

Reinforcing our Commitment to Ukraine and a Sustainable Quality of Life

10 December 2024

The European Commission affirms its resolve and commitment to address the needs of our citizens and the continued needs of our allies in Ukraine fighting against continued military aggression.

In the past year, the European Commission has increased its commitments to the Ukrainian people through various avenues of support such as by investing in critical energy and transportation infrastructures and in our efforts to impose sanctions targeting those responsible for continued transgressions against the independence of Ukraine. Additional coordinated efforts of our Member States are required to further our commitment to the people of Ukraine.

The European Commission, in response to the protests in Spring 2024 by our Union's farmers and other concerned parties, recognizes the need to reevaluate our approach in the management of our vital agricultural and water resources. We acknowledge the important role that the Union's farmers play in aiding us to achieve sustainable agricultural practices. Recent extreme weather events and concerns over water quality issues are an additional area of concern linked to quality-of-life standards within the Union. We encourage our Member States to consider our next steps forward as we establish new approaches to achieve our shared goal of sustainability, engaging with farmers, industry groups, policy makers, civil society, stakeholders and citizens.

Thus, we are committed to working with Member States to ensure a coordinated response—including consideration of national emergency measures—that utilizes all available EU resources to ensure financial and material stability of our citizens. We also maintain our conviction to marshal the full power of this Union to address ongoing foreign policy issues that are critical to preserving EU security and maintaining the rules-based international order. **To address these broad range of policy matters, the following stipulations are proffered for collective consideration:**

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the European Union (EU) has consistently sought to deepen integration among Member States and declare our shared commitment to promoting democratic principles, the following should be taken into account:

1. That we are a broad, diverse community historically divided by conflict and misgivings for centuries, now dedicated to jointly overcoming strategic challenges.
2. That the EU is a union that stands for human freedom, democratic principles, the rule of law, and the upholding of fundamental rights.
3. That closer integration between Member States will strengthen our shared values and create greater benefits for our citizens and community.
4. That our union will continue to build economic, political, and social partnerships that enhance Europeans' standard of living and reinforce the EU's global influence.
5. That our community understands the need to adopt policies that position Europe to withstand future economic or political crises through sound economic reforms, responsible foreign policies, and technological cooperation.

EU solidarity with Ukraine

On continued support for Ukraine

WHEREAS The EU and its Member States continue to address Ukraine's pressing military and defense needs. In particular, the importance of timely, predictable and sustainable military support for Ukraine, notably through the European Peace Facility and the EU Military Assistance Mission, as well as through direct bilateral assistance by Member States.

WHEREAS Between 2022 and 2024, the EU mobilized €6.1 billion under the European Peace Facility to address Ukraine's pressing military and defense needs. In addition, in March 2024, the EU decided to increase the financial ceiling of the European Peace Facility by €5 billion, by establishing a dedicated Ukraine Assistance Fund. This brings the total financial support allocated via the European Peace Facility to €11.1 billion. The agreed assistance measures under the European Peace Facility finance the provision of lethal and non-lethal military equipment and supplies, such as personal protective equipment, first aid kits, fuel, ammunition and missiles.

WHEREAS The EU activated the Temporary Protection Directive on 4 March 2022 with a unanimous decision by Member States and it was automatically extended by one year and further extended for an additional year by the Council until 4 March 2025. Currently, almost 4.2 million people displaced from Ukraine enjoy temporary protection in the EU, among which one third are children. The legal basis for the proposal is Article 4(2) of the Temporary Protection Directive, which provides that, where reasons for temporary protection persist, the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, can extend temporary protection by up to one year.

WHEREAS In the face of continued Russian attacks against Ukraine's civil and critical infrastructure, the European Union and its Member States will intensify the provision of further humanitarian and civil protection assistance to Ukraine, as well as assistance to ensure the resilience of its energy sector through the winter. Moreover, the European Union remains committed to supporting Ukraine's repair, recovery and reconstruction, in coordination with international partners, including the demining process and psychosocial rehabilitation.

WHEREAS The EU has demonstrated unprecedented unity in condemning Russia's actions and in providing support to Ukraine. The EU, its Member States and European financial institutions have together provided wide-ranging support to Ukraine and its people, amounting to almost €98 billion since the start of Russia's war of aggression.

WHEREAS Through the Ukraine Facility, the EU has initiated a new support mechanism for the years 2024 to 2027. The Ukraine Facility is a dedicated instrument which will allow the European Union to provide Ukraine with up to €50 billion in stable and predictable financial support during this period. For funds to be released, the government of Ukraine must implement its recovery and reform plan and also uphold: 1) democratic mechanisms, including a multi-party parliamentary system; 2) the rule of law; 3) human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Payments totaling €12.2 billion under the Ukraine Facility have been disbursed as of 13 August 2024.

WHEREAS It is vital that Ukraine's grain exports are sustainable and reach world markets. The EU supports all efforts to facilitate exports of Ukraine's grain and other agricultural products to the countries most in need, notably in Africa and the Middle East. The EU recognizes that these measures are also mindful of EU farmers' and other stakeholders' sensitivities and how quick remedial action must be taken in case of significant disruptions to the Union's market, or to the markets of one or more Member States.

WHEREAS Since 4 June 2022, the Autonomous Trade Measures (ATMs) for Ukraine have had a clear positive effect on Ukraine's trade to the EU. Together with the Solidarity Lanes, the ATMs have ensured that trade flows from Ukraine to the EU have remained remarkably stable in 2022 and 2023, despite the major disruptions caused by the war and against the general trend of a decrease in Ukraine's trade overall. Total EU imports from Ukraine amounted to €24.3 billion in the 12 months to October 2023 compared to pre-war levels in 2021 of €24 billion.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED The European Commission calls on Member States to intensify work on the reform of the European Peace Facility and the further increase of its financing, building on the proposal of the High Representative to further support the evolving needs of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. This should include a further increase of the financial ceiling in the European Peace Facility to address Ukraine's pressing military and defense needs. Member States should also determine terms of delivering more and better operational support for Ukraine, complementing Member States' bilateral efforts, and focusing on increased procurement from the European defense industries.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED Given continued Russian attacks on the civil and critical infrastructure across Ukraine, safe and durable conditions for the return of people to Ukraine are not currently in place. The European Commission therefore considers that the reasons for temporary protection persist, and that it should be prolonged for another year as a necessary and appropriate response to the current situation. We call on Member States to extend the temporary protection for people fleeing Russia's aggression against Ukraine, from 5 March 2025 to at least 4 March 2026.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED The Ukraine Energy Support Fund, established by the EU's Energy Community Secretariat, has raised over €500 million to support urgent repairs and maintenance of critical energy infrastructure to counteract the impact of the Russian attacks. The European Commission calls on Member States to consider continued investment into the energy infrastructure of Ukraine, and to propose a set of policies and metrics to ensure the integrity and maximize efficiency of the program.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED The European Commission also underlines the importance of using the EU's Solidarity Lanes to their full potential, and invites the Member States to propose new measures with a view to further developing the capacity of the Solidarity Lanes on all routes to empower Ukraine to sustain a robust export relationship with the EU, while also fostering continued economic growth in Member States. Member States are called to consider infrastructure investments into key priorities including traffic management, border procedures, and investments in infrastructure and logistics equipment. Large-scale projects include for example, an EU-funded project to improve navigation on the Danube and the Sulina canal towards the Black Sea ('Primus').

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED On 28 April 2023, the European Commission supported a measure worth €100 million to be directed to farmers producing cereals and oilseeds in the five frontline Member States bordering Ukraine to compensate partially the issues related to logistical bottlenecks resulting from the imports of certain agri-food products from Ukraine. The European Commission calls on Member States to consider further compensation for farmers located in the five frontline Member States. Consider the details of the measure's implementation, the amount of funds available for disbursement, the criteria used to calculate the aid, the intended impact of the measure, its evaluation, and the actions taken to avoid distortion of competition and overcompensation.

Sustaining our quality of life

Reviewing our approach for sustainable agriculture

WHEREAS Through Strategic Plans under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the EU aims to foster a smart, competitive, resilient and diversified agricultural sector ensuring long-term food security. It also aims at the same time, to support and strengthen environmental protection, including biodiversity, and climate action, and to contribute to achieving the environmental and climate-related objectives of the EU, including commitments under the Paris Agreement, as well as to strengthen the socio-economic fabric of rural areas.

WHEREAS The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provides that the competence for agriculture is shared between the EU and the Member States. The Union exercises its competence through the adoption of various legislative acts, thereby defining and implementing an EU CAP as provided for in Article 38 to 44 TFEU. Regulations (EU) 2021/2115 and 2021/2116 are part of the legislative framework of the EU CAP. In order to alleviate certain difficulties, provide simplification and to take off burdens from farmers, these Regulations need to be amended, which can only be done at EU level.

WHEREAS In the first year of implementation of the current the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) (2023-2027), EU farmers faced challenges to fully comply with some of the standards beneficial to the environment and climate called “good agricultural and environmental conditions” (GAECs). The EU proposes to review certain provisions of the CAP, aiming to deliver simplifications while maintaining a strong, sustainable and competitive policy for EU agriculture and food.

WHEREAS The EU recognizes how agriculture has a vital role to play in climate change mitigation. The crops, trees, and botanical specimens located on farmland remove significant amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. Additionally, the proper management of soil provides valuable carbon storage. However, agriculture simultaneously is responsible for roughly 10% of total greenhouse gas emissions in the EU, with CH₄ (methane) and N₂O (nitrous oxide) of particular concern.

WHEREAS The EU updated the Harmonised Risk Indicators for Pesticides between 2011 and 2021 in the EU (HRI 1 and HRI 2). These indicators highlight the trends in risk associated with

pesticide usage since 2011 under Directive 2009/128/EC Current studies show continued progress in risk reduction and support the achievement of the Farm to Fork pesticide reduction targets.

WHEREAS The Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) 2023-2027 includes an agricultural reserve of at least €450 million per year to cope with market disruptions or exceptional events affecting production or distribution. To activate the agriculture reserve, Member States must send a report to the Commission substantiating their claims for compensation and showing their assessment of the damage incurred by the exceptional weather event or sanitary measures.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED The European Commission proposes a targeted review of certain conditionalities in the Regulation on CAP Strategic Plans. All EU farmers must be incentivized to maintain non-productive areas beneficial for biodiversity without fearing loss of income. Currently, farmers must maintain existing landscape features on their land but are no longer obliged to dedicate a minimum part of their arable land to non-productive areas, such as fallow land. Instead, they may choose, on a voluntary basis, to keep a share of their arable land non-productive - or establish new landscape features (such as hedges or trees) - and thereby receive additional financial support. We call on Member States to strengthen eco-schemes through their CAP Strategic Plans to provide financial support to achieve this goal. Consider the details of the measure's implementation, the amount of funds available for disbursement, the criteria used to calculate the aid, the intended impact of the measure, its evaluation, and the actions taken to avoid distortion of competition and overcompensation.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED The European Commission proposes a targeted review of certain conditionalities in the Regulation on CAP Strategic Plans. We propose that Member States consider exemptions for small farms that are at most 10 hectares in area from controls and penalties related to compliance with conditionality requirements to reduce the administrative burden related to controls for small farmers who represent 65% of CAP beneficiaries.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED The European Commission recommends a 90% net greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2040 compared to 1990 levels. With the right policies and support, the agriculture sector can also play a role in the transition, while ensuring sufficient food production in Europe, securing fair incomes and providing other vital services such as enhancing the capacity of soils and forests to store more carbon. We call on Member States to collectively adopt emission-cutting goals, with particular focus on methane and nitrous oxide emissions, within the agricultural sector, establishing appropriate levels, metrics, time frames, and compensation schemes that achieve emissions reduction within the agriculture sector while minimizing costs for our farmers.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED The European Commission understands a continued need for a more sustainable pesticide policy be considered which reflects the data presented by HRI 1 and HRI 2. We propose that Member States consider continued pesticide reductions in these indices, establishing appropriate levels, metrics, time frames, and potential compensation schemes that achieve reductions while minimizing costs for our farmers.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED The European Commission proposes Member States to allocate at least €120 million from the agricultural reserve to directly support farmers from Bulgaria, Germany, Estonia, Italy, and Romania who have been impact by exceptional adverse climatic

events in Spring and early Summer 2024. Consider the details of the measure's implementation, the amount of funds available for disbursement, the criteria used to calculate the aid, the intended impact of the measure, its evaluation, and the actions taken to avoid distortion of competition and overcompensation.