

1550th meeting, 11 February 2026

2.3a Consequences of the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine

Reference document
DD(2026)33

Decisions

Recalling that at their 4th Summit held in Reykjavík on 16 and 17 May 2023, the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe expressed their determination to remain united in the face of Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine and their unreserved support for Ukraine and its people,

Reaffirming that a comprehensive, just and lasting peace for Ukraine must be based on full compliance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and on accountability for serious violations thereof,

Referring to their previous decisions concerning the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, in particular those affirming their unwavering commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders,

Reiterating that the Russian Federation bears full responsibility for its war of aggression against Ukraine in violation of international law and for all the destruction and loss of life it has caused,

Deeply concerned by the grave human rights situation in the territory of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation, including widespread and systematic violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law,

Condemning the ongoing practice of unlawful deportation, forcible transfer, illegal adoption and alteration of personal identity of Ukrainian children by the Russian Federation,

Determined to continue their efforts to ensure full accountability for the crime of aggression against Ukraine, as well as for the damage, loss and injury caused by the Russian Federation's violations of international law,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/ES-11/5 "Furtherance of remedy and reparation for aggression against Ukraine" (14 November 2022),

The Deputies

1. reiterated their condemnation in the strongest possible terms of the Russian Federation's continued war of aggression against Ukraine and reaffirmed their unwavering support for Ukraine and solidarity with its people;
2. underlined that the ongoing full-scale military invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation is unprecedented in the history of the Council of Europe and that the nature and scale of its violence represent a threat to peace in Europe and undermine the very fabric of the democracy on which the Council of Europe and its member States are founded;

3. expressed their strong concern regarding the continuing grave violations by the Russian Federation of human rights and international humanitarian law, as underlined by the European Court of Human Rights in the interstate cases *Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia* and *Ukraine v. Russia (re Crimea)* in the territory of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation and reaffirmed the importance of continued international monitoring, reporting and accountability in this regard;
4. condemned the unlawful deportation and forcible transfer of Ukrainian children, as well as practices aimed at changing their personal identity, and called for the immediate, safe and unconditional return of all Ukrainian children unlawfully deported or forcibly transferred by the Russian Federation;
5. condemned the systemic targeting of the vital civilian infrastructure, especially in extreme winter conditions;
6. recalled that, although the Russian Federation ceased to be a High Contracting Party to the European Convention on Human Rights on 16 September 2022, it remains bound by obligations under the Convention, including to implement judgments of the European Court, in accordance with Article 58 of the Convention;
7. welcomed the progress made in the establishment of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine, notably through the signature of the bilateral agreement between the Council of Europe and Ukraine and the finalisation of the draft Resolution establishing the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Management Committee of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine, as well as the ongoing work on the modalities for its adoption;
8. welcomed the signing of the agreement between the Council of Europe and the European Union on the financing of an advance team to establish the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine within the framework of the Council of Europe, which allowed the Advance Team to carry out its tasks as from 1 January 2026;
9. underlined the need to accelerate the process leading to the formal establishment and operationalisation of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine and encouraged member States and partners to actively contribute to this process;
10. welcomed the adoption and opening for signature, on 16 December 2025 in The Hague, of the Convention Establishing an International Claims Commission for Ukraine, as a key element of the international compensation mechanism, also welcomed the fact that 35 States and the European Union had already signed the Convention, and looked forward to ratifications;
11. stressed that broad participation in the Convention Establishing an International Claims Commission for Ukraine, by States from Europe and beyond, is essential to ensure effective reparations for damage, loss and injury caused by the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine;
12. reaffirmed the central role of the Council of Europe in advancing a comprehensive accountability architecture for the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, in line with the Reykjavík Declaration, and agreed to continue their consideration of this matter at forthcoming meetings.