



*Bureau*

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## **Statement on behalf of the Bureau of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly**

**Yerevan, 22 February 2022**

- The Bureau of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly (Euronest PA), emphasizes the importance to respect the norms and principles of international law and sovereignty of the countries, and we reaffirm our strong commitment to the respect of all values at the core of the Eastern Partnership, namely democracy and the right to choose our own security arrangements, including treaties of alliance, all of which need to be upheld and strengthened, in the interest of the citizens that we represent.
- We condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's illegal recognition of the occupied areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts in Ukraine as independent which is a blatant violation of international law, of the territorial integrity of Ukraine, as well as of the Minsk agreements.
- We support the swift adoption of severe economic and financial sanctions against the Russian Federation as announced by the EU, US and international partners. We call on our governments in the EU and the Eastern partner countries to react with unity, firmness and determination in solidarity with Ukraine.
- We emphasise that the current threat of an unprecedented military aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation is not only a threat to the security of Ukraine, but also to its democratic and economic development, to the rules-based international order and to the principles and mechanisms of security and cooperation in Europe. We also recall that Russia's annexation and illegal occupation of the parts of territories of Georgia, as well as the unresolved conflict in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova pose a serious threat to the region and Europe as a whole.

- We therefore express our readiness to strengthen our mutual cooperation in order to contribute to diplomatic efforts by European leaders to defuse tensions as well as to enhance regional stability and prosperity through dialogue and cooperation.

- We express our solidarity with the people of Ukraine who have already been suffering through eight years of war in their country and we support Ukraine's efforts in solving the military conflict through diplomatic means, while Russia continues to violate the Minsk Agreements and undermine the Normandy Format. We continue to support the International Crimea Platform as a consultation and coordination format to end the occupation of Crimea.

- We welcome the Statement on Ukraine adopted by the European Parliament's leaders on 16 February, which calls on Ukraine in particular to remain united and steadfast in its comprehensive reforms in line with commitments made as part of the EU Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, since these reforms will underpin Ukraine's ambitions for closer political and economic association with the EU. We call on the EU institutions to maintain a credible long-term perspective for Ukraine's and other aspiring partners' EU accession in line with Article 49 TEU, as for any European state, and to work towards a merit-based acceleration of gradual integration into the EU Single Market, as foreseen in the Association Agreement. In this context, we underline, that democratic reforms with the aim of strengthening rule of law as well as the independence and accountability of institutions in the Eastern Partnership countries remain the most effective way for strengthening their resilience against further military aggression and attempts at destabilisation by the Russian Federation.

- We therefore call on the governments and parliaments of the Eastern Partnership countries, in particular those who have concluded ambitious Association Agreements, to remain united and steadfast in their comprehensive reforms on democracy, rule of law as well as in the economic and social sphere, in line with commitments taken.

- We call upon our governments as well as on the EU to cooperate closely on strengthening energy independence, inter alia through increasing interconnectivity of energy infrastructure, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources.

- We support Ukraine's efforts towards democratic reform, economic prosperity and social progress and we believe that these efforts deserve the strongest possible support, by the EU as well as by all Eastern Partnership

countries. We therefore call to increase political and economic cooperation within the Eastern Partnership, both in bilateral relations among all countries in the region as well as in the multilateral institutions of this Partnership. We note that the Russian aggression has caused already a significant harm to the Ukraine, and call upon the EU to provide urgently the necessary amounts of the macro-financial assistance to mitigate the losses to Ukrainian economy; we remain in close contact with our partners to explore new ways of additional support to ensure economic and financial stability in Ukraine.

- We align with the European Parliament leaders' statement on Ukraine, which resolutely rejects any attempts to weaken or undermine the principles and mechanisms for security and cooperation in Europe and welcome the unity of European and transatlantic parties in this respect.