The EU took note of the position that the government of the Republic of South Africa (ZA) has taken with respect to the Russia aggression against Ukraine until now. The EU has engaged repeatedly with ZA to seek the country’s support, particularly with respect to the two United Nations General Assembly resolutions deploiring the Russian aggression, demanding the immediate cessation of hostilities and recognising the humanitarian consequences of the Russian aggression. The EU development assistance forms a part of its comprehensive partnership with ZA. The EU is engaged in a regular dialogue with ZA authorities, covering a substantive number of political and sectoral priorities, including the implementation of the recent EU-African Union Summit deliverables.

Through its delegation in ZA, and in close consultation with EU business associations in the country, the EU follows very closely all legislative processes concerning land reform¹ with the purpose of advocating for a fair, transparent and predictable regulatory framework governing expropriation that respect property rights and does not discourage foreign investments.

According to recent business surveys carried out by the EU Chamber of Commerce in Southern Africa, ZA is still considered as a sufficiently attractive investment destination in Sub-Saharan Africa, albeit its impediments making it increasingly difficult to invest (corruption and public security, investment protection, unpredictable localisation, limited access to reliable and sustainable energy sources, and ageing infrastructure). Despite some existing trade irritants, trade relations with ZA remain stable and strong², also thanks to the EU and Southern African Economic Partnership Agreement. The EU is also lead investment partner³ of ZA, with the highest number of foreign companies⁴ present in the country.

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¹ Amendment Section 25 of the Constitution and Expropriation Bill.
² EU exports to ZA worth more than EUR 22 billion in 2021; EU imports from ZA also worth more than EUR 22 billion in 2021.
³ almost 41% of foreign direct investments.
⁴ more than 1000.