

Position Paper

War in
UKRAINE

renew europe.

Renew Europe position on the **WAR IN UKRAINE**

Renew Europe condemns Russian aggression in the strongest possible terms and considers Putin to be a war criminal, whose regime bears full responsibility for all its consequences. Russia's actions are not only an aggression against Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, but also an attack against Europe's security, the international rules-based order and liberal democracies. While we fully support the rapid and unprecedented measures adopted so far by the European Union, we call for additional actions.

1. The EU must declare an all-out economic war against Putin's regime:

- We support the immediate and full exclusion from Swift of Russian operators, the blocking of all Russian banks from financial systems and the prevention of the Russian Central Bank from carrying transactions in both euros and dollars. The same must be applied to Belarus, as Lukasehenka's regime continues to actively support Russian aggression.
- We call for a complete economic blockade banning exports to Russia, in particular technologies, imports from Russia, including oil and gas, and investments. We oppose Russian access to our airspace, our waters and our ports. Instead of indirectly financing this war, we want to bring down their economy and the regime.
- Given the expected severe consequences among Member States, we request solidarity by mutualising, at European level, the costs incurred by these sanctions.
- We want to target all Russian officials and oligarchs associated with the regime, their proxies and strawmen, as well as those in Belarus linked to Lukasehenka's regime, with the freezing of assets, the seizing of properties, the complete end of golden passports and golden visas, more generally the revocation of visas and residence permits.
- We also want to suspend Russia from international organisations and events, including in the fields of culture and sports.
- We stay united with our transatlantic allies and like-minded partners in NATO, G7 and OECD and we call on the People's Republic of China to join the "alliance of international law". We also call on EFTA Members, associated States and candidate countries to join the EU's initiatives and participate in strong sanctions, as a close relationship with the EU comes with shared commitments to defend the international rules-based order.

2. The EU must provide the largest financial, political and military assistance to Ukraine:

- All the emergency budgetary measures at our disposal need to be activated without delay, including the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and a new Macro-Financial Assistance package, with the view to providing humanitarian aid to civilians.
- We call on the Commission to immediately address the situation of Ukrainian refugees, through activation of the Temporary Protection Directive and coordination between all Member States to ensure solidarity and provide displaced persons a status and a shelter in the EU.
- We call on the Member States to prolong the visas of Ukrainian students and other holders.
- We strongly support the mobilisation of the European Peace Facility and the provision of military equipment by Member States.
- We acknowledge Ukraine's European aspirations and support the granting of candidate status as well as the speeding up of its gradual integration into the EU's single market.

3. The EU must remain united and reinforce its capacity to act:

- We are in favour of increasing the European Defence Fund and national defence spending.
- We want to ensure energy security and independence from third countries and fossil fuels.
- We shall fight disinformation, propaganda and strengthen cybersecurity.
- We will pay particular attention to the Eastern Partnership and the Western Balkans.
- We recognise the efforts of Russians to oppose the war, despite censorship and crackdown.
- We support the Belarusian opposition's exile government.
- We support the end of unanimity in foreign affairs, in particular to facilitate sanctions. Renew Europe stands with the Ukrainian people.