



STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

on the fourth anniversary of the heroic efforts of the Ukrainian people to defend themselves against Russia's war of aggression and Ukraine's European future

Brussels, 24 February 2026 - "Today, we, the Friends of European Ukraine in the European Parliament, stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine as we commemorate the fourth anniversary of Russia's unprovoked, illegal, and brutal full-scale invasion. We stand with the families who have lost their loved ones, lighting candles in remembrance of the heroes who gave their lives for Ukraine's freedom and in defence of democratic Europe.

We honour the strength, unity, and resilience of the Ukrainian people in the face of twelve years of Russian aggression—an aggression that began with attempts to undermine Ukraine's sovereign choice for European integration and with the illegal occupation of Crimea and parts of the Donbas region.

We reaffirm that Ukraine's future lies within the European Union. We remain committed to working closely with Ukraine to support its path toward EU membership and the fulfilment of accession criteria. Implementing reforms amid war and devastation is extraordinarily challenging, yet it represents a powerful investment in a prosperous, democratic future. It is also one of the most meaningful ways to honour the memory of the Heavenly Hundred and the Ukrainian defenders who continue to fight for their country today.

Russia's relentless attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, residential areas, and civilian facilities—particularly during harsh winter conditions—once again demonstrate that Russia is not seeking a just and lasting peace. Any peace agreement must be acceptable to the Ukrainian people and must fully restore Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It must ensure the return of Ukrainian children unlawfully deported by Russia, secure the release of prisoners of war and civilians illegally detained, and guarantee accountability for war crimes and crimes of aggression. Furthermore, any peace settlement must be underpinned by credible security guarantees from the European and international community to deter further military or hybrid aggression against Ukraine and Europe.

The European Union and its citizens stand firmly with Ukraine. The EU remains Ukraine's largest provider of support, and we will continue in this role. We trust that the recently approved €90 billion Ukraine Support Loan will provide essential fiscal stability, address budgetary gaps, and enable the procurement of vital defence capabilities. We continue to strongly deplore the actions of the Hungarian government in obstructing and blocking the EU's support for Ukraine's policy line. We reiterate that EU-Ukraine security and defence cooperation must be further strengthened, Ukraine's airspace better protected, and all necessary defence assistance delivered. A secure and sovereign Ukraine means a secure Europe.

Glory to Ukraine, and our deepest respect and appreciation to its people!"