



Council of the
European Union

**Brussels, 8 March 2022
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LIMITE

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: Informal meeting of the Heads of State or Government (10 and 11 March 2022)
- Draft statement on the Russian aggression against Ukraine

Draft

Statement of the Heads of State or Government, meeting in Versailles,

on

the Russian aggression against Ukraine

1. Two weeks ago Russia brought war back to Europe. Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine grossly violates international law and the principles of the UN Charter and undermines European security. It is inflicting unspeakable suffering on the Ukrainian population. Russia bears full responsibility and those responsible will be held to account for this war of aggression, including for indiscriminately targeting civilians. We call for the safety and security of Ukraine's nuclear facilities to be ensured immediately with the assistance of the International Atomic Energy Agency. We demand that Russia ceases its military action and withdraws all forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine immediately and unconditionally.
2. We commend the people of Ukraine for their courage in defending their country and the values of freedom and democracy. We will not leave them alone. The EU and its Member States will continue to provide coordinated political, financial, material and humanitarian support. We are determined to increase even further our pressure on Russia and Belarus. We will ensure that the sanctions we have adopted are fully implemented. And we are ready to move quickly with further sanctions if needed.
3. Countless people are fleeing the war in Ukraine. We offer temporary protection to all war refugees from Ukraine. We commend European countries, notably in the frontline, for showing immense solidarity in hosting Ukrainian war refugees. The EU and its Member States will continue to show solidarity and provide humanitarian and financial support to the refugees and the countries hosting them. We call on Russia to fully abide by its obligations under international humanitarian law. It must ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access to the victims and internally displaced persons in Ukraine, and allow safe passage for those civilians who want to leave.

4. Following the December 2016 decision by the EU Heads of State or Government, the European Council acknowledged the European aspirations and the European choice of Ukraine, as stated in the Association Agreement. On 28 February 2022, the President of Ukraine submitted the application of Ukraine to become a member of the European Union. The Council has invited the Commission to submit its opinion on this application. Pending this and without delay, we will further strengthen our bonds and deepen our partnership.
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