



25 April 2022

## CONCLUSIONS

of the

### **Meeting of the European Affairs Committees of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic, the National Assembly of Hungary, the Sejm of the Republic of Poland and the National Council of the Slovak Republic**

**The Representatives of the European Affairs Committees of the Visegrad Group Countries, participating in the meeting in Košice,**

#### ***Regarding Current Situation in Ukraine***

- *strongly **condemn** the acts of constant violence, war crimes, crimes against humanity, systemic violations of human rights and other criminal offenses against international law and the Charter of the United Nations flagrantly committed on the territory of sovereign Ukraine by the Russian Federation armed forces, paramilitary organizations and groups of mercenaries;*
- ***emphasize** that the war against Ukraine is an unacceptable, unprovoked, unjustifiable, illegal and reprehensible act of aggression; for which the Russian Federation and its political representation is directly responsible;*
- ***call on** the Russian Federation to immediately stop military activities in Ukraine and to unconditionally withdraw troops from all over Ukraine, including the self-proclaimed separatist territories of the so-called People's Republics, as well as illegally annexed Crimea, which is the territory of Ukraine;*
- ***support** the continuation of a decisive and united response by the European Union in the form of the toughest possible restrictive measures against the Russian Federation and its representatives, in order to prevent further escalation and aggression;*
- ***expect** an immediate establishment of an international commission of inquiry to document and verify facts, accounts and opinions, and an urgent trial of war criminals and call on the international community to bring the guilty parties before the international tribunals;*
- ***support** political, financial and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, strengthening Ukraine's defence capabilities;*
- ***express** their ubiquitous, unwavering and full solidarity with the free Ukrainian people and the legitimate democratically-elected government in Kyiv and support its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity;*
- ***emphasize** that a sovereign, independent and stable Ukraine, firmly committed to democracy and the rule of law, is important pillar of the Euro-Atlantic and global security;*



- *state that it is essential to create and ensure decent living conditions for war refugees from Ukraine in our countries;*
- *express support for stronger European perspective for Ukraine, the granting of the EU candidate country status to Ukraine hopefully at the summit of the European Union leaders in June this year, as well as the opening of accession negotiations as soon as possible when all the conditions are met;*
- *emphasize the need to strengthen the European Union's Strategic Communication, the fight against disinformation campaigns and Russia's hybrid warfare strategy.*

### **Regarding Energy Security**

- *stress the need to **phase out** EU dependence on Russian gas, oil and coal imports as soon as possible and welcome in this context the Commission's REPowerEU communication on 8 March 2022;*
- ***underline** that, with a view to the next winter, refilling of gas storage across the Union should start without any delay, taking fully into account national preparedness measures;*
- ***call** the European Commission and EU Member States to increase efforts in diversifying energy sources and to rapidly complete and improve gas and electricity interconnections throughout the EU, including full synchronisation of power grids;*
- ***express** their support for both policy aiming to decrease the emission of greenhouse gases and increased security of energy supply simultaneously, while respecting the principle of technology neutrality, the right of Member States to define their own energy mix and maintaining the widest possible flexibility;*
- ***encourage** the inclusion of nuclear energy in the green taxonomy of financing the European Union;*
- ***recall** that the European Pillar of Social Rights includes energy among the essential services, that everyone is entitled to have access to and support for access to such services must be available for those in need;*
- ***highlight** therefore the important role of the immediate actions which are inevitable to mitigate the impact of high energy prices for households, farmers, businesses and industry;*
- ***support** the development of regional cooperation in ensuring energy security, reducing energy costs and keeping energy prices affordable;*
- ***conclude** that there is a need for a common approach and action and the Visegrad countries must work together to build a secure and sustainable economy in the region and in Europe as well.*

*Stavros Niarchos*

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