

135th Session of the Committee of Ministers (Chişinău, 15 May 2026)

2. Support for Ukraine

b. Together with Ukraine

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 possible terms, of the Russian Federation's continued war of aggression against Ukraine and reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders as well as the Council of Europe's steadfast support to Ukraine and solidarity with its people;
2. expressed its strong concern regarding the continuing grave violations by the Russian Federation of human rights and international humanitarian law in and against Ukraine, in particular in the territory of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation, and reaffirmed the importance of continued international monitoring and accountability in this regard;
3. reiterated that a comprehensive, just and lasting peace for Ukraine must be based on full compliance with international law and on accountability, including for the crime of aggression and other serious violations of international law, and 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;
4. recalled that the Russian Federation must bear the legal consequences of its internationally wrongful acts in or against Ukraine, including the obligation to provide full reparation for the injury, loss and damage caused by its war of aggression;
5. welcomed that the Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine is fully operational and that close to 150 000 claims have already been submitted to it, while the Register's Board has issued decisions on the recording of more than 45 000 of these claims; emphasised the importance of publicising the Register to all potential claimants, including those displaced outside Ukraine, across all categories of damage, and agreed to actively support and amplify these outreach efforts within our countries to ensure every victim can submit a claim;
6. welcomed the adoption and opening for signature, at the Diplomatic Conference in The Hague on 16 December 2025, of the Convention Establishing an International Claims Commission for Ukraine, as a key element of the international compensation mechanism, as well as the fact that 35 States and the European Union have already signed the Convention; noted with satisfaction the first two ratifications of the Convention and encouraged other States to follow suit without delay, and stressed the importance of the swift operationalisation of the Claims Commission;

7. noting that the Council of Europe has kept the good momentum of the Diplomatic Conference, welcomed the adoption of Resolution CM/Res(2026)2 on the creation of the Preparatory Committee for the International Claims Commission for Ukraine on 25 February 2026 and that the Advance Team for the Claims Commission, which includes the participation of the Register of Damage, is operational and has started to exchange with the host State to practically prepare the presence of the Claims Commission in the host State;
8. stressed that broad participation in the Convention Establishing an International Claims Commission for Ukraine, by States from Europe and beyond, is essential to ensure the highest possible level of political legitimacy of the Claims Commission that is equally open to member States and non-member States of the Council of Europe;
9. welcomed the adoption of Resolution CM/Res(2026)5 establishing the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Management Committee of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine, which represents a crucial step towards an operational Special Tribunal to investigate, prosecute and try persons who bear the greatest responsibility for the crime of aggression against Ukraine;
10. recalling that the Enlarged Partial Agreement will enter into force once the criteria set out in the decision adopting the above-mentioned resolution have been met, underscored the importance of its earliest possible entry into force and, with a view to ensuring the widest possible legitimacy and financial sustainability of the Special Tribunal, encouraged States that have the intention to join the Enlarged Partial Agreement to express it swiftly, and called on all participating States to work towards fulfilling those criteria as soon as possible;
11. welcomed the setting-up of an advance team to initiate the legal, operational and institutional preparations necessary for the swift establishment and effective functioning of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine within the framework of the Council of Europe as from January 2026, with the financial support of the European Union, and encouraged it to continue its work;
12. welcomed the continued engagement of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General 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;
13. welcomed the efforts of the Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine as a unique multilateral 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 national and international efforts to identify, locate and secure the safe return of children of Ukraine unlawfully deported or forcibly transferred by the Russian Federation, and to support their rehabilitation and reintegration; recalled, in this context, the thematic discussion on "Human rights and the children of Ukraine" organised at the initiative of the Republic of Moldova's Presidency in the framework of the Ministers' Deputies' exchange of views with the United Nations on human rights questions; called for the full execution of the July 2025 judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *Ukraine and the Netherlands v. the Russian Federation* which was first examined by the Committee of Ministers at its Human Rights meeting in December 2025;
14. welcomed the dedication of the Ukrainian authorities to pursue a reconstruction and recovery process in compliance with the standards and values of the Council of Europe and remained committed to strengthening the Council of Europe's support for Ukraine's reconstruction and democratic security through its Action Plan for Ukraine, in particular in areas such as elections, decentralisation and good governance, as well as judicial reforms;
15. noted with satisfaction that the implementation of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine "Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction 2023-2026" has contributed substantially to Ukraine's reform agenda, facilitating the country's progress on its path towards accession to the European Union, notably in strengthening the protection of fundamental rights in wartime conditions, supporting judicial and constitutional reforms, enhancing access to justice and remedies for war-affected individuals, improving social protection and the inclusion of vulnerable groups and veterans, and reinforcing Ukraine's capacity to implement European standards in human rights, the rule of law and democracy and the fight against corruption;

16. reaffirmed that support for Ukraine remains a priority for the Council of Europe and that the work carried out by the Committee of Ministers for and with Ukraine through the Action Plan as well as by the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, the Commissioner for Human Rights, and, not the least, the European Court of Human Rights, which is adjudicating violations of human rights arising from this war, underscores that the Council of Europe stands fully engaged until justice and peace are secured.