

**Closing remarks by Dr. Anton Korynevych,**

**Ambassador-at-large,**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine**

**CAHDI Seminar on the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine  
- what role for regional organisations such as the Council of Europe?**

**Strasbourg, 10 April 2024**

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

We are grateful to CAHDI Secretariat, DLAPIL, Presidency of Liechtenstein and Permanent Representation of Ukraine for organising this important event.

Establishment of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine is an issue of principal importance for Ukraine and its people, an issue, which lies in the heart of Point 7 “Restoration of Justice” of Ukraine’s Peace Formula presented by President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy. A lot of work has been done on the way to the establishment of the Special Tribunal, in particular creation and work of the Core Group on the establishment of the Special Tribunal and creation and work of the International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine (ICPA). But more work needs to be done.

Now it is a good timing for such an important event, taking into account that the next Core Group meeting will take place soon in May.

It is of big importance that today we discuss the role of the Council of Europe in the establishment of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine. It is a timely discussion as exploration of the role of the Council of Europe is also going on within the Core Group. We are grateful to the Council of Europe for support and actions in this relation, in particular for the relevant Committee of Ministers decisions, PACE resolutions, Reykjavik Declaration and participation in the Core Group. However, it looks like the Council of Europe can do more. It is important that the Committee of Ministers can adopt decisions in order to make Council of Europe’s work on the topic more active. We will appreciate such a move and think that it will be an important signal for us to move forward, in particular with the Council of Europe. This will give new important inspiration to our work and our efforts.

We do believe that the Council of Europe has moral and legal grounds to be active in relation to the establishment of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression

against Ukraine as the Russian Federation was a member of the Council of Europe when the aggression against Ukraine, as well as the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, began in 2014 and 2022 respectively. It is important that the Council of Europe continues to participate in the Core Group on the establishment of the Special Tribunal and that we are able to see whether the Special Tribunal can be established with active and direct participation of the Council of Europe. Possible bilateral agreement between Ukraine and the Council of Europe is definitely something we are interested to explore further and relevant decisions of the Committee of Ministers will be helpful in this relation. It is important to see future possible Council of Europe actions in relation to the establishment of the Special Tribunal. This will be a valuable signal to move forward and to understand that the Council of Europe can play an important and direct role in this matter.

Thank you for your attention.