and organisations aimed at maintaining peace, protecting human rights, ensuring sustainable development and a safe environment, and formulating and implementing international law is impossible until all war criminals have been prosecuted, all those responsible for the targeted killing of civilian population and deliberate destruction of infrastructure have been held accountable as individuals, and this country, or any of its successors, officially desists from military action as a means of pursuing their interests in the international arena;
4. provide a positive assessment of Ukraine's progress in fulfilling its obligations under the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, even taking into account the war waged by the aggressor against Ukraine on its territory, and report on the progress made in promoting social dialogue;
5. emphasise, on behalf of wider civil society, that Ukraine has continued to reaffirm its readiness to join the EU through its consistent defence of democracy and human rights;
6. call on civil society and the respective European and Ukrainian authorities to take joint measures to stop the war waged by the Russian Federation and other supporting countries, to increase pressure through all necessary forms of sanctions directly against the interests and assets of the Russian leadership and elite, and to extend them to Belarus for its participation in the military aggression in Ukraine;
7. call on the European and Ukrainian authorities as well as civil society to enhance measures to inform the EU and the international community about the war crimes committed by the aggressor on the territory of Ukraine, and to counter, and prevent from spreading, any impact of the criminal propaganda of the aggressor countries to justify the war and cover up war crimes;

With regard to human rights and the rule of law, the CSP members:

8. call on the European Union and its Member States to initiate and lead the international process of registering and investigating war crimes in Ukraine and to follow this up with the firm prosecution of guilty individuals;
9. call for measures to be taken to apply equal approaches to the treatment and legal status of, and economic and social support for, refugees from Ukraine and other categories of Ukrainian residents who have found themselves legally in the territory of the EU Member States; also call for them to be given the right to move within the EU, without the need for biometric passports, and for adequate measures to be implemented for their resettlement, reception and integration in EU countries;

10. welcome the actions of the European Commission to activate the Temporary Protection Directive 2001/55/EC, and call for the full implementation of the Directive based on the solidarity and shared responsibility of the EU Member States, guaranteeing the exhaustive range of rights under the Directive, including access to the labour market, housing, healthcare, education, social support and mobility for all citizens of Ukraine and members of their families who are entitled to such protection; believes that the Member States should extend temporary protection to third-country nationals who reside legally in Ukraine and cannot return to safe and long-term residence in their country or region of origin;
11. recognise the special situation of women and children in conflict zones and upon arriving in safe areas, including the risks of exploitation and gender-based violence, including sexual violence and trafficking in human beings, and urge that measures be taken to arrange support as well as social and psychological rehabilitation for them;
12. recognise the special situation of the elderly, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups, and stress that their special needs need to be adequately protected;
13. call for assistance in establishing humanitarian corridors to ensure the safe evacuation of the Ukrainian population from areas of military action and occupation;
14. call for help to ensure the safe crossing of EU borders for third-country nationals residing in Ukraine who do not have a valid Schengen visa;
15. call on the EU Member States to step up financial assistance for humanitarian support for the population of Ukraine, and to support Ukrainian refugees who are being protected in the EU Member States and other countries in the region;

Regarding the process of Ukraine's integration into the EU, members of the CSP:

16. appeal to the official bodies of the European Union to speed up the process of formalising Ukraine's membership of the EU and assist in the implementation of sectoral reforms, while continuing to work towards Ukraine's integration into the EU single market under the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement;
17. call on the European Council to urgently grant Ukraine candidate status without delay by the end of June 2022;
18. reiterate the call for the Parliamentary Association Committee and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to take immediate steps to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;
19. emphasise the need to strengthen democracy, the rule of law and the adaptation of the *acquis communautaire*, and to focus the priorities of EU cooperation programmes on sustainable development, smart specialisation and innovation in various fields (energy, industry, transport, environment, agriculture, infrastructure, among others), respecting civil dialogue, labour rights, social protection and decent workplace;

20. call on the parties to initiate the process of Ukraine's accession to EU financial instruments and programmes (LIFE; CEF; DIGITAL; EU4HEALTH; Customs Programme; Single Market Programme; InvestEU; FISCALIS; European Space Programme; Justice Programme; Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme; EU Anti-Fraud Programme; Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund; rescEU; Integrated Border Management Fund; European Defence Fund, etc.), taking into account the status of the candidate country and accession to the instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA);

Regarding political dialogue and foreign policy, the CSP members:

21. ask for the involvement and support of Ukrainian civil society in EU networks, and suggest establishing a structure for involving CSOs in decision-making in Ukraine; believes that civil dialogue between decision-makers and civil society should be strengthened on all decision-making levels and within all decision-making steps;
22. reiterate that social dialogue is a key element of drafting, adopting and implementing of national social, economic and labour policies according to the standards of the European Union and requirements of the Association Agreement;
23. call on the European Union to strengthen sanctions against the Russian Federation and its representatives, in order to put an immediate end to the war and restore Ukraine's territorial integrity and inviolability within its internationally recognised borders (including the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, annexed by the Russian Federation in 2014, and the territories of Ukraine's Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts, occupied by the Russia Federation since 2014);
24. call for Ukraine to be included in the joint activities of the NATO Cyberspace Operations Centre, in order to promote the comprehensive development of relevant specialists and infrastructure in Ukraine, in particular by involving Ukrainian specialists in NATO's annual Cyber Coalition exercises and joint defence cyber operations;
25. emphasise the importance of completing the procedure for launching full cooperation between Ukraine and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) as soon as possible and of ensuring the functioning of the system of financial checks for the efficient and targeted use of EU funds;

Regarding regional development and cross-border cooperation, the CSP members:

26. call for an increase in international humanitarian aid to internally displaced persons in Ukraine from the territories of the zones of occupation and military action, and highlight the importance of proper monitoring of such aid, involving civil society;
27. considering the exclusion of the Russian Federation and Belarus from all EU cross-border cooperation programmes, call for consultations involving civil society representatives on the re-allocation of the remaining funds to help Ukrainian partners;

28. propose including Ukraine in the EU Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) grant programme in order to support regional development;

Regarding the economic development of Ukraine, the CSP members:

29. call for the proper work of the international fund for post-war infrastructure and economic recovery in Ukraine to be promoted under the auspices of the European Commission;
30. call on the EU and its Members States to explore legal possibilities for contributing to the post-war recovery of Ukraine using all assets currently frozen as a result of the war;
31. call for measures to speed up the synchronisation of Ukraine's and the EU's energy networks;
32. propose immediately establishing and implementing an effective system of global credit support for the relocation and resumption of Ukrainian business, with access to financial resources on preferential terms of service;
33. emphasise the need to reform Ukraine's banking system in order to provide steady credit support for Ukraine's economic recovery on the basis of the modernisation of its infrastructure, the introduction of innovative production and management technologies, and the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the European Green Deal;
34. call for special attention to be paid to the resumption of exports of viable sectors of Ukraine's economy, especially the agricultural sector, for help to be provided in identifying new niches in the global market for the development of innovative Ukrainian exports, and for the development of relevant industries to be supported; also calls for import quotas and other restrictions on exports from Ukraine to be abolished;
35. call for the development and wide implementation of a new programme to provide informational support for Ukrainian exports to the EU under the slogan "Buy Ukrainian - support Ukraine!";
36. call for cooperation between and among industrial clusters of Ukraine and the EU to be supported and developed, and for grant support for the Clusters initiative for Ukraine to be introduced;
37. ask that systems of technical and other regulations of the access of Ukrainian goods and services to the markets of the EU Member States be synchronised as much as possible, in order to accelerate the integration of the Ukrainian economy into the European market;
38. call for the development of, and support for, a programme to assess the conditions and restoration of soils, as well as for sustainable land management, according to EU approaches, in order to strengthen food security and increase food safety;

39. emphasise the need to implement programmes for rural regeneration and support farming and agribusiness in Ukraine;
40. emphasise the need to develop programmes, support mechanisms for entrepreneurship, and strategies for SME development in Ukraine, harmonised with the principles of European policies, including the green and digital transitions and smart specialisation;
41. emphasise the need to develop poverty alleviation programmes based on the implementation of the concept of an unconditional basic income (in particular, within the reparations programme);
42. propose envisaging the active involvement of civil society, experts and the scientific community in the process of drafting and implementing support programmes for Ukraine;
43. emphasise the importance of developing Ukraine's national statistical system, in line with EU approaches;

Regarding employment and social policy, the CSP members:

44. call for the strengthening of measures for labour adaptation in the territory of the EU Member States for refugees from the territory of Ukraine and other categories of Ukrainian residents who have found themselves legally in the territory of the EU Member States, in order to guarantee them equal rights at work and in society, and to prevent and combat all forms of exploitation and discrimination, with the full involvement of the social partners;
45. call on EU civil society organisations to step up mobilising action for peace in Ukraine at EU and national level;
46. warn against attempts to use the war to justify actions aimed at decreasing the level of workers' rights protection and reduce social protection, which will exacerbate the negative economic and social consequences of the war;

Regarding energy, transport, the environment and climate change, the CSP members:

47. draw attention to the need to take maximum measures to stop the import of energy and related commodities originating in the Russian Federation, at least until there is a complete ceasefire and withdrawal of armed forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders;
48. propose freezing direct funds destined to pay for Russian energy and energy commodities, and to redirect them towards the post-war reconstruction of Ukraine;
49. emphasise that the presence of Russian terrorists at nuclear facilities poses major threats to nuclear and radiation safety at a global level;

50. demand that the actions of the Russian Federation and the Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation "Rosatom" be recognised as nuclear terrorism aimed at carrying out a global violation of nuclear power plant security, international law, and basic human rights with the aim of committing genocide and ecocide, and encroaching on the Ukraine's sovereignty;
51. call on international partners to increase pressure on the IAEA to promote actions to prevent acts of nuclear terrorism by the Russian Federation;
52. encourage international experts to participate in analysing and assessing the environmental consequences of the Russian aggression, including the long-term consequences, with the subsequent development and implementation of a post-war reconstruction programme in Ukraine, which should include a respective strategic environmental assessment taking into account the nature and extent of the damage to the environment and the health of the population;
53. call on the EU and its Member States to make every effort to strengthen its monitoring of the Russian Federation's compliance with international environmental agreements, to impose severe sanctions for the violation of provisions thereof, and to exclude Russian representatives from the governing bodies of such agreements and programmes;
54. call for the suspension of the Environment for Europe process and the cancellation of this year's UNECE ministerial conference due to the impossibility of properly assessing the Eurasian continent's environment, and, therefore, the inexpediency of holding further talks on improving the state of the environment prior to the complete cessation of military actions; calls for a proper international assessment of environmental crimes and the calculation of losses, and for the volume and mechanisms of compensation for the damage caused by the Russian Federation to be determined;
55. call on the EU to continue to integrate the electricity and gas markets of Ukraine and the EU, allowing for further exports of electricity generated in Ukraine to EU countries;
56. call on the EU to integrate Ukraine's energy infrastructure, in particular its gas storage facilities, for the joint purchase and storage of gas for EU countries in the future;
57. call on the EU to replace Russian-owned assets in the EU and to transfer control of such assets to EU-owned companies;
58. call for faster preparations for the signing of an agreement on the liberalisation of road transport between Ukraine and the EU as well as for the abolition of the permitting system for road freight transport in Europe for Ukraine;

Regarding science, innovation, the information society and education, the CSP members:

59. emphasise the need to strengthen the development of information technologies and ensure a full-scale development of digital competences in all spheres of life in modern Ukrainian society, as one of the basic principles of state security;

60. emphasise the need to accelerate Ukraine's integration into the European single digital space;
 61. call on the European and Ukrainian authorities to develop and implement a common agenda for the development and validation of knowledge and skills as well as to maximise the improvement of existing skills (upskilling) and acquisition of new skills (re-skilling) needed by Ukrainian citizens granted refugee status and persons in need of temporary protection in the EU Member States;
 62. emphasise the need to take due account of the characteristics of vulnerable groups and internally displaced persons when developing educational programmes and creating conditions for their equal access to the labour market in both Ukraine and the EU Member States;
 63. draw attention to the need to strengthen programmes aimed at speeding up the recovery and strengthening of higher education and vocational education and training, as it is Ukrainian graduates who will have a key role to play in rebuilding Ukraine after the victory in the war against the Russian Federation;
 64. call for efforts to speed up the development of practical instruments in Ukraine for the recognition of intellectual property rights and for intellectual property rights to be introduced into economic circulation;
 65. call on the European and Ukrainian authorities to develop a joint programme to support Ukrainian universities, scientists and Ukrainian science in general affected by the war (Ukrainian Science Reload);
 66. call on the Government of Ukraine to strengthen scientific, technical and innovative cooperation with the EU in funding research and innovation projects, in particular by abolishing quotas and increasing the capacity to implement existing programmes (including Horizon Europe, COSME, COST, etc.), and by creating new support programmes.
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