



Joint Declaration by the Speakers of the Parliaments of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland one year since Russia's full-scale military invasion of Ukraine

24 February 2023 marks one year since the beginning of Russia's full-scale, unprovoked, and illegal military invasion of Ukraine. Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine has caused immense suffering to the Ukrainian people and impacted millions of people around the world. It has undermined security and stability in Europe and globally, representing a major attack on the rules-based international order.

Today, we, the Speakers of the Parliaments of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland, reaffirm our full solidarity with the people of Ukraine and commend their courage and determination to defend the freedom and sovereignty of Ukraine. We pay tribute to all those who have sacrificed their lives for the independence of Ukraine and express our deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims of the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine.

We reiterate our unwavering support and commitment to Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. Our countries are determined to continue providing political, economic, military, and humanitarian support to Ukraine for as long as necessary. We call on other countries to increase the support to Ukraine to ensure Ukraine's ability to defend its independence and restore its territorial integrity. We support President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's 10-point peace formula that aims to ensure the lasting security of Ukraine and the region.

Along with other partners, we will continue our efforts to support the recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine, including its destroyed infrastructure.

Ukraine shares our common values of democracy, rule of law, and respect for human rights. Ukrainians pay the ultimate price for defending our common values and European security. Ukraine's place is in the Euro-Atlantic family of free and democratic countries. We are committed to further supporting Ukraine's aspirations to become the members of the European Union and NATO.

On this grim anniversary of Russia's full-scale military invasion of Ukraine, we once again condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine. We firmly reject and will never recognize the illegal annexation of Ukraine's territories of Crimea, Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia. We are deeply concerned with the growing Russian military presence in Belarus which is a factor that increases security threats in the region.

We reiterate our demand for the immediate cessation of hostilities by Russia against Ukraine, of all deliberate and indiscriminate attacks directed against civilians and civilian infrastructure, and the full, immediate, and unconditional withdrawal of all Russian forces and military equipment from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders. We call on the Belarusian and Iranian

authorities to stop supporting Russia's war against Ukraine. We also call on other countries to end all actions enabling Russia's aggression.

Our countries will continue to increase collective pressure on Russia to end this war and withdraw its troops from Ukraine by raising the cost of aggression for Russia, by further reinforcing and extending the restrictive measures against Russia, and by further strengthening the international isolation of Russia in all possible formats and areas. We condemn the efforts to bring back the Russian and Belarusian athletes into international competitions.

Russia, and all perpetrators and accomplices must be held accountable for the crime of aggression, for the war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity. We support the investigation launched by the International Criminal Court to identify and prosecute those who have committed war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity on the territory of Ukraine. We call on the swift establishment of a special international tribunal under the auspices of the UN for bringing to justice the perpetrators of the crime of aggression by Russia's political and military leadership against Ukraine.

Russia has to pay for the damages caused to Ukraine. We will work with our Allies and partners towards the use of Russia's frozen assets to support Ukraine's reconstruction and for the purposes of reparation.

Tyranny and terror must fail. Peace and freedom must prevail. The victory of Ukraine is the only way to restore peace in Europe. We stand with Ukraine.



Jüri Ratas
President of the Riigikogu



Edvards Smiltēns
Speaker of the Saeima



Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen
Speaker of the Seimas



Elżbieta Witek
Marshal of the Sejm