

11th December 2023

Open letter to American Representatives: Ukraine needs our support

Dear Honorable Members of Congress,

As the emergency funding plan to support Kyiv's war effort is now blocked in Congress, we, parliamentarians of the Member States of the European Union, call for American security assistance to Ukraine to be continued.

Without the United States' decisive and substantial support, Russia might have won this criminal war of aggression against Ukraine already. We are therefore eternally grateful for the American people's generous commitment to the defense of Ukraine and thus our own security. Today, we are at a major turning point for the survival of Ukraine as a free, independent, and sovereign nation. Ever since the beginning of Russia's aggression on February 24th 2022, Ukrainians have resisted heroically thanks in particular to our common help. But they still need us, Europeans and Americans. So far, we have remained steadfast and united. It is our shared commitment to freedom and democracy that is at stake today. It is also an investment in our own security and interest. Supporting Ukrainians defend themselves is deterring the wars of tomorrow. A Putin victory would embolden our enemies around the world: they are watching and hoping we grow tired. Ukrainians are fighting so we don't have to.

We hear the concerns expressed by our American friends. For years, American leaders, Democrats and Republicans, have asked Europeans to take more responsibility for their own security. We agree with this legitimate request. Since the beginning of the war, when putting together military, financial and humanitarian aid, Europeans have contributed as much as Americans in the support for Ukraine according to the Kiel Institute's ranking. Moreover, military spending has risen all across Europe. European overall support to Ukraine currently amounts to almost 85 billion Euro, military equipment included (Kiel Institute). And we will continue standing by Ukraine, with our proposed further 50 billion Euro in support for the following years until 2027. We will be there to make the case for enduring European support for Ukraine to pave its way into the European Union. However, this should only be the beginning. We will also make the case that our united response to Russia's war of aggression must be the start for true burden sharing in the transatlantic partnership.

American military aid however is critical and urgent. The Ukrainian army is currently under operational pressure. At a time when ammunition is running out and the counter-offensive has slowed down, our joint assistance is more than ever necessary. Besides, with winter coming, cynical Russian strikes against civilian facilities with the help of Iranian drones will aim to break the morale of the Ukrainian people.

Almost two years ago, Russia attacked Ukraine in a war of unjustified and illegal aggression. So many were then betting on the collapse of the Ukrainian state and Russia's victory. Ukrainians have proved the world wrong with their heroic resistance. American friends, let's continue to honor their sacrifice.

First signatories:

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