



Jean Monnet *dialogue*

## **Conclusions of the 9th Jean Monnet Dialogue**

*Zakarpattia Oblast, Ukraine*

*10-12 November 2023*

*(Courtesy translation - original Ukrainian language version)*

We, the leadership of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, heads and delegated representatives of parliamentary factions and groups of the 9th convocation of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, met in the format of the Jean Monnet Dialogue for Peace and Democracy for the ninth time since October 2016 and for the third time during the work of the 9th convocation of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. It was the second in-person meeting after the unprovoked full-scale military aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

The fact that this meeting took place in such extraordinary circumstances underlines our unwavering and firm determination to work together, despite differences in political views, to seek consensus, build trust and strengthen the unity of democratic forces in Ukraine. Our goal is also to intensify the necessary reform processes within the framework of the Jean Monnet Dialogue.

We sincerely welcome the positive and objective report of the European Commission on Ukraine's aspirations for EU membership and appreciate the recognition of the many efforts that Ukraine has already made to meet the criteria

for EU membership. We also recognise that a significant amount of work remains to be done and that this requires extraordinary efforts and effective co-operation between all branches of government.

We are fully aware that a successful path to the European Union and the North Atlantic Alliance must be built on the broadest possible political consensus and public support. That is why the leadership and parliamentary factions and groups of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine will make precise efforts to set an example of unity and inclusiveness of all democratic forces in the parliament. We also believe that the active and systematic involvement of civil society organizations in the process of Ukraine's accession to the EU and NATO is important and will contribute to better awareness of all segments of society on EU and NATO issues. The Verkhovna Rada should strive to create appropriate mechanisms for cooperation with civil society organizations.

We recognise that the transparency and accountability of Ukraine's democratic institutions, and in particular of the Verkhovna Rada, are crucial for Ukraine's successful accession to both the European Union and NATO. We agreed that the Verkhovna Rada should establish an institutional and procedural framework that is fit for purpose and can ensure that the numerous commitments arising from the EU enlargement and NATO accession process are fulfilled. This includes strengthening the administrative capacity of the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat by adopting a law on parliamentary service.

We have also taken into account the best practices of previous EU enlargements, which demonstrate that inclusive parliamentary structures and consensus-based processes can enhance the fulfilment of Ukraine's EU membership aspirations. We also recognise the importance of timely and easy access to information on the EU enlargement process for all political groups to make well-informed decisions, as well as its importance for building unity and trust within the Parliament and in its interaction with the executive. Parliamentary information resources in the context of the EU and NATO accession process should work to ensure the principles of political pluralism (proportional representation of parliamentary factions and groups) and freedom of speech.

As participants in the Dialogues, we express our desire to reach a constructive solution to improve the efficiency of the adoption of draft laws in the second

reading by optimizing and reducing the number of amendments and proposals submitted before and during the consideration of draft laws, as well as the use of tools that block the adoption of such draft laws.

We recognise the ever-increasing relevance of parliamentary diplomacy for the realisation of Ukraine's aspirations for EU membership and NATO membership, and in particular for the Verkhovna Rada to fulfil its functions. Political dialogue and exchange of experience on EU issues with parliamentarians from the EU and Euro-Atlantic area are very useful for all parties and contribute to a better understanding of the issues on the agenda.

Parliamentary diplomacy should strive to implement an inclusive approach, in particular in terms of ensuring proportional representation in parliamentary assemblies, international forums, and participation in inter-party diplomacy. At the same time, parliamentary diplomacy should be carried out exclusively to protect independence and sovereignty, the interests of Ukraine and its citizens, restore territorial integrity within the internationally recognised borders of 1991, in no way harm Ukraine and its citizens, and fully promote its Euro-Atlantic aspirations, strengthen the image of Ukraine as a country that breathes democracy even in the most difficult times and professes democratic values everywhere.

Welcoming the deepening of cooperation between the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the European Parliament, in anticipation of the forthcoming document on enhancing cooperation between the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the President of the European Parliament, the participants of the Dialogue express their readiness to actively participate in cooperation, in particular in the format of parliamentary observers in the European Parliament and internships for the staff of the Secretariat.

We also agree to continue the institutional reform of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine with renewed momentum, to strengthen parliamentary oversight functions, as is also reflected in the European Commission's report, to reach agreement on opposition rights and a code of ethics. We believe that timely decisions on these and further reform measures will not only improve the ability of the Verkhovna Rada to act but will also contribute to increasing public trust in it.

We are particularly aware of the strain on the functioning of Ukraine's democratic institutions caused by the unprovoked, full-scale military aggression of the Russian Federation. The imposition of martial law is a consequence of this aggression.

As long as the fight against the aggressor continues, democratic institutions, especially the Verkhovna Rada and its MPs, must continue to fulfil their constitutional duties and continue to make the decisions necessary to ensure Ukraine's military victory and pave the way for EU and NATO membership. Therefore, we are convinced that at this stage ensuring the stability of the political system and democratic processes is of paramount importance.

To this end, the leadership of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, parliamentary political leaders, factions and groups of the 9th Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine undertake to refrain from actions that could in any way discredit the work of the parliament both domestically and internationally. In order to ensure this stability until the next convocation of the Verkhovna Rada is elected, we agreed to establish mechanisms that would properly reflect the democratically elected parliamentary pluralism in the Verkhovna Rada.

We also agreed that future free and fair national elections (parliamentary, presidential) shall be held after the end of the war and the end of martial law with sufficient time to prepare for the elections (at least 6 months after the end of martial law) on the basis of the current Electoral Code, with the electoral systems for national and local elections retained as a basis, and with the return of norms ensuring the competitiveness of candidates within the same party list (*as an example, the abolition of the 25% limit on the electoral quota required for the first-past-the-post elections*). We are convinced that the upcoming national elections will be of great importance for Ukraine's democratic prospects and that they should be conducted in line with international standards. However, we also recognise that, as a result of the war and its aftermath, the elections will present unique challenges that will require broad political consensus to successfully address them. Therefore, in the framework of the next Jean Monnet Dialogue, we will continue our exchange of views on the principles that could become the cornerstones of the upcoming elections in Ukraine. The participants of the Dialogue agreed to work on the development of a special law that will regulate the details of the first post-war elections.

In the process of exchanging views, we reached a broad consensus on the need to identify priority steps in the implementation of the institutional reform of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, in particular to take the necessary measures to:

- prepare and submit draft proposals for updating the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine "On Measures to Implement Recommendations on Internal Reform and Enhancement of the Institutional Capacity of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine" to the Conciliation Board of parliamentary factions and groups as part of the activity of the Working Group on Preparation of Comprehensive Proposals for Amendments to the Laws of Ukraine in the Field of Parliamentary Law;
- prompt discussion and adoption of the Code of Ethics at least in the first reading;
- ensure minority representation in the distribution of leadership positions in the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Freedom of Speech;
- speedy adoption of the Law of Ukraine "On Parliamentary Service" as a whole;
- wider involvement of the Ukrainian parliament in the EU accession negotiations, as well as in the processes of negotiations and cooperation with international financial institutions;
- strengthen the institutional capacity of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to ensure the adaptation of national legislation to EU law.

We also agreed on the importance of defining in the long term the legal basis for the interaction of the majority and minority in the Ukrainian parliament, in particular with regards to the balanced distribution of leadership positions between the majority and minority representatives in the committees of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine and other parliamentary bodies.

## SIGNATURES

Oleksandr KORNIYENKO, Member of Parliament of Ukraine,  
First Deputy Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Olena KONDRATIUK, Member of Parliament of Ukraine,  
Deputy Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

David ARAKHAMIA, Member of Parliament of Ukraine,  
Head of the Servant of the People parliamentary faction

Yuliia TYMOSHENKO, Member of Parliament of Ukraine,  
Head of the Batkivshchyna parliamentary faction

Iryna HERASHCHENKO, Member of Parliament of Ukraine,  
Co-head of the European Solidarity parliamentary faction

Oleksandra USTINOVA, Member of Parliament of Ukraine,  
Head of the Holos parliamentary faction

Anna SKOROKHOD, Member of Parliament of Ukraine,  
Member of For the Future parliamentary group

Volodymyr ARESHONKOV, MP, Ukraine,  
Member of Trust parliamentary group

Mykhailo PAPIIEV, Member of Parliament of Ukraine,  
Member of Platform for Life and Peace parliamentary group

Serhii KALCHENKO, Member of Parliament of Ukraine,  
Member of Servant of the People parliamentary faction

Ivanna KLYMPUSH-TSINTSADZE, Member of Parliament of Ukraine  
Member of European Solidarity parliamentary faction

Andriy PARUBIY, Member of Parliament of Ukraine,  
Member of European Solidarity parliamentary faction

Volodymyr TSABAL, Member of Parliament of Ukraine,  
Member of Holos parliamentary faction

Vadym HALAICHUK, Member of Parliament of Ukraine,  
Member of Servant of the People parliamentary faction

Viktorija PODGORNA, Member of Parliament of Ukraine,  
Member of Servant of the People parliamentary faction

Serhii SOBOLIEV, Member of Parliament of Ukraine,  
Member of Batkivshchyna parliamentary faction

Ivan KRULKO, Member of Parliament of Ukraine,  
Member of Batkivshchyna parliamentary faction

Larysa BILOZIR, Member of Parliament of Ukraine,  
Member of Dovira parliamentary group