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<Commission>{PETI}Committee on Petitions</Commission>

<Date>{23/09/2022}23.9.2022</Date>

<TitreType>NOTICE TO MEMBERS</TitreType>

Subject: <TITRE>Petition No 0289/2022 by V.P. (German) on helping Ukraine and stopping the war</TITRE>

1. Summary of petition

The petitioner addresses President Roberta Metsola directly. He asks for humanitarian, economic and military help for Ukraine as well as for diplomatic, economic and military sanctions against Russia. In order to stop Russia’s war against Ukraine the petitioner asks to grant a no-fly zone, let Ukraine join the NATO and the EU and disconnect Russian entities from the SWIFT network.

2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 24 June 2022. Information requested from Commission under Rule 227(6).

3. Commission reply, received on 23 September 2022

The Commission’s observations

Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine goes against the principles and values of the European Union. It has caused widespread human suffering and a dire humanitarian situation. The EU and its Member States remain united and stand in full solidarity with Ukraine and its people in response to Russia’s war of aggression.

The EU, together with like-minded partners, has championed wide-ranging international support for Ukraine and condemnation of Russia’s unlawful actions. The EU has condemned in the strongest terms the ongoing systematic violation by Russia of international humanitarian law and international human rights law[[1]](#footnote-1). Humanitarian access is seriously hampered by security concerns. Ceasefires or windows of silence are an essential precondition to establish a safe way for the humanitarian evacuation of civilians. The EU continues to demand Russia to cease its aggression and to immediately and unconditionally withdraw all its forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

Since the start of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine on 24 February, the EU has stepped up its support for Ukraine and provided around EUR 9.5 billion in the form of humanitarian aid, emergency macro-financial assistance, budget support, grant emergency assistance and crisis response[[2]](#footnote-2). This includes military assistance worth EUR 2.5 billion to the Ukrainian Armed Forces to defend its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity as well as its population from the Russian aggression under the European Peace Facility (EPF)[[3]](#footnote-3). The EU and its Member States are committed to continue supporting Ukraine as long as needed.

As to the specific request to establish a no-fly zone in Ukraine, the enforcement of any no-fly zone by an external actor would carry significant military and political risks of further escalation, as outlined by NATO Secretary-General Stoltenberg.

In coordination with like-minded partners, the EU has reacted swiftly and robustly in response to Russia’s military aggression against Ukraine by adopting the most far reaching and hard-hitting restrictive measures (sanctions) in the Union’s history[[4]](#footnote-4). These comprise individual sanctions against top political leaders and lawmakers, business and military elites, as well as sectoral measures against Russia, and restrictions on economic relations with the non-government controlled areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. Sectoral sanctions include *inter alia* the financial sector (including SWIFT-related sanctions) and the energy, transport and technology sectors. The EU will keep widening their scope and reach, as Russia’s war of aggression continues.

At the European Council on 23-24 June, the EU leaders granted Ukraine EU candidate status[[5]](#footnote-5). The Council invited the Commission to report on the fulfilment of the conditions specified in the Commission’s opinion on Ukraine’s membership application as part of its regular enlargement package. The Council will decide on further steps once all these conditions are fully met.

#### Conclusion

The EU has put in place an unprecedented response to Russia’s unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine and is doing everything within its power to assist Ukraine. The EU will continue supporting Ukraine, its government, and its people.

1. <https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/russiaukraine-statement-high-representative-borrell-and-commissioner-lenarcic-violations_en> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://eu-solidarity-ukraine.ec.europa.eu/eu-assistance-ukraine_en> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/07/22/european-peace-facility-eu-support-to-ukraine-increased-to-2-5-billion/#:~:text=Thanks%20to%20the%205th%20tranche,arms%3B%20we%20will%20provide%20them> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/sanctions/restrictive-measures-against-russia-over-ukraine/sanctions-against-russia-explained/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/06/24/european-council-conclusions-23-24-june-2022/#:~:text=On%2023%2D24%20June%202022,of%20Europe%20and%20external%20relations> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)