

## President Zelenskyy says Russia is a grave threat to the European way of life



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the European Parliament on Thursday © European Union 2023 - EP

**On Thursday, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the European Parliament during an extraordinary plenary session in Brussels.**

Opening the session, European Parliament President [Roberta Metsola](#) said to President Zelenskyy: “We understand that you are fighting not only for your values, but for ours.”

“Ukraine is Europe and your nation’s future is in the European Union”, President Metsola continued, adding that the EU should give Ukraine the “fastest possible accession process” and, “as a next step, provide the long-range systems and the jets needed to protect the liberty too many have taken for granted.”

In his address to MEPs, President Zelenskyy stressed how Russia is trying to annihilate not only sovereign Ukraine, but also the European “way of life”. He outlined how he sees Europe as a continent steeped in rules, values, equality and fairness, and (...) a place where Ukraine is firmly at home. The Kremlin, on the other hand, is doing its utmost to destroy European values, President Zelenskyy said, stressing how Ukraine is fighting for and protecting Europe from this anti-European force.

He thanked all Europeans who have supported Ukraine in the fight against the Russian invader and all those who have helped Ukrainian refugees arriving in the EU. Looking ahead, President Zelenskyy called on Europe and Ukraine to walk together and define a common European future. However, he underlined that, for our dreams for our children and grandchildren to come true, we need peace and security. These dreams will not be possible if we do not overcome this anti-European force trying to steal our Europe from us, he concluded.

This was President Zelenskyy’s first official visit to the European Parliament, after having addressed MEPs remotely during an [extraordinary session on 1 March 2022](#), shortly after Russia started its war against Ukraine. He also spoke before plenary on [14 December](#) the same year, when Parliament’s 2022 Sakharov Prize was awarded to the brave people of Ukraine.

You can watch the speech again [here](#).

### Further information

[Full speech by President Roberta Metsola](#)

[The European Parliament’s ‘Stand With Ukraine’ website](#)

[Timeline: how the EU supported Ukraine in 2022](#)

[Timeline: how the EU is supporting Ukraine in 2023](#)

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