

134th Session of the Committee of Ministers (Luxembourg, 14 May 2025)

2. Role of the Council of Europe in the new geopolitical context

a. Council of Europe action in support of Ukraine: present and future

Decisions

The Committee of Ministers

1. guided by the Reykjavík Declaration adopted at the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, reiterated its condemnation, in the strongest terms, of the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and its unwavering commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders and reaffirmed the Council of Europe's steadfast support to Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, as well as the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace consistent with international law;
2. reaffirming the commitment to pursuing accountability for all international crimes and other violations of international law, committed in or against Ukraine, remained gravely concerned by mounting evidence of attacks by the Russian forces deliberately targeting civilians, including children, in blatant disregard for international humanitarian law, and called on Russia to immediately cease its war of aggression against Ukraine and all forms of violence against civilians;
3. welcomed that the Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine is fully operational and that tens of thousands of claims have already been submitted to it, while the Register's Board is making progress in issuing decisions on the recording of these claims;
4. welcomed the ongoing efforts to achieve agreement on the establishment of a Claims Commission for Ukraine, possibly under the auspices of the Council of Europe, and encouraged timely completion of this work, while ensuring the widest possible participation and support;
5. welcomed the finalisation, within the Core Group, of the draft legal instruments required to establish a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine within the framework of the Council of Europe consisting of an agreement between Ukraine and the Council of Europe, a Statute of such a Tribunal and an Enlarged Partial Agreement governing the modalities of support to such a Tribunal, its financing and other administrative aspects;
6. confirmed the receipt of a letter from Ukraine requesting the establishment of a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine within the framework of the Council of Europe, on the basis of the abovementioned draft legal instruments;
7. acknowledged that the establishment of a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine within the framework of the Council of Europe is a priority issue for the Committee of Ministers and the whole Council of Europe. In this context, invited the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to steer the process for the establishment of a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine within the Council of Europe;
8. welcomed the appointment by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe of the Special Envoy on the situation of children of Ukraine, as a sign of the Council of Europe's strong and unwavering commitment to Ukraine and to its children, wherever they may be;

9. welcomed the efforts of the Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine as a unique platform of dialogue and co-ordination regarding policies for Ukrainian children residing in Council of Europe member States, and welcomed also the Council of Europe's membership in the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children, while expressing its strong support for the Coalition as well as other international efforts for the return of children of Ukraine unlawfully deported or forcibly transferred by the Russian Federation;
10. welcomed the dedication of the Ukrainian authorities to pursue a reconstruction and recovery process which is compliant with the standards and values of the Council of Europe;
11. remained committed to strengthening the Council of Europe's support for Ukraine's reconstruction in its areas of expertise, with a view notably to facilitate housing solutions for the war-affected population, to support democratic post-war elections at all levels, to assist in post-war decentralisation and good governance, to strengthen law enforcement agencies, to conduct judicial and legal reforms and to address the needs of people in vulnerable situations;
12. noted with satisfaction that the implementation of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine "Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction" 2023-2026 has yielded substantial outcomes allowing the Ukrainian authorities to progress on their path towards accession to the European Union;
13. remained committed to continue providing financial support to the best of its ability to the Council of Europe's activities that will contribute to Ukraine's future as a stable, prosperous and democratic European nation.