

## Respected Members of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus

12/03/2022

We, the Cyprus based community supporting Ukraine and its citizens, want to emphasize once again on the importance and urgency of Ukraine's accession to the EU.

Today, when the whole world is on the verge of World War III, which was brutally started by the Russian Federation, insidiously attacking Ukraine and thus increasing the risk of attack on other European countries - the reaction of the world community must be swift.

Ukraine is an independent sovereign state that has long chosen the path of a democratic Europe. The Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU, which was signed in 2014, became fully operational on September 1, 2017. In general, ten years have already passed since the start of negotiations on the association between Ukraine and the EU and until its implementation in full. All this time, the Ukrainian population has been proving its equality and great desire to be a fullfledged member of the European Union by improving living standards in Ukraine, education, medicine, infrastructure, international trade, culture and other industries.

Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its military aggression in the East, disguised as a civil conflict, have prevented Ukraine from moving towards EU membership. Today, it is absolutely clear that Russia will not stop its imperial attempts to block Ukraine's state will to join the EU, even at the cost of destroying the country to the ground.

From the very start of the conflict in 2014 Ukraine was trying to convince its western partners that the best way to stop Putin's blackmail would be to grant to Ukraine exactly what Putin has been trying to prevent – membership in EU and NATO. One could refer to the example of the Baltic states, or "brotherly" Bulgaria, which became members of the EU and NATO, and Kremlin had to swallow that. At the same time, in Bulgaria's neighbouring Balkan countries, Russia continues its dirty work to prevent them from joining the EU and NATO through internal destabilization.

Nowadays, Ukraine became a border of security for the whole of Europe. Ukraine not only defends the dignity, integrity and sovereignty of our country, but also of the whole of democratic Europe. Ukraine's warfare experience impresses the entire world, and Ukrainians are ready to keep on fighting for their country, but we ask for the EU's official deep support in the common interest of peace in Europe.

We all understand that Russia's appetites for aggression and influence are growing daily. That is why the EU must confront it as soon as possible. After February 24, 2022, the realization of a thought that Russia could attack a peaceful country shook the whole of Europe.

Therefore, the accelerated accession of Ukraine to the EU is one of the major steps towards peace in Ukraine and Europe, which could prevent unfolding of further provocations by Russia to influence the country's path

of development by killing civilians, destroying cities, destroying infrastructure and bribing MPs, officials, misinformation in the media, etc.

**On the above premises, we plea for your full support to Ukraine's bid for membership in the EU, by voting as per your rules of conduct and when the matter is included in the agenda of the House of Representatives in favor of granting of the status of candidate to ascension to the EU and for processing of the Ukraine's application under facilitated procedure.**

**Glory to Ukraine! Glory to Cyprus!**

Sincerely,