

EU-UKRAINE CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM		ПЛАТФОРМА ГРОМАДЯНСЬКО ГО СУСПІЛЬСТВА УКРАЇНА-ЄС
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**13th meeting, Brussels, 3 July 2023**

### **JOINT DECLARATION**

The EU-Ukraine Civil Society Platform (CSP) is one of the bodies set up under the Association Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine. The CSP enables civil society organisations on both sides to monitor the implementation process from the point of view of civil society, and to prepare its recommendations to the relevant authorities. The 13th meeting of the CSP was co-chaired by **Oleksandr Yavorskyi**, Federation of Employers of Ukraine, and **Marcin Nowacki**, European Economic and Social Committee.

***On the consequences of the unprovoked, unjustified and unilateral armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, the CSP members:***

1. strongly and unequivocally condemn massive Russian terrorist attacks targeted to destroy the civilian infrastructure of Ukraine;
2. strongly and unequivocally condemn the Russian terrorist attack on the Kakhovka hydro-power station, which caused huge and long-lasting damage to the people, nature and agriculture of Ukraine, including pollution of the Black Sea area;
3. call for joint action to punish the aggressor, to save people, domestic and wild animals, and to support the survival of all beings in the affected territories;
4. call to stop the Russian aggressor committing further ecocide in order to prevent new catastrophes, in particular at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power station and Crimean plant "Tytan", which could be catastrophic, not only for Ukraine, but for the whole continent;
5. emphasise that the membership of the Russian Federation and its representatives in international institutions and organisations strongly contradicts their purpose to maintain peace, protect human rights, ensure sustainable development and safe environment, and implement international law;

6. call on governments, social partners and civil society organisations to carefully monitor activities of Russian representatives and their influence in international organisations, as well as of representatives of countries that remain neutral in the UN regarding the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, and stress the need to take all possible action to restrict spreading aggressive propaganda, disinformation and fake news;
7. continue to insist on the need to recognise the actions of the Russian Federation and Rosatom as acts of nuclear terrorism; call on international partners to increase pressure on the International Atomic Energy Agency to take effective measures to put pressure on the aggressor, with the objective of terminating Rosatom's construction of new nuclear power plants in any countries and prevent any cooperation with Rosatom;
8. emphasise the need to strengthen assistance from the EU to Ukraine in demining territories, in order to prevent an increase in the number of human casualties after the end of hostilities, and to create conditions to restart regular and safe economic activities and provide all necessary support for removing dangerous environment pollution;
9. welcome the extension of the Temporary Protection Mechanism for Ukrainian citizens who continue residing in the EU;
10. emphasise the importance of complying with the ethical standards of EU media when presenting information about the Russian aggression against Ukraine;
11. the Ukrainian side of the CSP calls for preventing Russian citizens from obtaining citizenship and having access to education in the EU, and from being engaged in science and innovation-related positions, notwithstanding the asylum policy of the EU Member States and in respect of fundamental human rights;
12. stress the danger of granting free access of any Russian media to the European media market, including informal channels in social media and, respectively, consider the need to stop it;

***On the recovery of Ukraine, the CSP members:***

13. agree that recovery of the Ukrainian economy should be inclusive, innovative, sustainable, nature-positive and transparent, and involve all stakeholders, including civil society organisations and social partners; stress that civil society must be given a clear role in defining priorities, planning and programming regarding long-term reconstruction measures, as well as being part of implementation and monitoring efforts;
14. underline that the interests of all diverse groups in society, and primarily the most vulnerable groups, including minorities and people with disabilities, must be taken into consideration while providing the reconstruction investments;
15. stress the need to assess losses and recovery projects according to international standards and with the active involvement of private sector;

16. welcome the efforts of the European Commission to set up a dedicated Facility to support Ukraine's recovery, reconstruction and modernisation, and call for the involvement of CSP in the Facility programming;
17. stress the need to engage the private sectors of EU Member States in rebuilding the infrastructure in Ukraine damaged by the war;
18. emphasise the role of digitalization in the state governance and in the delivering of public services through digital instruments; in this regard, stress the need to avoid discrimination because of the digital divide;
19. urge the implementation of measures aimed at preventing the oligarchization of the Ukrainian national economy;
20. stress that the implementation of EU grant projects on the rebuilding and recovery of Ukrainian communities has to be done in full transparency and accountability, and call for the proper use of national procurement legislation.

***On Ukraine's accession to the EU, the CSP members:***

21. recognise the substantial progress made by Ukraine in addressing the seven steps outlined by the European Commission in its opinion on the EU Membership of Ukraine and in carrying out the EU accession-related reforms in this framework;
22. appeal to the official bodies of the EU and Ukraine to intensify cooperation with the expert community in order to speed up the EU accession processes of Ukraine and start the accession negotiations between the EU and Ukraine before the end of 2023;
23. point out that Ukraine's recovery, as well as the reforms necessary for Ukraine's reconstruction, are an integral part of the process of the country's integration into the EU and, therefore, should be based on the EU acquis;
24. underline the importance of enhancing assistance for the implementation of sectoral reforms and strategies, and of promoting access for Ukrainian businesses to the EU Single market;
25. emphasise the need to reform Ukrainian regulatory policy in view of implementing the EU. acquis;

***On the investigation of war crimes and sanctions, the CSP members:***

26. welcome the inauguration of the International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression Against Ukraine (ICPA), which started operations at Eurojust in the Hague. It is expected to play a critical role in gathering evidence against the crimes of aggression committed against Ukraine by Russia, help build criminal cases and, therefore, contribute to holding Russia accountable for its crimes under public international law;

27. call on the EU and Ukrainian authorities, as well as on the entire civilised democratic world, to continue work on the registration, investigation and prosecution of war crimes committed by Russia in Ukraine;
28. call on civil society and the respective European and Ukrainian authorities to increase pressure through all necessary forms of sanctions directly against the interests and assets of the Russian leadership and elite, and to extend them to Belarus for its participation in the military aggression in Ukraine;
29. call to impose sanctions on goods originating from the Russian Federation that have not been covered by previous EU decisions;
30. call on authorities and civil society to step up efforts in informing the EU and the international community about the war crimes committed by the aggressor in Ukraine, and to prevent spreading criminal propaganda to justify the war and cover up war crimes.

***On interaction with civil society, the CSP members:***

31. reiterate the joint declaration adopted at the 12th meeting of the CSP<sup>1</sup> on 1 December 2022;
32. welcome the commitment of the EESC to facilitate the engagement of the Ukrainian side of the CSP in its regular activities;
33. ask for establishing norms, rules and procedures for professional expertise and public participation at all levels of state governance;
34. appeal to the Government of Ukraine to provide the Secretariat of the Ukrainian side of the CSP with adequate resources to support its mandatory activities;
35. call on the Ukrainian authorities to consider recommendations of European Commission DG NEAR's Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement Region 2021-2027, particularly with regard to enabling the financial environment required to support the sustainability of civil society organisations (CSOs), and to ensure that CSOs are adequately funded to exercise their rights in practice; encourage enhanced cooperation between public authorities and CSOs which enables meaningful involvement and genuine consultation and the consideration of CSOs' contributions to the decision-making process, including functional feedback mechanisms.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.eesc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/files/joint\\_declaration\\_12th\\_eu-ukraine\\_csp\\_1\\_dec\\_2022.pdf](https://www.eesc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/files/joint_declaration_12th_eu-ukraine_csp_1_dec_2022.pdf)

***On political dialogue, foreign policy, regional development and cross-border cooperation, the CSP members:***

36. emphasise the need to implement an innovative approach to the reconstruction of Ukraine with regard to the development of smart specialisation strategies in all regions of Ukraine, and further activation of thematic cooperation with EU regions;
37. encourage closer cooperation and integration into the New European Bauhaus initiative in order to bring the EU Green Deal into people's daily lives and to contribute to the sustainable reconstruction of Ukrainian regions;
38. welcome the intensification of the efforts of the Government and the expert community of Ukraine in the implementation of the macro-regional strategies of the EU and the Three Seas initiative in the area of transport and digital connectivity (TEN-T and multimodal transportation);
39. urge launching of a cross-border cooperation programme between Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova to ensure a strong cooperation of both candidate countries and to enhance synergies in the region;

***On the economic development of Ukraine, the CSP members:***

40. welcome the extension by the EU of the Autonomous Trade Preferences for Ukraine for the next period;
41. stress the need to recover national economy using innovative measures and to insure industrial transition towards Industry 5.0;
42. emphasise the importance of preventing any unilateral bans by the EU Member States on the trade or transit of any goods originating from Ukraine, and point out that such action would not be in line with the requirements of Article 35 of the Association Agreement;
43. call on strengthening the EU sanctions on goods and services originating from Russia and Belarus and on preventing the circumvention of sanctions applied to Russia and Belarus through countries in Central Asia;
44. emphasise that Industrial dialogue between the EU and Ukraine should be aimed at creating added value for both EU and Ukraine and at achieving strategic autonomy of the EU;
45. emphasise the need to develop a practical mechanism for the government of Ukraine and the relevant EU agencies for integrating their financial services' markets in order to apply the internal market regime to Ukraine in this sector;
46. stress the need to support the development of logistical infrastructure in Ukraine and in its neighbouring EU Member States;

***On employment, social policy, equal opportunities and state of social dialogue, the CSP members:***

47. draw attention to the need to create conditions for the return of Ukrainian refugees and to provide them with decent living and working conditions; note, however, that some Ukrainians may not return and that the diaspora can strengthen Ukraine; in this regard underline the need to strengthen cooperation with the diaspora;
48. emphasise the need to regulate or ensure via collective agreements that the rights of Ukrainian workers are respected during the reconstruction of the country, to ensure and monitor the implementation of labour and social conditions in tenders for the construction and reconstruction of Ukraine's infrastructure (European Parliament and Council Directive 2014/24 and ILO Convention No. 94); to establish clear and accessible mechanisms for the settlement of disagreements and grievances of workers (grievance mechanisms);
49. stress the need to strengthen social dialogue in Ukraine with regard to the Resolution of the European Parliament *On strengthening social dialogue in the EU*<sup>2</sup> adopted in June 2023; to enhance the social protection of workers and to respect labour rights in order to restore the labour potential;
50. call on the authorities of Ukraine to recognise the role of trade unions as entities entitled to conduct collective negotiations on behalf of employees in accordance with the requirements of EU, Council of Europe and ILO instruments in the field of human rights, including in the Directive on Adequate Minimum Wages in the EU;
51. draw attention to the need to adapt Ukrainian legislation to EU legislation in the area of the gender pay gap and the of elimination of the gender-based violence;

***On healthcare the CSP members***

52. recognise the urgent need for the reconstruction and enhancement of Ukraine's healthcare system in the aftermath of the war, considering its critical role in safeguarding the well-being and resilience of the Ukrainian people;
53. emphasise the importance of investing in healthcare infrastructure, including hospitals, clinics, and medical facilities, to ensure they are adequately equipped and prepared to handle future crises and emergencies effectively;
54. encourage collaboration and knowledge-sharing between Ukraine and international partners, including the European Union, to leverage expertise, resources, and best practices in healthcare management, disease prevention, and emergency response;

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/B-9-2023-0259\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/B-9-2023-0259_EN.html)

55. call for the strengthening of the healthcare workforce in Ukraine through increased training, recruitment, and retention of skilled healthcare professionals, as well as the provision of necessary resources and support for their continuous professional development;
56. highlight the significance of improving access to quality healthcare services for all Ukrainians, particularly those residing in conflict-affected areas and vulnerable groups, to address existing health disparities and ensure equal healthcare opportunities;
57. support the establishment of partnerships and collaborations between Ukrainian healthcare institutions and their EU counterparts, fostering mutual learning and cooperation in areas such as medical research, clinical trials, and specialized healthcare services;

***On energy, transport, the environment and climate change, the CSP members:***

58. call on the EU governments, European civil society organisations, private companies and associations to support urgent needs of victims of the explosion of the Kakhovka hydro-plant station (HPS), to ensure the sanitary and epidemiological safety of the people and animals affected by the flood, the provision of drinking water and supplies, medical assistance, vaccination for animals etc.;
59. call for urgent support by the international community in the analysis and assessment of the environmental consequences of the Kakhovka HPS explosion;
60. confirm that the recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine should be based on green principles and approaches, which include, inter alia, mainstreaming the decarbonization, climate neutrality and environmental protection as well as cross-cutting issues in the international, national and local planning documents, and ensuring public involvement in these processes;
61. emphasise that effective and appropriate reforms in the sectors of environment and climate change carried out for the full membership of Ukraine to the European Union, will strengthen the green dimension of the recovery and reconstruction processes and ensure the use of the build back green principle;
62. call on the involvement of Ukrainian companies in the implementation of the EU Industrial Strategy and of the Green Deal Industrial Plan;
63. appeal on involving Ukraine in the Market Stability Reserve and in the Modernisation Fund of the EU for the purposes of the green modernisation of Ukrainian enterprises;
64. call for opening the accession negotiations for chapters of the so-called "green cluster" as soon as possible, taking into account the high priority of green issues on the EU's agenda in order to ensure Ukraine's compliance with all relevant EU acquis in the field of environment and climate change, as well as to ensure the green post-war reconstruction and rebuilding of Ukraine.

***On science, innovation, the information society and education, the CSP members:***

65. emphasise the strategic need to adapt, within a reasonable time-frame, the labour, education and training system (VET, apprenticeships and other work-based training, as well as adult education) to increased needs of workers with. They should develop skills and qualifications corresponding to the plans and scope of Ukraine's reconstruction by providing proper investment and all necessary support to education and training systems;
  66. draw attention to the need to continue the legislative regulation of the spheres of education and skills development in Ukraine, in particular, the adoption of laws on vocational education and training in Ukraine, on adult education, and on the national system of qualifications;
  67. call for maintaining the pace of implementation of education reform in Ukraine; for continuing the implementation of the New Ukrainian School; for ensuring preparation for the introduction of profiled secondary schools, setting up centres of professional excellence all over the country and creating a lifelong learning system;
  68. emphasise the need to develop digital and green competencies and entrepreneurial skills for all, in all areas of education;
  69. draw attention to the need to speed up the harmonisation of the National System of Qualifications, in particular, the Register of Qualifications with the European Qualification Framework (EQF) and European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO);
  70. recommend that the Government of Ukraine use opportunities more actively for cooperation in the HORIZON EUROPE programme (2021-2027) and call on the urgency to establish a HORIZON EUROPE office in Ukraine;
  71. encourage supporting Ukrainian innovative start-ups in the framework of the European Innovation Council) and the "Seeds of Bravery" initiative;
  72. appeal to the Government of Ukraine regarding the need to solve the issue of business trips of men of conscription age involved in international educational and research projects;
  73. emphasise the importance of knowledge of European history, and of Ukrainian history based on facts, in order to prevent its twisting and misuse under the massive aggressive influence of Russian propaganda;
  74. address the need to intensify the EU-driven process of joint recognition of graduation diplomas and qualifications obtained in Ukraine and in EU countries.
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