Ukraine is a priority partner for the European Union.

The EU stands united in its unwavering support to Ukraine in the face of Russia’s unprovoked and unjustified aggression. The EU strongly condemns the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation and continues to condemn this violation of international law. The EU remains steadfast in its commitment to Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The EU has stepped up its political, humanitarian, financial support and military assistance to Ukraine and is imposing massive sanctions against the Kremlin to cripple its war machine.

The Association Agreement (AA), including its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), signed in 2014, is the legal framework bringing Ukraine and the EU closer together, promoting deeper political ties, stronger economic links and respect for common values. Visa-free travel for Ukrainian citizens with biometric passports entered into force in 2017.

On 28 February 2022, Ukraine presented its application for EU membership.

On 17 June, the Commission delivered its Opinion.

On 23 June, the European Council endorsed the European Commission Opinion and granted the candidate status to Ukraine.
EU SUPPORT TO UKRAINE IN RESPONSE TO THE RUSSIAN INVASION

Since the Russian aggression, the EU, Member States and Financial Institutions have mobilised over **€19 billion in financial, humanitarian, emergency and budget support** to Ukraine, with an up to **€3 billion** in additional macro-financial assistance under preparation.

This includes **€2.2 billion** in EU macro-financial assistance and **€120 million** in budget support already disbursed and a further **€5 billion** in macro-financial assistance set to be disbursed this year. As part of the pledges from the Stand up for Ukraine and the high level international donors conference in May, an additional **€500 million** budget support package was signed on 5 September to help Ukraine address urgent housing, education and farming sector needs on the ground. The EU will provide **€100 million** to rehabilitate damaged schools.

A **€330 million** emergency package focused on the immediate needs of internally displaced persons, as well as support to independent media and civil society has been adopted, while previous on-going projects worth **€185 million** have been adjusted to meet urgent needs on the ground.

An additional **€2.6 billion** has been made available under the European Peace Facility to deliver military equipment to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

People fleeing the war in Ukraine can receive temporary protection in any EU country, including residence permits, access to the labour market and housing, medical assistance and access to education for children.

The Commission has allocated **€335 million for humanitarian aid** programmes in Ukraine to be implemented by the humanitarian partners on the ground. In addition, over 66.200 tonnes of in kind assistance worth **€425 million** has been delivered to Ukraine from EU Member States and third partners via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. This includes via the RescEU emergency stockpiles, more than **€24 million** worth of medical and specialised equipment for public health risks such as chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats for Ukraine have been delivered.
The EU has also successfully coordinated 1,000 medical evacuations of Ukrainian patients via its Civil Protection Mechanism to provide them with specialised healthcare in hospitals across Europe.

Since the beginning of the war, the EU has stepped up its immediate support to strengthen Ukraine’s cyber resilience with €10 million for equipment, software and other related support. A further €15 million from the €330 million package has been provided to support resilient digital transformation.

As part of a wider €71 million rapid reaction support measures for early recovery and rehabilitation, the EU is also supporting the fight against impunity in Ukraine with a €7.5 million project to support the International Criminal Court investigations into war crimes committed by Russia. An EU Joint Investigation Team set up with Poland, Lithuania and Ukraine, is also supported by Europol and Europol.

The EU is providing €23 million to support civil society under the Civil Society and the Human rights and Democracy Thematic programmes.

The EU is also providing support via IFIs, such as the EIB and EBRD, by providing EU guarantees that enable them to lend to the Ukrainian government and companies providing vital services.
The U-LEAD with Europe programme aims at increasing the capacity of local self-government to ensure good local governance and regional development, and to offer quality services to citizens, with an overall envelope of €158 million for the period 2016-2023. This programme has become a key emergency responder at the local level during the war.

The EU supports security of energy supply by increasing gas reverse flows, electricity grid synchronisation since March 2022, and by substantial investments of the Ukrainian Energy Efficiency Fund. Ukraine will be able to benefit from EU common purchase of gas, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and hydrogen. In 2021, the EU and Ukraine launched a dedicated dialogue on the European Green Deal and Ukraine’s Green Transition.

In order to address the consequences of Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, the EU has mobilised €25 million to increase Ukraine’s cyber and digital resilience. Out of this, €10 million has been used for equipment, software and other related support, whilst a further €15 million from the €330 emergency package is supporting resilient digital transformation.

As part of the EU solidarity response with Ukraine, the EU has proposed to suspend import duties on all Ukrainian exports to the EU and all EU anti-dumping and safeguard measures in place on Ukrainian steel exports for one year and set out an action plan to establish ‘Solidarity Lanes’ to ensure Ukraine can export grain, but also import the goods it needs, from humanitarian aid to animal feed and fertilizers. The EU’s Solidarity Lanes have helped Ukraine export more than 14 million tonnes of cereals, oilseeds and other related products until now.

On 3 March, the EU unanimously agreed to trigger the Temporary Protection Directive giving rights to a residence permit for at least one year, access to the labour market and housing, medical assistance, and access to education for children to the people fleeing the Russian aggression. More than 4.2 million Ukrainians have received temporary protection in the EU.

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